

INFORMATION TEXT “A” EXEMPLAR

FAMOUS EXPLORERS OF EARLY AUSTRALIA



Burke and Wills: Bold explorers who dared to cross a continent – but paid the ultimate price.

IN 1860, two explorers set out on one of the most **ambitious journeys in Australian history**. Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills led an **expedition to cross the continent** from Melbourne in the south to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north. The journey was over 3,000 kilometres long and took them through **harsh, unfamiliar land**.

EARLY LIFE AND BACKGROUND

Robert Burke was born in Ireland and worked as a police officer in Victoria before being chosen to lead the expedition. He had no previous experience in **exploration**. William Wills, born in England, was a **trained surveyor and astronomer**. He was known for his intelligence and scientific skills. **Together, they were chosen to lead the Victorian Exploring Expedition, which was planned by the Royal Society of Victoria.**

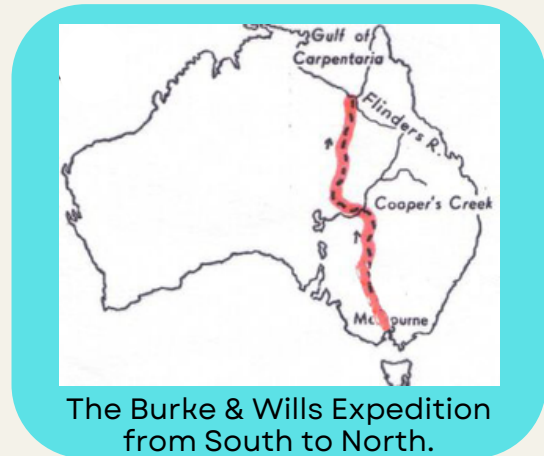
- Multimodal features
- Complex sentences
- Topic-Specific Vocabulary

BURKE & WILLS

A BRAVE BUT TRAGIC EXPEDITION

THE EXPEDITION

The **expedition** left Melbourne in August 1860 with 19 men, 23 horses, and 26 camels. The group's goal was to find a **route for communication and trade** across **Australia's vast inland**. **Burke was eager to move quickly and divided the group several times to speed up progress.** In February 1861, Burke, Wills, and two others reached the edge of the **Gulf of Carpentaria**, becoming the first **Europeans** to make the **overland journey from south to north**.



The Burke & Wills Expedition from South to North.

WHAT WENT WRONG

However, their **return journey was disastrous**. **Exhausted and low on supplies, they arrived back at Cooper Creek to find that their support team had just left that morning.** The extreme conditions, poor planning, and lack of cooperation with local Aboriginal people made survival difficult. Burke and Wills both died of starvation. Only John King survived, thanks to the care and **knowledge of the Yandruwandha people**.

LEGACY

Burke and Wills are remembered for their **bravery, determination, and tragic failure**. **Memorials, books, and documentaries** have shared their story with **generations** of Australians. **Today, some people admire their courage, while others question the choices they made.** Their journey taught future explorers important lessons about planning, teamwork, and working with **First Nations Australians**, who had **vital knowledge of the land**.

INFORMATION TEXT “C” EXEMPLAR

BURKE & WILLS

INTRODUCTION

In 1860, two men named Burke and Wills led an **expedition** across **Australia**. They wanted to go from Melbourne in the south to the **Gulf of Carpentaria** in the north. It was a long and difficult journey.

WHO WERE BURKE AND WILLS?

Burke was a police officer and Wills was a **surveyor**. They were both chosen to lead the expedition. They took men, horses, and camels with them. They started in Melbourne and **travelled** across the hot and dry land.

WHAT DID THEY DO?

The group reached the top part of Australia in February 1861. They had to deal with **tough conditions** and travel a long way. **Burke wanted to move quickly, so he split the group into smaller parts to go faster.**

WHAT WENT WRONG?

On the way back, things went wrong. They ran out of **supplies** and the weather was very bad. **Although they made it back to Cooper Creek, their support team had already left.** Burke and Wills died because they did not have enough food or help. Only one man, John King, survived because First Nations people helped him.

CONCLUSION

Burke and Wills are **remembered** in Australia. Their story shows how hard it was to **explore** the land and how important it is to be prepared.



Multimodal features

Complex sentences

Topic-Specific
Vocabulary