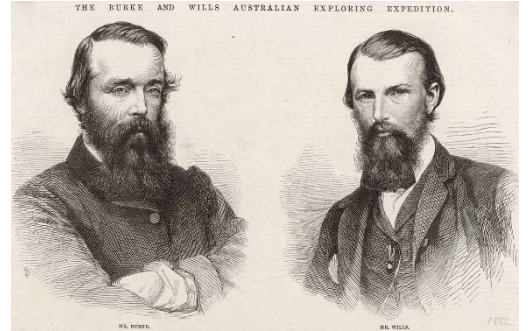


## Year 3 General Studies

# Early Australian Explorers

### Burke and Wills

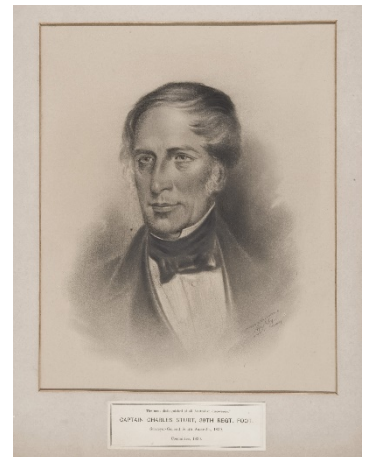
Robert O'Hara Burke and William Wills are two of Australia's most famous, and tragic, explorers. The first to successfully cross the continent from south to north. They died beside Cooper Creek in south-west Queensland on the return journey.



The Burke and Wills Expedition was originally called the Victorian Exploring Expedition and its aim was to cross the continent of Australia from Melbourne on the south coast to the north coast, which at the time was uninhabited by the Europeans. No one had done this before, the centre of the continent was unknown, unmapped and unexplored.

### Charles Sturt

Charles Sturt led three major expeditions into the interior of eastern Australia in search of the 'great inland sea'. Driven by the dream of an inland sea, Charles Sturt traced the courses of the Macquarie, Bogan and Castlereagh rivers. He then discovered the Darling River and followed the Murray to Lake Alexandrina on the South Australian coast. In charting the drainage of the country's greatest river system, he found huge amounts of farmable land.



### Ludwig Leichhardt

Friedrich Wilhelm 'Ludwig' Leichhardt was an accomplished scientist and deeply knowledgeable explorer. He completed one of the longest inland explorative journeys in Australia and opened up much of the country to farming. Leichhardt also left us with a fantastic unsolved mystery when he and his exploration party of five white men, two Aboriginal guides, seven horses, 20 mules and 50 bullocks disappeared in 1848, never to be seen again.



Year 3 General Studies  
Early Australian Explorers

Questions

1. **Burke and Wills were the first to successfully cross the continent from south to north.**

**True / False**

2. **How many major expeditions into the interior of eastern Australia did Charles Sturt lead? (Circle the answer)**

**3 / 5 / 20**

3. **Fill in the blanks.**

*Friedrich Wilhelm 'Ludwig' Leichhardt was an accomplished  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ explorer. He completed  
one of the \_\_\_\_\_ inland explorative journeys in  
\_\_\_\_\_.*

4. **Charles Sturt discovered the famous Darling River. True / False**

5. **What is Ludwig Leichhardt's unsolved mystery?**

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6. **Why are Burke and Wills both famous and tragic explorers?**

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