

Monday's English Task- Display your understanding of the pre -history of Alcatraz. Present the information as far as possible as an illustrated time-line.

1769: Spanish are first Europeans to visit island – they named it “Isla de los Alcatraces” or “Island of the Pelicans”. Later the name was shortened to Alcatraz.

1848: California, along with the island, comes under US control following the Mexican-American War.

1853: Construction of Military fortress begins as US Army realise strategic position of the island.

1857: Landslide kills two men.

1859: Military Fortress completed, named Fort Alcatraz

April, 1861: During the American Civil War, Fort Alcatraz was used to successfully defend the state of California.

August, 1861: Fort Alcatraz starts to be used as a military prison.

1863: A temporary wooden prison is built on the island.

1907: Fort Alcatraz is no longer fit for defensive purposes and so is renamed the Pacific Branch, US Military Prison. During World War I the prison housed German prisoners of war.

1912: New cell house is completed – the largest reinforced concrete building in the world at that time.

1918: Four prisoners escape using rafts. One of them was recaptured.

1933: Due to the gangster era, J. Edgar Hoover (who later became President in 1935) decides to make Alcatraz a ‘super-prison’.

1934: Alcatraz becomes an “escape-proof” maximum security prison. Four guard towers were constructed and 336 cells were reconstructed to have tool-proof steel cell fronts and locking devices that were operated from a control box.









ALCATRAZ ISLAND

CIRCA 1867