* Transportation was used from 1717 as a humane alternative to the death penalty.
* During the late 19th century, large numbers of [convicts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convict) were [transported](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penal_transportation) to the various [Australian penal colonies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Australian_penal_colonies) by the British government.
* Over the 80 years more than 165,000 convicts were transported to Australia.
* The last convicts to be transported to Australia arrived in [Western Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Australia) in 1868.
* All of the Convicts sent to Australia had only committed minor crimes. The serious crimes, such as rape and murder were punished with the death penalty.
* Some of the most common crimes included rioters and other political protesters. People, who had been convicted for theft, particularly if it was a second offence, were also sentenced to transportation.
* As well as New South Wales, convicts were also sent to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) and Western Australia.

SS