



THE GOVERNOR

Lachlan Macquarie 1810 to 1821



Learning Programs K-12

Post-visit

Learning activities

Stage 4

Governor Bligh's Sydney Rebellion 1808

Outcomes

- 4.5 Identifies the meaning, purpose and context of historical sources
- 4.6 Draws conclusions about the usefulness of sources as evidence in an inquiry

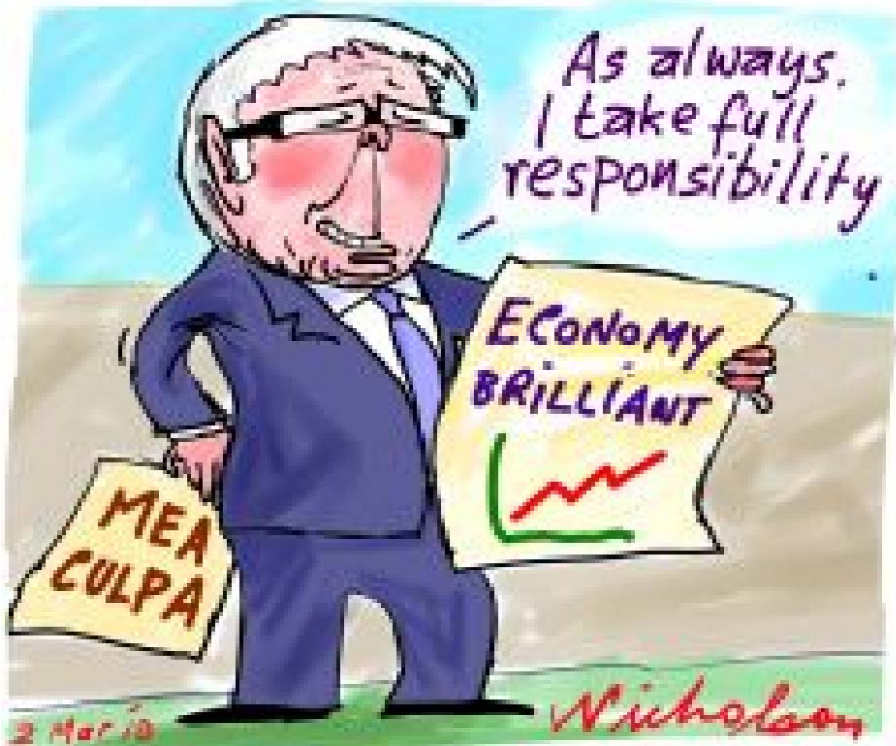
Historical background

This picture shows Governor Bligh being dragged from under his bed by the NSW Corps on 26 January 1808. The NSW Corps were proud of their 'gentlemanly' status and had little respect for Governor Bligh, who had worked his way up the ranks. Bligh had not been born into wealth or nobility. The NSW Corps didn't like Bligh's uncompromising leadership approach and many of his decisions conflicted with their interests. A large number of the NSW Corps were interested in increasing their own personal wealth, often at the expense of others.

The artist is unidentified but is suspected to have a connection with the NSW Corps. Bligh is depicted in this particular way to convince the wider public that he was not of gentlemanly status and thus unfit to govern. This picture is the first known Australian political cartoon.



Source 1: The arrest of Governor Bligh, 1808. This picture is the first Australian political cartoon.



Source 2: Kevin Rudd, cartoon by Nicholson from the *Australian* newspaper
www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au

Class activity

Use Source 1. What do you think the artist was trying to say about Bligh? In contrast, how are the NSW Army Corps portrayed? How may the artist have painted Bligh if he wanted to project a more positive image of him?

Refer to Source 2. Discuss the political issue surrounding this recent cartoon of Kevin Rudd created by Peter Nicholson. List words that describe the image of Kevin Rudd in this cartoon.

Group activity

Use Source 2 as a reference, or one of your own from the Nicholson website <http://www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au>. In individuals or groups, choose a prominent figure and design a cartoon. Describe to the class whether it is a positive or negative image. How have you portrayed this person to give this impression? Is it a fair representation of the character in question?

Discussion topic

How do the media influence our impressions of prominent people in the community?

Opposition to Governor Macquarie: Bigge and Marsden

Outcomes

- 4.7 Identifies different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past
- 4.10 Selects and uses appropriate oral, written and other forms, including ICT, to communicate effectively about the past

Historical background

Despite Macquarie's achievements as Governor of NSW, he faced strong opposition from powerful members of the colony. The free settlers, known as 'the exclusives', behaved like the aristocracy of the new colony. They were appalled by Governor Macquarie's attitudes towards the emancipists, convicts who had served their term and were now free people. Macquarie firmly believed in the rehabilitation of the convicts. Important figures in the colony, such as Reverend Samuel Marsden, refused to cooperate with Macquarie on a number of key projects because they refused to serve on a board containing emancipists.

A number of people also thought Governor Macquarie wasted far too much money building elaborate and expensive buildings. John Thomas Bigge, the commissioner of inquiry into the colony of NSW, stated that the new buildings were 'finished in a style of ornament and decoration little suited to the limited means of so young a colony as New South Wales' (1822 Report of the Commissioner of inquiry into the state of the colony of New South Wales).

Relations between Macquarie and Bigge were very strained and Bigge published a series of reports highly critical of Macquarie's governorship. You can read an excerpt from Bigge's report *State of the Colony*, outlining his disapproval of Governor Macquarie's projects, at the following link:

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/macquarie/greenway/bigge.html>.

Sydney 8. Jany. 1818.,
Thursday Noon!

Mr. Marsden! —

1st. I have long known, Mr Marsden, that you are a secret Enemy of mine — and as long as you continue only a secret one, I despised too much your malicious attempts to injure my character to take any notice of your treacherous conduct; — but now that you have thrown off the mask, and have openly and Publicly manifested your hostile and factious disposition towards me, I can no longer consistently with what I owe to my own high station, and the tranquility of the Country I have the honor to Govern, pass over unnoticed, a recent most daring act of insolence and insubordination, of which you have been guilty ...

But now, that I conclude that you have fully completed your investigation on the Subject in question — and transmitted Home the result thereof; I must thus Publicly warn you, that if ever you dare or presume again to interfere with, or investigate any part of my conduct, as Governor of this Colony, I shall consider it my indispensable duty — as a measure of necessary precaution — alike due to my own high station, the support of my authority, and the tranquility of the Country — immediately to suspend you from the exercise of your Functions in your present offices, as a Clergyman and a Magistrate, until I report your conduct to H. R. Highness The Prince Regent ...

5th. Viewing you now, Sir, as the Head of a Seditious low Cabal — and consequently unworthy of mixing in Private Society or intercourse with me, I beg to inform you that I never wish to see you excepting on Public Duty; — and I cannot help deeply lamenting, that, any man of your Sacred Profession should be so much lost to every good feeling of Justice, generosity and gratitude, as to manifest such deep rooted malice, rancour, hostility and vindictive opposition towards one who has never injured you — but has, on the contrary, conferred several acts of kindness on both yourself and Family!

L.M.

* Revd. Wm. Cowper - Chaplain
J.T. Campbell - Secry.
Lt. Jno. Watts 46th. A.D.C.

Source 3: An excerpt from a transcript of a prepared speech by Lachlan Macquarie for a confrontation with the Reverend Samuel Marsden. 1818.

Questions

1. What were Reverend Samuel Marsden's reasons for refusing to meet and work with emancipists? Would these reasons still be acceptable today?
2. Do you think Macquarie was justified in using emancipist labour to help him begin developing Sydney? Why? / Why not?

Macquarie undoubtedly had qualities that made him a great leader, but he had numerous enemies who strongly disagreed with his approach. Macquarie was once quoted as saying:

I am well aware that every man in public life must have enemies, and perhaps it would be unreasonable, in me, to expect to be totally excepted from the virulent attacks of party and disaffection.

Lachlan Macquarie's farewell speech, Sydney, NSW, Saturday, 1 December 1821

Discussion topic

What qualities does one need to be an effective leader? Name 10 leadership qualities.

Leadership qualities	

Can you think of any leaders today that possess these qualities? Name five leaders. How have they demonstrated these qualities?

Name	Actions that demonstrate leadership