

Mathematics activity: How did the NSW police force change?

During the 1850s, most of the men serving in the NSW police force had emigrated from the United Kingdom, where they had worked as policemen.

But after 1862 this started to change.

Use the data provided to work out:

- the increase in police numbers between 1872 and 1889.
- What percentage (%) of police were born in Australia in 1872 and then 1889?
- Create a graph that shows the data for each year side by side.

COUNTRY WHERE RECRUITS WERE BORN

COUNTRY	ENG	IRE	SCOT	AUS	OTHER	TOTAL
1872	173	479	47	83	21	?
1889	383	461	164	539	20	?

Source: NSW Police annual reports 1872-89

Question:

Why do you think it was important that more locally-born men joined the NSW police force – especially the mounted police?