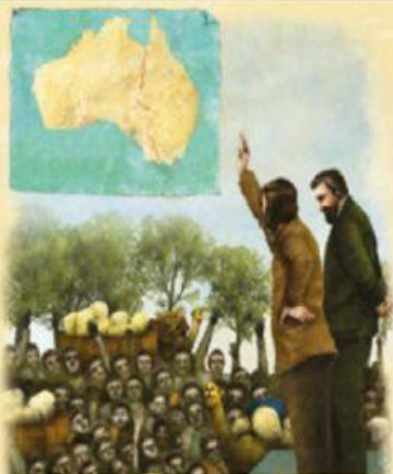
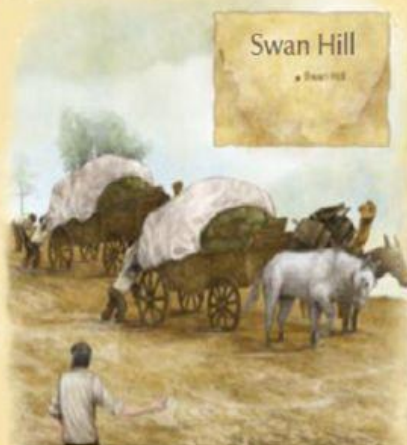


June 20, 1860



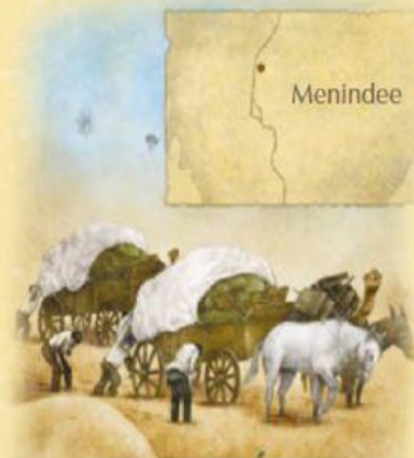
Over 15,000 people came to say good-bye to us today at Royal Park in Melbourne. The Victorian Exploration Expedition started on its way to the northern coast.

August 19, 1860



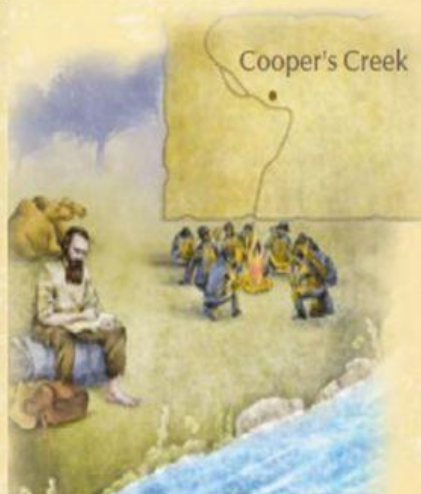
Today we arrived at Swan Hill. The journey last week was very difficult because it rained so much! The ground was very wet and muddy.

October 12, 1860



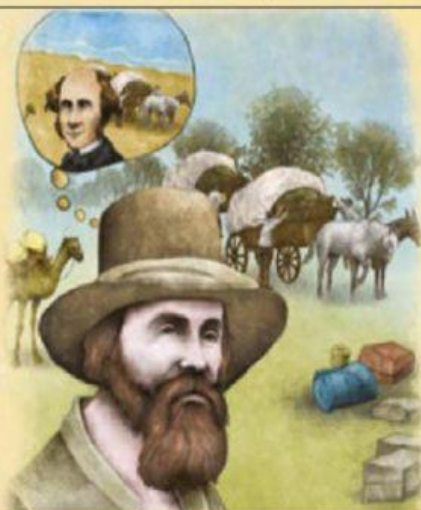
It did not rain as much as last week, but we had new problems on the road to Menindee. At every step, our wagons and camels had to stop to push them out of the sand.

November 20, 1860



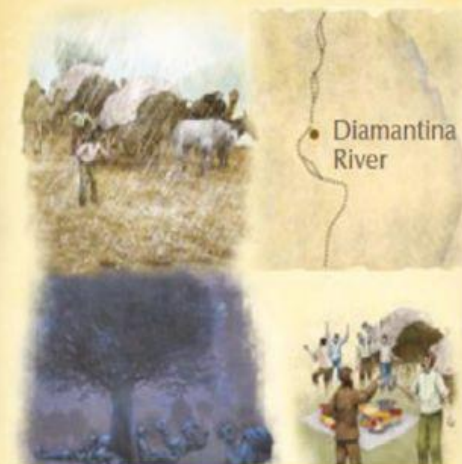
This morning, we arrived at Cooper's Creek. This is a new territory. When we arrived, we decided to wait until March. The summer is too hot for us and our camels need to rest.

December 15, 1860



A few moments ago, I received a message. John Stuart is close to us. He is a great explorer and his team is very fast. Stuart must not get to the coast before us. Four of us decided to leave Cooper's Creek tomorrow.

December 26, 1860



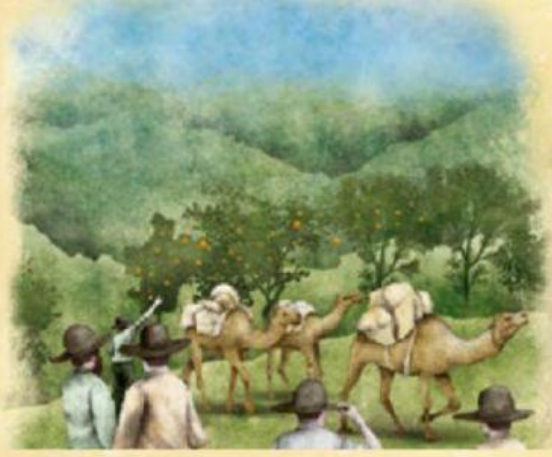
The desert was less difficult than expected. The heat was the biggest problem, but everyone was happy. We celebrated Christmas Day at an oasis by the Diamantina river.

January 5, 1861



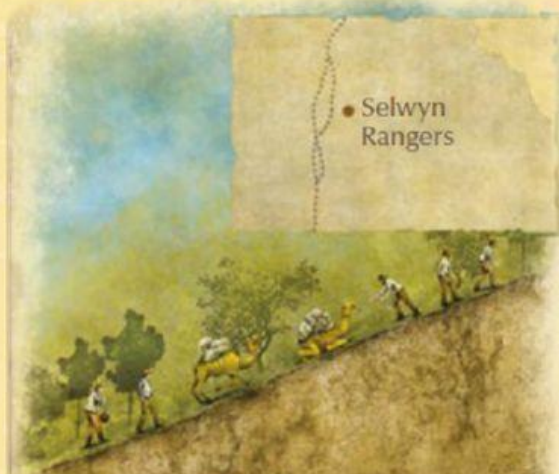
The Yandrawandha people (indigenous Australians) were very helpful this week. They were peaceful and they gave us fish to eat.

January 14, 1861



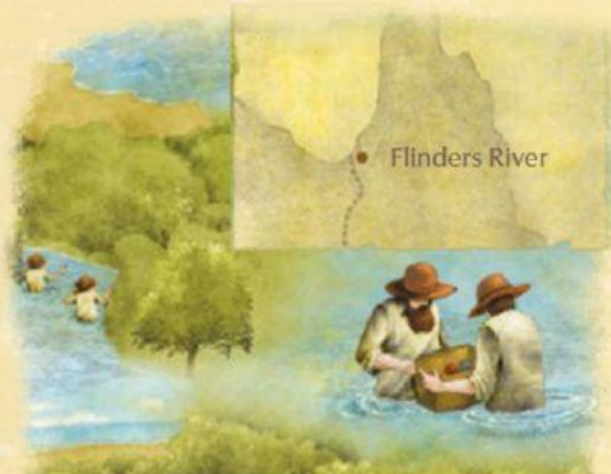
Today we walked towards an impressive mountain range. The landscape is fascinating.

January 18, 1861



The mountains were difficult to cross. It was impossible to walk along some of the paths. The camels are suffering. We are all scared.

February 11, 1861



Today I heard the ocean, but I did not see it. We were so close, but we were in a swamp. It was too difficult to get across. We decided to return to Flinders river. Tomorrow, we must begin our journey back to Melbourne. We are so disappointed. We were so close!