

Journeys of Enlightenment



F R E N C H E X P L O R A T I O N O F T E R R E S A U S T R A L E S

Before or after your visit, you may like to have a look at the Museum's exhibition web page at <http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/journeys/index.html>

The Journeys of Enlightenment exhibition is about the dramatic and often tragic journeys of the 18th and 19th century French maritime explorers who were the first to extensively study the plants and animals (flora and fauna) of Terres Australes.

The journeys took place as a consequence of the Age of Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries, a time when Europeans were searching for knowledge about God, reason, nature and man.



Back at school, visit the website to summarise the achievements of each of the main explorers, emphasizing exploration of the Australian coast.



De Bougainville 1766-1769

De Saint Louÿarn 1771-1772

De Lapérouse 1785-1788

D'Entrecasteaux 1791-1794

Baudin 1801-1803

De Freycinet 1817-1820

Dumont D'Urville 1826-1829

Claiming new territory



Money talks

When maritime explorer Louis de Saint Aloüarn visited our coastline, he left coins and a bottle with a letter in it as traces of his visit. Coins tell us a lot about the place and times when a coin was made.

What things can this French ecü coin tell us?



Record your bottle message/s...



Which message is most likely to have been placed in the de Saint Aloüarn bottle?

What did the Museum scientists discover when they opened de Saint Aloüarn's bottle in 1998?



Scientific recording and drawing

Scientific drawing needed to be very accurate because there were no portable cameras on the French ships exploring Australia in the 1700 and 1800s. Draw some animals that were observed during the journeys of these French explorers.

Make sure you carefully draw the main features and details.

