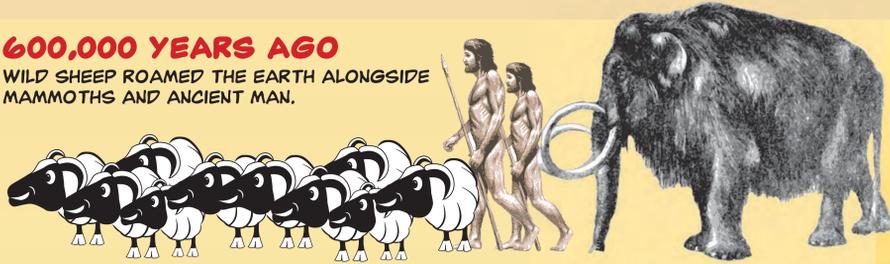


SHEEP AREN'T NATIVE ANIMALS, SO HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

Follow sheep through time to find out.

600,000 YEARS AGO

WILD SHEEP ROAMED THE EARTH ALONGSIDE MAMMOTHS AND ANCIENT MAN.



10,000 YEARS AGO

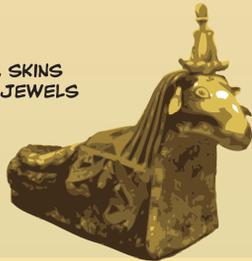
ANCIENT MAN HAD AN IDEA.

SHEEP ARE TASTY AND THEIR SKINS WARM. IF I KEEP A FEW NEARBY, I WON'T BE HUNGRY OR COLD.



7000 YEARS AGO

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS KEPT SHEEP FOR THEIR MEAT, MILK, SKINS AND WOOL. MUMMIFIED RAMS DECORATED WITH MASKS AND JEWELS WERE PLACED IN TOMBS.



3500 YEARS AGO

DURING THE EARLY BRONZE AGE SHEEP STARTED TO CHANGE COLOUR FROM BROWNS TO CREAM.

700 YEARS AGO

DURING THE MIDDLE AGES, THE SPANISH REGARDED THEIR MERINO SHEEP AS PRIZES OR GIFTS WHICH RARELY LEFT THE COUNTRY.

KING EDWARD III (1327-77) HAD A SEAT STUFFED WITH WOOL MADE FOR PARLIAMENT TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT WOOL SOLD TO OTHER COUNTRIES MADE A LOT OF MONEY FOR ENGLAND.

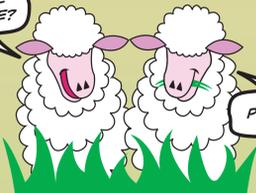
TODAY THE SEAT IS STILL THERE BUT IT IS STUFFED WITH WOOL FROM EACH OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, TO SYMBOLISE UNITY.



1788 (OVER 200 YEARS AGO)

SHEEP ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA WITH THE FIRST FLEET AND PROVIDE EARLY SETTLERS WITH MEAT. THE SHEEP DON'T LIKE THE TASTE OF THE GRASS IN AUSTRALIA AND FAIL TO THRIVE.

WELL, HOW DOES THE GRASS TASTE GEORGE?



PRETTY BAAAAAAD!



1797

13 MERINO SHEEP ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA. SOME ARE SOLD TO JOHN MACARTHUR, A PIONEER WOOL GROWER.



1807

THE FIRST BALE OF WOOL EXPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA TO ENGLAND IS SOLD BY THE MACARTHUR'S FOR 10 SHILLINGS (£1).

1838

WITHIN 50 YEARS OF SETTLEMENT WOOL IS AUSTRALIA'S MAIN EXPORT PRODUCT.



1851

DURING THE GOLD RUSH SHEEP ARE KILLED TO PROVIDE MEAT FOR THE GOLDFIELDS. GOLD BECAME AUSTRALIA'S MAIN EXPORT.



1895 - 1903

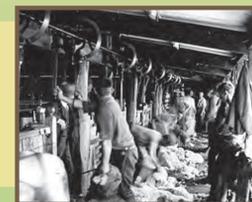
DURING ONE OF THE WORST DROUGHTS IN OUR HISTORY, ABOUT HALF OF AUSTRALIA'S SHEEP DIE.

1951

AFTER WORLD WAR TWO WOOL SELLS FOR EXCELLENT PRICES. AUSTRALIA IS RIDING ON THE SHEEP'S BACK.



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE UP FOR ANOTHER HAIRCUT!



1880

THE FIRST SHEARING MACHINE IS INVENTED. BEFORE THIS, SHEEP ARE SHORN WITH HAND SHEARS WHICH LOOK LIKE BIG SCISSORS.



1929

THE GREAT DEPRESSION SEES WOOL PRICES DROP BY HALF.

TODAY-

AUSTRALIA IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF WOOL. OF ALL THE STATES AND TERRITORIES IN AUSTRALIA, NSW HAS THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SHEEP. ONE KILO OF QUALITY WOOL SELLS FOR ABOUT \$8 AND A BALE OF WOOL IS SOLD FOR ABOUT \$1500.

