**The Effects of Colonial Expansion:**

Aboriginal resistance increased as hunting grounds and sacred sites

were taken and food supplies and culture were threatened. Aboriginal bands speared stock and shepherds and attacked homesteads. Settlers responded by organising armed, mounted bands, supposedly to punish the attackers. More often, however, these groups took revenge on any indigenous people they could find, without fear of punishment by the law. At times the authorities used soldiers and police to crush Aboriginal resistance. *History Zone 1* page 289.

***Windradyne and the Wiradjuri Resistance***

Events on the Bathurst Plains provide an example of the way conflict

developed in many places. After explorers crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813, white settlement spread inland. Conflict arose in the pastoral areas of the Bathurst Plains in the 1820s. This was one of many vast areas that were suitable for grazing of sheep for wool. An Aboriginal leader named Windradyne led the local Wiradjuri people in a campaign against the settlers. In response to this resistance, Governor Brisbane declared **Martial Law** in 1824. During that year, probably two-thirds of the Wiradjuri were killed by vigilante groups of settlers and soldiers. At least a hundred were killed in a single massacre in a swamp. The skulls of 45 of the victims were shipped to England.

**1823-1824 ‘Bathurst Wars’** Windradyne (c.1800-1829), Aboriginal resistance leader, also known as SATURDAY, was a northern Wiradjuri man. Windradyne was a central figure leading his people in the Aboriginal-settler conflict later known as the 'Bathurst Wars'.

**December 1823**

'Saturday' was named as the ringleader of clashes between Aborigines and settlers that culminated in the death of two convict stockmen at Kings Plains. He was arrested and imprisoned at Bathurst for one month; it was reported that six men and a severe beating with a musket were needed to secure him.

**March 1824**

Kelso- on the banks of the Macquarie River, a farmer showed Windradyne, leader of the Wiradjuri people how to cook potatoes and gave him and his family some potatoes. The Wiradjuri people returned next day for more, believing the land, and therefore the potatoes, were theirs, but were shot at. There is no record of how many tribesmen, women and children were killed on that day, but Windradyne escaped.

Arsenic cooked in dampers was also used to kill Wiradjuri people at this time.

**The proclamation of martial law**

Whereas the Aboriginal Natives of the district near Bathurst, have for many weeks past, carried out … attacks on the Stock Stations … putting some of the keepers to cruel deaths, wounding others, and

dispersing and plundering the Flocks and Herds … and every conciliatory measure has been pursued in vain … Resort to summary justice has become necessary:–

Natives of the District near

BI do declare … Martial Law to Be in Force in All the Country Westward of Mount York:—And all soldiers … and all His Majesty’s subjects are also called upon to assist … being always mindful, that

the shedding of blood is only just where all other means of defence … are exhausted; that cruelty is never lawful; and … helpless women and children are to be spared.

From Governor Brisbane’s proclamation, 14 August 1824.

These events caused Windradyne to lead an assault on the colonials who were taking Wiradjuri land and killing his people. The colonials replied by declaring Martial Law.

**The End of Martial Law**

Whereas the judicious and humane measures pursued by the magistrates assembled at Bathurst … have restored tranquillity without bloodshed— Now Therefore … I do direct that Martial Law shall cease.

From Governor Brisbane’s proclamation,

11 December 1824.

The Martial Law in this region 1824 permitted the shooting of Aboriginal people under certain conditions.

**In full sentences in your book:**

1. Copy and complete:

\*Martial Law on the Bathurst Plains began \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\*Martial Law on the Bathurst Plains ended \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Explain what Martial Law meant.
2. Did people always follow the rules of this Martial Law? Explain your answer using evidence.

**A massacre near Bathurst in 1824**

A party of soldiers was despatched …

Negotiations, apparently friendly, but

Really treacherous, were entered into.

Food was prepared and was placed on the

ground within musket range of the station buildings. The blacks were invited to

come for it. Unsuspectingly they did come,

principally women and children. As they

gathered up the white men’s presents they

were shot downby a brutal volley without

regard to age or sex.

From W. H. Suttor, a Bathurst settler, describing events in 1824.

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*The Persecuting White Men*, a lithograph thought to be by George Hamilton, made

between 1848 and 1858.

**Questions:**

1. In what ways was the colonial expansion (and its effects) in the Bathurst region quite typical of the pattern of colonial expansion across Australia?

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2. List two reasons why colonists often fought against Aboriginal people.

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3. List two reasons why Aboriginal people often fought against colonial people in colonial times.

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4. What personal reasons did Windradyne have in leading his people to fight back against the colonials?

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5. Make a timeline showing the chain of events on the Bathurst Plains (in your book- make sure you add an appropriate heading).

6. Make a list of describing words relating to what Windradyne experienced and how this would have made him feel and make sure you use these when you do the in-class part of your assessment task. Do this in your book- make sure you add an appropriate heading.