

Great Expectations



free Audiobook



Charles Dickens

Great Expectations

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Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 are recorded on the accompanying CD.

Chapters 5, 6 and 9 are downloadable from our website: www.blackcat-cideb.com.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages



linked to the listening activities.



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The Characters



From left to right: Pip, Mrs Joe, Mrs Havisham, Abel Magwitch, Joe, Biddy



From left to right: Estella, Herbert Pocket, Mr Jaggers, Molly, Bentley Drummie, Orlick



Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens, one of the world's greatest authors, was born in Portsmouth, England, on 7 February 1812. He was the second of eight children. His father, John Dickens, worked for the Navy Pay Office and the family was rather well-to-do.¹

Charles enjoyed a happy childhood and loved reading all kinds of books. He went to school until his family moved to London, where his parents had serious money problems because his father was unable to manage his financial affairs. Young Charles had to leave school and was sent to work in a factory at the age of twelve. He worked long hours in bad conditions and he never forgot this terrible experience.

1. **well-to-do** : rich, wealthy.

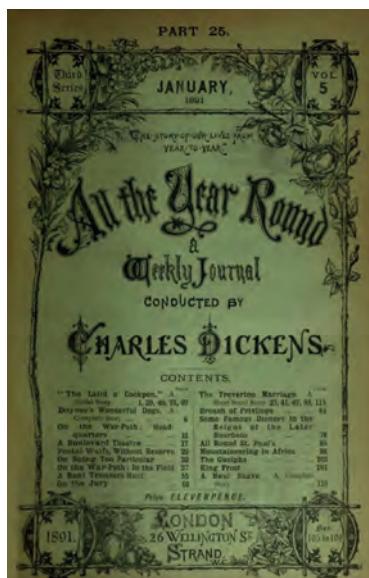
In 1824 young Charles was separated from his parents when his father was sent to prison in London because he couldn't pay his debts. This was a very bitter and embarrassing experience.

At the age of nineteen Charles Dickens became a newspaper reporter for the *Mirror of Parliament*, and began writing sketches, short stories and descriptions of English life for magazines. *Sketches by Boz* (1836), a collection of 56 short pieces about life in early Victorian London, became very popular. In the same year he married Catherine Hogarth, the daughter of the chief editor of the *Evening Chronicle*.

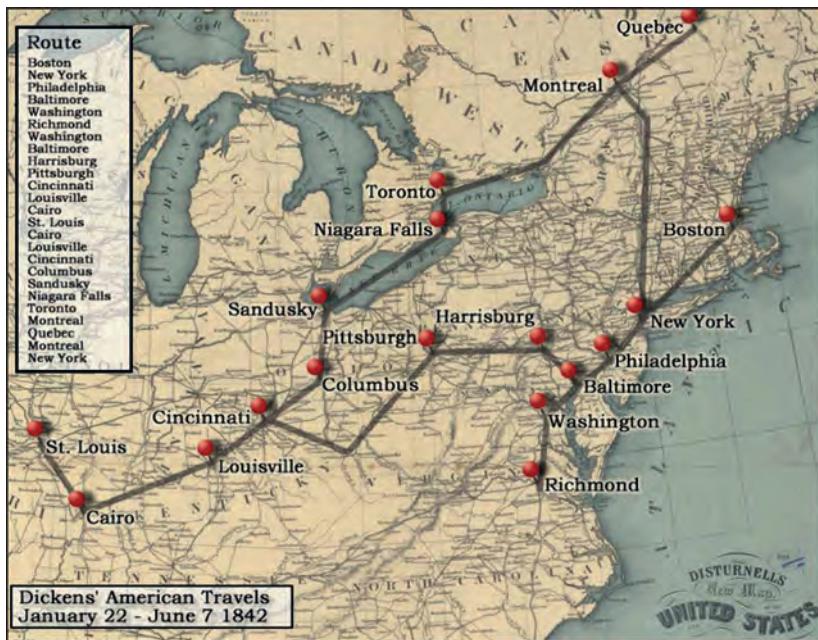
Dickens's first novel, *The Pickwick Papers* (1836), a collection of the adventures of Mr Pickwick and his friends, first appeared in a magazine in monthly installments and became his first great success. In Dickens's times novels were often published in magazines in weekly or monthly installments. The plots of his novels had to be dramatic and sensational to keep readers interested in buying the

next issue of the magazine.

Many of his most famous novels were published in installments, and they include *Oliver Twist* (1837-8), *Nicholas Nickleby* (1854), *David Copperfield* (1849-50), *Hard Times* (1854), and *Great Expectations* (1860-1). His last novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, remained unfinished at the time of his death, and although several



Cover of the weekly magazine 'All the Year Round' from 1891.



attempts have been made to complete the book, none has ever been successful.

During his life Dickens met all kinds of people – young, old, rich, poor, happy, sad, miserable, generous, kind, greedy, honest and dishonest – and he brought them to life on the pages of his many wonderful novels. He was an outgoing, talented man, who worked as a magazine editor, a playwright and an amateur actor.

He travelled to Italy, Switzerland, France and North America, where he read his novels to the public in Boston and New York. The American public was very enthusiastic about his readings and lectures, but this type of activity was tiring and it stressed Dickens considerably. When he returned to England his health had suffered significantly and on 9 June 1879 he died of a stroke at the age of 58.

He was buried with the greatest honours in Poets' Corner² in Westminster Abbey, London.

Some of Dickens's other important novels include *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1841), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *Bleak House* (1853), *Little Dorrit* (1857) and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859).

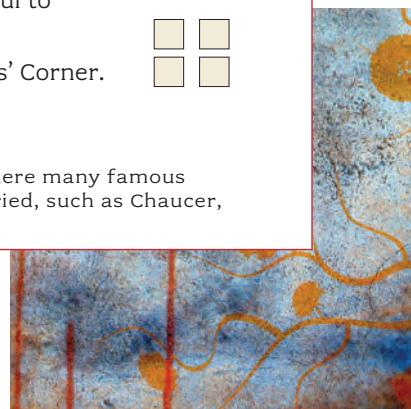
Great Expectations is considered Dickens's finest novel because of the intricate plot structure and the variety and complexity of the characters.

1 Comprehension check

Are the following questions true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

	T	F
1 Young Dickens stopped going to school when he and his family moved to London.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Young Dickens started working in a factory at a young age because his parents had economic problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Dickens's father, John Dickens, worked as a newspaper reporter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 <i>The Pickwick Papers</i> was first published in 1836 as a novel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 <i>Oliver Twist</i> was first published in installments between 1837 and 1838.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 <i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i> was Dickens's first successful mystery story.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Dickens often wrote about people he knew.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The American public was not very interested in Dickens's lectures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 His travels in the United States were harmful to his health.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Dickens was honoured with a burial in Poets' Corner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. **Poets' Corner** : a part of Westminster Abbey where many famous English writers, playwrights and poets were buried, such as Chaucer, Thomas Hardy and Rudyard Kipling.





Traffic outside the Royal Exchange, London.

Dickens and His Times

Dickens's personal experiences played an important role in shaping the world of his fiction. He was a social novelist and to fully understand and appreciate his works we have to take a look at the values and structures of the Victorian society that he writes about.

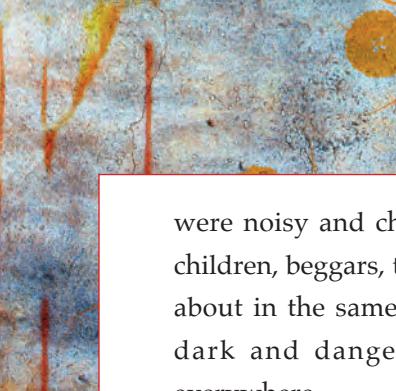
Victorian England was characterised by the full development of the Industrial Revolution. England became the first industrial nation in the world and, by 1850, it was the first nation to have more people employed in industry than in agriculture. The rapid growth of the British Empire coincided with expanding trade, which brought great wealth to Britain. Unfortunately, this wealth was not evenly distributed.



Poor residents in the slums along Chruch Lane, Bloomsbury, London, 1875.

Many ambitious individuals rose from humble origins to positions of influence and wealth, but large sections of the working class were forced into the overcrowded, unhealthy slums of large cities where there was no heating or running water. Here they worked long hours for low wages in terrible conditions. Young children did not go to school; they worked in factories, usually doing the most dangerous jobs. The manufacturing towns of northern England provided some of the worst examples and inspired socially conscious novels like Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (1848) and Dickens's *Hard Times* (1854).

In southern England there was London, which was already the largest city in the world with a population of about 3 million people. During Dickens's time London was terribly overcrowded: its streets



were noisy and chaotic with rich people, poor people, merchants, children, beggars, thieves, criminals, horses and carriages all moving about in the same crowded area. At night the city streets became dark and dangerous, with thieves and criminals lurking³ everywhere.

Dickens's novels awakened the public conscience to social evils that most people preferred to ignore. *Oliver Twist* showed the brutality of the laws for the poor and exposed the vice and crime of the London underworld. *David Copperfield* and *Nicholas Nickleby* presented the cruel exploitation of pupils in private boarding schools, while *Hard Times* portrayed the brutal effects of industry on both the rich and the poor.

In *Great Expectations* Dickens treated a variety of social issues – crime, prejudice, materialism, social status and class. Dickens has often been called the greatest reformer in Victorian England, who fought for greater social justice and more humane attitudes.

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 What was Victorian England like in the 1850s?
- 2 How did the growth of the British Empire affect trade?
- 3 How did the working class live and work?
- 4 What was London like in Dickens's time?
- 5 What did the majority of Dickens's novels deal with?
- 6 Do you know any other writer or film-maker who fiercely criticises social conditions?

3. **lurking** : hiding and waiting to attack or frighten somebody.

Dickens and 19th-century Britain

Year	Charles Dickens' s Life	Innovation and History
1812	Charles Dickens is born	Gas lighting in London
1824	His father is in Debtors' Prison; Charles works in Blacking factory	The National Gallery is opened to the public in London
1829	Starts working as a freelance reporter	Robert Peel sets up the Metropolitan Police in London
1831	Becomes a Parliamentary reporter	London Bridge opens
1833	Publishes his first story, 'A Dinner at Poplar Walk'	Abolition of slavery in the British Empire - Factory Act restricts working hours for women and children
1837	Completes <i>The Pickwick Papers</i>	Queen Victoria comes to the throne
1838	Completes <i>Oliver Twist</i>	People's Charter; London-Birmingham railway line opens
1851	Dickens performs in a theatre play before Queen Victoria	Great Exhibition in London
1854	<i>Hard Times</i> is published	the Crimean War begins
1869	Begins writing <i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i> , which was left unfinished at the time of his death	the Suez Canal opens
1870	Gives his final public reading	Education Act brings free public education to some schools



Before your read

1 Match the words to the pictures. Use a dictionary if necessary.

blacksmith marsh file
forge tombstone churchyard



A



B



C



D



E



F

2 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter One. Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1	Everyone called Philip with his family name, Pirrip.	T	F
2	Joe Gargery was twenty years older than his wife.	T	F
3	The churchyard was not far from the village.	T	F
4	A big, horrible-looking man was swimming in the sea.	T	F
5	The terrible-looking man had a very cruel friend.	T	F



CHAPTER ONE

The Marshes

M

My first name is Philip but when I was a small child I could only manage to say Pip. So Pip was what everybody called me. I knew my father's family name was Pirrip because of his tombstone. I lived in a small village in Essex¹ with my sister, who was over twenty years older than me and married to Joe Gargery, the village blacksmith. Our village was in the marshes about twenty miles from the sea. My parents died when I was a baby, so I could not remember them at all, but I often used to visit the churchyard, about a mile from the village, to look at their names on their tombstones.

2

One cold, grey December afternoon towards evening I was

1. Essex : a county in the south east of England.



CHAPTER ONE

sitting on a tombstone in the churchyard, looking at the dark, wild marshes and listening to the sound of the sea, when I heard a terrible voice.

‘Don’t say a word!’ cried a man as he jumped up from among the tombstones and grabbed me. ‘If you shout I’ll cut your throat!’ He was a big, terrible-looking man dressed all in grey, with an iron chain on his leg. His clothes were wet and torn and he looked exhausted, fierce ² and hungry. I was terrified and didn’t know what to do.

‘Please don’t cut my throat, sir!’ I begged, trembling with fear.

‘What’s your name? Quick!’ he said, still holding me with his strong hands.

‘Pip, sir.’

‘Where do you live?’

‘I live in the village over there,’ pointing in the direction of my village.

He picked me up and turned me upside down. Nothing fell out of my pockets except a piece of old bread which he picked up and ate hungrily as I watched trembling.

‘Where are your father and mother?’ he asked.

‘There, sir,’ I answered, pointing at their tombstones.

‘What!’ he cried and was about to run away, when he saw where I was pointing.

‘Oh, I see,’ he said. ‘They’re dead. Well, then, who do you live with?’

‘With my sister, sir, wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith.’

‘Blacksmith?’ he said, looking down at his leg. Then he grabbed my arms and stared into my eyes. ‘Do you know what a file is?’

‘Yes, sir.’

2. **fierce** : very angry.



ILIP
IRRIP



CHAPTER ONE

'Good!' he said, still staring into my eyes. 'Bring me a file and bring me some food. Bring them to me tomorrow morning early at the old fort over there. If you don't, or if you say something about me, something terrible will happen to you!'

'I promise, sir, I'll do it,' I answered, my whole body trembling.

'Remember this: I travel with a friend of mine who eats young boys' hearts. I'm an angel compared to my friend. He'll find you wherever you are and eat your heart. If you want to keep your heart, bring the file and the food early tomorrow morning.'



I assured him that I would bring the file and the food early the next morning and ran away without stopping.

My sister, Mrs Joe Gargery, was very proud of the fact that she had brought me up 'by hand'. No one had ever explained to me what this meant, and because she had a hard and heavy hand, which she used on her husband as well as me, I supposed that Joe and I were both brought up 'by hand'. My sister was not an attractive woman; she was tall and thin, with black hair and eyes and a red face. She frequently complained that Joe and I caused her a lot of trouble. Joe instead was a good-natured, kind man with curly blond hair and blue eyes.

Since Joe and I were often scolded³ by my sister, we became good friends, and Joe protected me from her anger whenever he could. So when I ran into the kitchen, Joe warned me, 'She's out looking for you, Pip. And she's got the stick!' The stick was used for beating me.

Suddenly Mrs Joe⁴ ran into the kitchen.

3. **scold** : criticise someone angrily for something they have done wrong.

4. **Mrs Joe** : Dickens often uses an unusual way of referring to a character and this is a good example. Mrs Joe should be called Mrs Gargery but Dickens decides to call her Mrs Joe.

The Marshes

‘Where have you been, you young monkey?’ she shouted angrily. I jumped behind Joe to avoid being hit with the stick.

‘At the churchyard,’ I said, almost crying.

‘The churchyard!’ she shouted. ‘If I hadn’t brought you up, you’d be in the churchyard with our parents. You’ll send me to the churchyard one day! It’s bad enough being a blacksmith’s wife without being your mother. Well, I’ve got to get supper ready now.’

I thought of nothing but the horrible man on the marshes and his evil friend; when the wind blew I thought I heard his voice outside.

Just before going to bed we heard the sound of a big gun on the marshes.

‘Was that a gun, Joe?’ I asked.

‘Yes,’ said Joe, ‘another convict got away. One escaped last night. The gun’s always fired when a convict escapes from the prison ships.’

‘Who’s put into prison ships?’ I asked my sister.

‘People who steal, murder and do other bad things are put on prison ships, and they stay there for years. Now go to bed!’

That night I couldn’t sleep; all I could think about was the horrible man with the iron chain and his friend who ate young boys’ hearts. As soon as there was a bit of light in the sky, I got up and walked quietly down to the kitchen, where I stole some bread and cheese and a meat pie, hoping that no one would notice what was missing. I poured some brandy into a small bottle and then added some water from a big brown bottle to the brandy bottle. I unlocked the door of the forge, got a file from Joe’s tool box and ran to the foggy marshes.



CHAPTER ONE

Although I knew the road well, I almost got lost because of the thick fog. When I got to the old fort I saw a man whose back was towards me and I touched his shoulders and he jumped up — but he was the wrong man. He too, was dressed in grey and had an iron chain on his leg. He ran away as soon as he saw me.

‘It must be the young man who eats young boys’ hearts,’ I thought, feeling a pain in my heart.

Then I found the right man. He looked terribly cold and hungry, and he trembled violently as he ate the food, looking around all the time for danger.

‘Are you sure you didn’t tell anyone?’ asked the man.

‘Oh, no sir,’ I said. ‘I’m glad you’re enjoying your food.’

He stopped eating and looked at me saying, ‘Thank you, my boy. You’ve been good to a poor man.’

‘But, I’m afraid there won’t be any food left for him,’ I said.

‘Him? Who’s that?’

‘The man who travels with you.’

‘Oh, him. He doesn’t want any food.

‘I thought he looked very hungry.’

‘Where did you see him?’ he asked nervously.

‘Over there,’ I answered. ‘He was dressed like you and...’

‘Tell me where he went and I’ll kill him!’ he said angrily. ‘Now, give me the file!’

I pointed to the direction the other man had taken and told him that I had to go home. Since he didn’t seem to hear, I left as he was filing his iron chain.

All morning I was afraid that my sister would discover that I had stolen food from the cupboard, but fortunately she was very busy cleaning the house and roasting the chickens for our

Christmas lunch. Our two guests arrived at half past one. Mr Wopsle had a big nose and a bald head and he looked after the church. Mr Pumblechook, who had a shop in another village, was a fat, middle-aged man and Joe's uncle. Every Christmas Day he always came to visit us with two bottles of wine, which he handed proudly to my sister. She was always very appreciative.

While sitting at the table with these guests I would have felt uncomfortable even if I hadn't robbed my sister. I was never allowed to speak and I was always given the worst pieces of meat. And Mr Pumblechook's big elbow always got into my eye.

At the end of the meal, during which I was severely criticised by everyone except Joe, my sister said, 'Please have a little brandy, uncle.'

The moment had finally come. Now my sister would discover that I had stolen some brandy and put water in the bottle. Mr Pumblechook smiled at the glass of brandy and drank it. Suddenly he jumped up and began to rush around the room doing a strange wild dance. Had he gone mad? Had I murdered him by mistake? Finally he threw himself into a chair, crying 'It's medicine!'

I immediately understood: instead of filling up the brandy bottle with water, I had put Mrs Joe's strongest medicine in it by mistake! That was what the big brown bottle contained. But fortunately my sister didn't have time to worry because Mr Pumblechook asked for some hot tea to take away the taste of the medicine. I was saved, for the moment.

When my sister announced, 'And now you must all taste our delicious meat pie,' I knew I couldn't sit there any longer, so I started running to the front door. I had to escape! But I ran straight into a group of soldiers.

The text and **beyond**

FCE 1 Comprehension check

For questions 1–6 choose the best answer — A, B, C or D.

- 1 Pip's parents were dead, and he lived in a small village in Essex
 - A with his friend, Philip.
 - B with the village blacksmith.
 - C with his sister and Joe Gargery.
 - D with his twenty-year-old sister.
- 2 The terrible-looking man in the churchyard
 - A was tired and wanted to sleep at the old fort.
 - B ordered Pip to bring him some food and money.
 - C liked eating young boys' hearts.
 - D ordered Pip to bring him a file and some food.
- 3 Pip and Joe were often scolded by Mrs Joe Gargery,
 - A and she often used a stick to beat Pip.
 - B who was a tall, attractive woman with black hair and blue eyes.
 - C who was proud to be the blacksmith's wife.
 - D but they never became friends.
- 4 After stealing food and drink from the kitchen,
 - A Pip started crying because he was afraid.
 - B Pip unlocked the door of the forge and took a file from Joe's tool box.
 - C Pip ran to the marshes and looked for the man's friend.
 - D Pip was severely scolded and hit by his sister.
- 5 Mr Pumblechook rushed around the room wildly and threw himself into a chair
 - A because he had drunk brandy mixed with medicine.
 - B because he had eaten too much roast chicken at the Christmas lunch.
 - C when he saw a group of soldiers at the front door.
 - D because he liked dancing on Christmas day.

I immediately understood: instead of filling up the brandy bottle with water, I had put Mrs Joe's strongest medicine in it by mistake!

The **past perfect simple** is used to show that something was completed or finished before another action began. It is often used in stories to give the background.

In the example above, the past perfect is used to show that Pip first put Mrs Joe's strongest medicine in the bottle and then he understood what he did.

The past perfect is formed in this way: **had + past participle**.

2 The past perfect simple

Use the correct verb tense, either the past simple or past perfect simple, to complete these sentences.

- 1 Pip (*run*) back to the marshes after he (*take*) food, drink and the file for the convict.
- 2 After he (*seen*) the terrible-looking man, Pip (*be*) terribly frightened.
- 3 The convict (*spend*) many years on the prison ship before he (*decide*) to escape.
- 4 Mr Pumblechook (*want*) to taste the brandy since had (*hear*) so much about it.
- 5 Joe Gargery (*help*) his wife cook Christmas dinner because she (*tell*) him to.
- 6 The King's soldiers (*fire*) a gun after two convicts (*escape*) from the prison ships.
- 7 Mr Wopsel (*study*) the map before he (*travel*) to London.
- 8 Since it (*be*) very windy and cold, Joe and Pip (*wear*) their warmest jackets.

**3 Key word transformations**

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0 *I think you should go home after dark.*

WERE

If I were you I would go home after dark.

1 Joe hasn't seen his uncle Pumblechook for years.

SAW

It's his uncle Pumblechook.

2 Mrs Joe Gargery said Pip had stolen the food and drink.

ACCUSED

Mrs Joe Gargery the food and drink.

3 Not many children attended the village school yesterday.

NUMBER

Only children attended the village school yesterday.

4 I'd love to go to London on holiday, but I don't have any money.

WISH

I to London on holiday, but I don't have any money.

5 After the accident Mr Wopsle was confused and couldn't speak.

SO

After the accident Mr Wopsle couldn't speak.

6 'Don't touch the meat pie, Pip; it's still hot,' said Mrs Joe Gargery.

NOT

Mrs Joe Gargery the meat pie because it was still hot.

4 Speaking - Helping others

Pip stole food, drink and a file from the forge to help the terrible-looking man he had met at the churchyard. In your opinion, did he do the right thing? Did he know the man was an escaped convict? Should he have told Joe or his sister before helping the man? What would you have done and why?

Can you remember a similar situation of your own childhood? Tell the class about it.



Prison ship at Portsmouth Harbour, 1828.

Prison Ships

Prison ships, sometimes called 'hulks', were used as prisons to hold convicts who were awaiting transportation to penal colonies. The term 'transportation' was used to describe the system of transporting convicted criminals to penal colonies. This practice was popular in Great Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries.

British prisons became terribly overcrowded and a temporary solution to the problem was to use old ships without masts (the 'hulks'), which were moored¹ close to land, as prison ships.

Initially it was customary to transport convicts to the American colonies, but after the American Revolution of 1776 America became an independent nation, and this was no longer possible.

Since it was no longer possible to send convicts to the American colonies, Britain turned its attention to Australia, which Captain

1. **moored** : stopped by attaching it to a place with ropes or by using an anchor.



Convicts inside a prison ship.

James Cook had claimed for Britain in 1770. In 1786 King George III declared New South Wales in Australia the first British colony. In May 1787 the first eleven prison ships left Portsmouth and arrived in Botany Bay, Sydney, Australia in 1788, after eight long months at sea. Most of Britain's penal colonies were located in Australia. More than 165,000 convicts were transported to Australia over a period of 80 years, until this practice stopped in 1868.

The long sea journey to Australia was a difficult one for the convicts because they were kept below deck ² and were often kept behind bars. They lived in crowded, unhealthy conditions and were only allowed up on deck for brief periods of fresh air and exercise. Harsh discipline was practised on board and the prisoners were often ill with serious diseases. Many convicts died during the journey.

2. **below deck** : on a level of the ship below the main deck.



Prison ruins at Port Arthur Historic Site in Tasmania.

When the convicts arrived in the penal colony, they wore coarse grey jackets and trousers and had chains on their legs to prevent them from escaping. During the day they were usually sent in groups to work on shore and at the end of the day they returned to the ships. In 1801 the system was reviewed and improved. In the 1840s living conditions on the prison ships to Australia had improved considerably, and a religious instructor was present to educate the convicts. The justice system in Great Britain was extremely harsh during the 17th and 18th centuries. There were 222 crimes that carried the death penalty, and almost all of them were crimes against property. In the 1800s judges realised that such punishments were too severe so transportation became a less severe and more common punishment. Who were these convicts? What had they done to deserve this punishment? The great majority of these convicts were poor, young



Map of Australia and New Zealand, 1818.

people who had been condemned for some form of theft. When they arrived in the penal colony they sometimes worked as domestic servants and were eventually given a pardon, which meant that they were free to live in Australia.

Other penal colonies other than the one in Botany Bay were set up in Queensland and Western Australia, and in Tasmania, an island south of Australia. Transportation to Australia ended in 1868.

1 Comprehension check

Answer these questions.

- 1 What was the purpose of prison ships?
- 2 What did the term 'transportation' mean in the 18th and 19th centuries?
- 3 Why did the British stop sending convicts to America?
- 4 Describe the sea journey to Australia.
- 5 What was the British justice system like in the 17th and 18th centuries?
- 6 Which was the most common crime of the convicts in penal colonies?

Before you read



1 Listening



Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. For questions 1–6, choose the best answer – A, B or C.

- 1 The King's soldiers were looking for a blacksmith
 - A but they didn't want to talk to Joe Gargery.
 - B because they needed to fix some handcuffs.
 - C because they wanted to buy some handcuffs.
- 2 Pip didn't tell the soldiers about the escaped convicts
 - A because they didn't ask him.
 - B because he didn't like the soldiers.
 - C because the escaped convicts were his friends.
- 3 Who went to the marshes with the soldiers?
 - A Joe Gargery and Mr Wopsle
 - B Pip, Joe Gargery and his wife
 - C Pip, Joe Gargery and Mr Wopsle
- 4 What happened to the two convicts?
 - A They both escaped in the foggy marshes.
 - B The soldiers caught them.
 - C They murdered each other.
- 5 Who taught Pip to read and write?
 - A Mr Wopsle's great aunt
 - B Mr Wopsle
 - C Mr Wopsle's young cousin
- 6 What did Pip practise near the chimney?
 - A reading
 - B writing
 - C maths