# First Fleet Worksheet

## Port Jackson

### Activity 1

Examine the watercolour sketches and the maps, Read and listen to the journal entries.

What geographical features are clear from Bradley’s watercolour sketches and the maps?

What do the numbers on the maps represent?

Summarise the descriptions and comments of Arthur Bowes Smyth, surgeon.

### The decision to choose Port Jackson for the first settlement.

Arthur Phillip and Bowes Smyth explained some of the reasons for choosing the site for the new convict settlement. This choice was between Botany Bay and Port Jackson and depended on the features of both sites.

Tick the desirable features of each site to help make the decision.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Port Jackson | Botany Bay |
| Access to fresh water supplies |  |  |
| A safe place to shelter ships |  |  |
| There’s plenty of wood for firewood |  |  |
| A river is close by |  |  |
| There are many bays and coves |  |  |
| The land is sandy and barren |  |  |
| Ships can tie up to the trees |  |  |
| Ships can anchor close to the land |  |  |
| The water is deep near the cliffs |  |  |
| There are attractive islands |  |  |

### Activity 4

Write a brief newspaper article for the *Portsmouth Gazette* or *Mottley's Naval and Military Journal* about the choice of Port Jackson for the convict settlement. You can plan your key points here and use the newspaper template for the full response.

**Explore more**

What are the key geographical and resource needs of a new settlement?

Clue: Think about the natural features and resources of Port Jackson and Sydney Cove as a starting point.

What critical problems did the colonists have to face in the early years of the new settlement at Port Jackson?

 Clue: Think about the problems of managing a convict settlement such a distance from England. Consider basic resources, the landscape and human factors.

Search and find: William Bradley’s journal at the State Library. The colour sketches were included with the journal writings. Clue: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/search/>

Who was Arthur Bowes Smyth?

 Clue: <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020418b.htm>