



Burke and Wills

1. Imagine that you could send a letter back in time to Robert O'Hara Burke, before he left Melbourne. What would you tell him to do differently? Some hints are below.



Relationship with Aboriginal people

Communication

Supplies

Trying to find shortcuts

Experience in the bush

Splitting up the group

2. Do you think Burke was the kind of person who would have taken your advice? Why/why not?

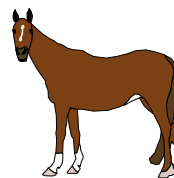
3. There were different reasons for Burke and Wills' expedition. Number them in the order that you think is most important.

- Search for an inland sea
- Search for new farm land
- Scientific discovery of plants and animals
- Map making
- Fame and glory

4. Explain your choice of number 1. Why do you think it was most important?

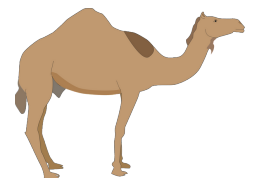


5. Burke and Wills were the first explorers to use camels in Australia. Was that a good choice?



Horses

- Average speed 45km/h, slower on sand
- Needs a rest after about 8 hours
- Can carry up to 20% of weight
- Can live 3-6 days without water
- Temperatures over 25 degrees can lead to stress



Camels

- Average speed 20km/h, faster on sand
- Can travel for 18 hours without rest
- Can carry up to 40% of weight
- Can last two weeks without water
- Can handle temps of up to 50 degrees

Fast Facts