

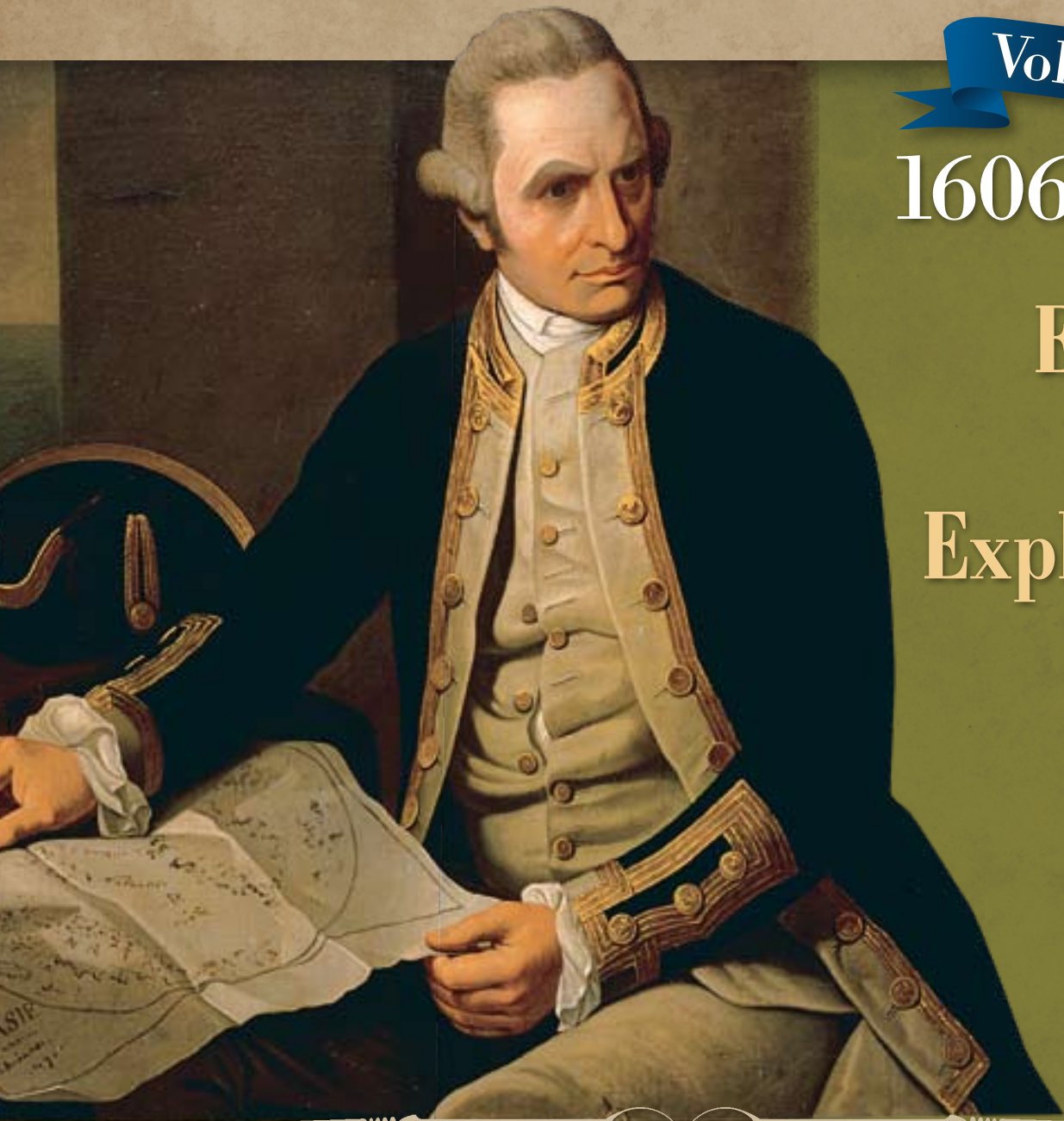
# Significant People

in AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY

Volume 2

1606–1803

Early  
Sea  
Exploration



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### Glossary words

When a word is written in **bold**, click on it to find its meaning.



# History makers

*Significant People in Australia's History* is about those men and women who have contributed remarkably to Australia's identity and **heritage**. They are significant because they were **pioneers** in their field or because their knowledge, actions or achievements brought about important events or changes in Australian society. They represent the wide range of people who have contributed to the story of Australia.

This series describes the history of Australia, from Indigenous beginnings to modern-day Australia, through the life stories of these significant people. Each volume consists of biographies of people from a particular period in Australia's history or descriptions of Indigenous Australian cultural groups.



# Early sea exploration

*Volume 2: Early Sea Exploration 1606–1803* includes biographies of the people who were significant in the search for the 'unknown southern land' between 1606 and 1803. Most of these people were European **navigators**. They were the first Europeans to see Australia and make contact with Indigenous Australians. They named many places on Australia's coast during their voyages, and their **expeditions** led to the **colonisation** of Australia by Britain.

## An unknown continent in the south

In ancient times, Greek and Roman geographers believed there was a great continent to the south that was equal in area to the northern continents. Geographers study and map the surface of the Earth. They called this land *Terra Australis Incognita*, meaning 'unknown southern land'.

Many European explorers were sent to the southern seas in search of this land. Portuguese and Dutch navigators first saw Australian shores in 1606. Nearly 200 years later, British navigators completed mapping the coast and found that *Terra Australis* was an island continent and not part of a larger southern land.

◀ From the 1400s onwards, European ships explored the world's oceans, looking for wealth and trade.



# A snapshot of history

1606–1803

From the early 1400s onwards, European nations looked beyond their own lands for wealth. They began to build trading **empires** that stretched around the globe. In 1453, **Islamic** Turks took control of Constantinople, the port at the start of the important trade route between Europe and Asia called the Silk Road. **Maritime** explorers began to look for a sea route between Europe and Asia. In 1488, Portuguese Bartolomeu Diaz was the first to sail from Europe to Asia around the Cape of Good Hope in southern Africa.

Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French and British navigators began to explore the southern oceans. They found a major landmass to the south of Asia. They charted sections of its coast and added them to their maps, but the parts of this land that they saw seemed to be **barren** and **inhospitable**. It was only after the **American Revolutionary War**, when Britain needed more land to house convicts, that Europeans began to colonise this land.

► A Dutch map from 1661 shows part of the coast of New Holland.



## 1606–1803

**1606** Portuguese and Spanish explorers search for *Terra Australis Incognita*. **Pedro De Quirós** and **Luis de Torres** come close but do not sight the mainland.

First recorded sighting of the southern land is made by Dutch explorer **Willem Jansz**. First contact is made between Europeans and Indigenous Australians.

**1616–97** Dutch explorers call the land they see 'New Holland'. They make many expeditions to chart the coast. **Dirk Hartog**, **Frederick de Houtman**, **Jan Carstensz**, **François Thijssen**, **Gerrit De Witt** and **Willem de Vlamingh** chart parts of the northern, western and south-western coasts.

**1619** The Dutch East India Company, a trading company that protects Dutch trading in the Indian Ocean, establishes a base at Batavia, now called Jakarta, in Indonesia.

**1642** Dutch navigator **Abel Tasman** discovers Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania, and claims it for the Dutch. Tasman goes on to discover New Zealand.

**1688** British explorer **William Dampier** is wrecked on the north-western coast of Australia. His memoirs become a bestseller in Britain. He visits Australia for a second time in 1699.

**Around 1720s** **Macassan fishermen** begin to make annual trips to the shores of northern Australia in trading fleets from Macassar, now part of Indonesia. The fishermen camp on land and interact with the local Indigenous peoples.

**1756–63** France and Britain fight on opposing sides in the **Seven Years' War**. Britain finishes the war as the greatest naval power in Europe. British and French navigators compete to discover and control lands in the Pacific.

**1766–69** Louis Antoine de Bougainville sails around the world for France. He sails close to the north-eastern coast of Australia, but turns north before sighting land.

**1770** British explorer **James Cook** maps the eastern coast of Australia. He lands at Botany Bay and claims the land for King George III, naming it New South Wales. He is accompanied by **botanist Joseph Banks**.

**1772** French explorer **Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne** lands at Van Diemen's Land. **Louis François de Saint Aloüarn** claims New Holland for France.

**1775–83** American colonists rebel against British rule during the American Revolutionary War. France and Spain side with America. Britain loses the war and is no longer able to send its convicts to America.

**1788** The British fleet known as the First Fleet arrives in Botany Bay, aiming to establish a **penal colony** for Britain's convicts. Soon after, French navigator **Jean-François Lapérouse** arrives in Botany Bay.

**1792** French navigator **Antoine Bruni D'Entrecasteaux** charts the southern coast of Australia.

**1797–98** British explorer **George Bass** explores the south-eastern coast of New South Wales in a whaleboat.

**1798** British navigator **Matthew Flinders** **circumnavigates** Van Diemen's Land.

**1801–03** **Flinders** **circumnavigates** Australia, accompanied by Indigenous Australian explorer **Bungaree**. He meets French navigator **Nicolas Baudin** off the coast of southern Australia. They name their meeting place Encounter Bay.



# Macassan visitors

*From the early 1700s, Indonesian fishermen from the port of Macassar visited Australia and traded with Indigenous Australians. It is possible that these encounters also happened earlier than this, but there are no written records.*

The port of Macassar was located on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi and is now known as Ujung Pandang. Macassar was the centre of a very important industry in which sea cucumbers were exported to China. Sea cucumbers, also called trepang and bêche-de-mer, are a delicacy in Asia.

## Fishing for sea cucumbers

Macassan fishermen collected sea cucumbers from the shallow, tropical waters of northern Australia. Each summer, they sailed their fleets of boats 2000 kilometres to fish the waters off Miwatj, called Arnhem Land by the Dutch.

The Macassans sailed a boat they called a *parahus*. It had sails made from matted palm leaf and two steering oars. One *parahus* could carry about 5000 kilograms of dried sea cucumber.

The Macassan fishermen camped onshore in Australia. They used stones to build fireplaces and they boiled the sea cucumbers in large iron cauldrons. Then, they buried the sea cucumbers in sand to dry them. Finally, they smoked them in bamboo sheds.



▲ Macassan fishermen came from islands to the north of Australia.



▲ Macassan fishermen boil sea cucumber at a camp in northern Australia in 1845.

## Impact on the Yolngu

The Indigenous Australians who lived along the coast of Arnhem Land were the Yolngu people. Sometimes, the Macassans fought with local people. At other times, there were friendly relationships between the Macassans and Yolngu. Some Yolngu women married Macassan fishermen. Some people travelled back to Macassar with the fishermen.

The Macassans' visits influenced Indigenous Australian cultures in many ways, such as:

- ☞ the Macassans taught the Yolngu how to make dugout canoes and smoking pipes
- ☞ some Macassan words became included in everyday speech
- ☞ rock art in Arnhem Land began to include outlines of steel knives and axes, and there are also paintings of *parahus*.

Steel tools and *parahus* were not used by the Indigenous Australians. Pictures with these objects in them must have been made after contact with Macassans.

The Macassans, like the Europeans, also brought **smallpox** to Indigenous groups. Because of their long isolation from the rest of the world, Indigenous Australians had little resistance to foreign diseases. Smallpox killed many Indigenous Australians.

### More about...

#### Early Asian exploration to Australia

A Chinese navigator, called Zheng He, sailed a fleet of 317 boats to the islands of Indonesia between 1405 and 1433. Some people think that he also sailed to Australia.

The only evidence that the Chinese may have known about Australia is a map made in 1603. It shows a southern land labelled with Chinese writing meaning *Fire Land and Land of Parrots*.



# Portuguese and Spanish exploration

*Portugal and Spain dominated world exploration in the late 1400s and 1500s. Their navigators wanted to find lands to make them wealthy and people they could **convert** to **Catholicism**.*

Great wealth could be won by controlling trade with Asia. Trade with Asia had grown rapidly after 1300, following Italian traveller Marco Polo's publication of his adventures in Asia. Cargoes of foreign goods travelled along the Silk Road, an overland trade route that connected Europe and Asia. Spices were also transported from the **East Indies** and India on long, dangerous and expensive journeys.

In 1453, Islamic Turks took control of Constantinople, the port at the start of the Silk Road. Conflict between **Christian** and Islamic people meant that Christians could no longer use the route.

## Developing ocean skills

Portuguese and Spanish **merchants** dreamed of finding a sea route to Asia. Prince Henry of Portugal (1394–1460) encouraged his people to develop shipbuilding and navigation skills. He encouraged them to find more trading ports in western Africa. He was called Henry the Navigator.

The Portuguese improved the ships they built for long voyages on the open ocean. The caravel was a small, sturdy ship designed to handle heavy seas. It had the speed to sail long distances in shorter time because of the sails on its two or three masts. It was also easier to steer in shallow coastal waters.

► *Prince Henry the Navigator was an important leader for early Portuguese exploration.*



▲ *Portuguese and Spanish colonies around 1600*

## Portuguese exploration in the 1400s

Gradually, Portuguese navigators sailed further south along the western coast of Africa. Bartolomeu Diaz sailed around the Cape of Good Hope, the southernmost point of Africa, in 1487–88. Vasco da Gama sailed all the way to India in 1497–99.

Portugal now had the maritime knowledge to control the valuable spice trade. It established trading ports in India in 1510 and the East Indies in 1511.

## Spanish exploration in the 1400s

The Spanish had a different idea for reaching Asia. Christopher Columbus sailed westwards across the Atlantic Ocean, hoping to circle the globe. In 1492, he came to islands that he thought were part of India. He named them the West Indies. In fact, Columbus had reached the New World, which was North and South America. Asia was still far across the Pacific Ocean.

## Dividing the world

In 1493, the Catholic Pope drew a line across the globe, called the Line of Demarcation. This line divided the world's land between Spain and Portugal. The Pope thought this would help Portugal and Spain work together to discover and control new lands.

## More about...

### Secret exploration

Some historians believe that, in 1522, Portuguese explorer Christóvão de Mendonça was the first European to reach Australia. They argue that a map drawn in 1541 and a shipwreck that was found, and then lost, on the coast of Victoria support this claim. Most historians do not accept this idea. Either way, it is difficult to find written evidence of Portuguese and Spanish exploration because both countries were very secretive about their explorations.



# Pedro de Quirós

Portuguese navigator

*Pedro Fernández de Quirós was a Portuguese navigator who led a Spanish expedition to find Terra Australis in 1605.*

## Life facts

- 1565** Born in Portugal
- 1603** Sails to Peru
- 1605** Sails to the Pacific Ocean
- 1606** Believes he has found *Terra Australis*
- 1615** Dies in South America

Quirós was born in 1565 in Portugal. He became an experienced sailor and navigator for Spain.

Quirós dreamed of finding *Terra Australis* and

claiming it for Spain and the Catholic Church. He visited Rome and gained the Pope's support for a voyage into the Pacific Ocean.

In 1603, Quirós sailed to the Spanish colony in Peru. From there, he set out with three ships to cross the Pacific.

## South land of the Holy Spirit

In May 1606, the fleet reached land. Quirós believed he had found *Terra Australis*. He named it La Australia del Espíritu Santo, meaning 'south land of the Holy Spirit'. In fact, he had landed on a small island, which is now called Espíritu Santo and is part of the nation of Vanuatu.

Quirós tried to convert the indigenous people he found to Catholicism, but after a few weeks, he was forced to leave. The fleet set sail for Manila, a Spanish port. His ship was separated from the fleet in a storm. He travelled instead to another Spanish colony in Mexico and arrived in November 1606.

On his return to Spain, Quirós wrote about his voyage. He tried to win support from the King for a new voyage. People thought he was crazy. He returned to South America and died a poor man in 1615.

## More about...

### Trading ports in the Pacific

It was vital for countries to have friendly ports along their main sea routes. Sailing ships had little space onboard. The little food and water had to be rationed. It was essential to find places with fresh supplies during the journey. Some trading ports in the Pacific were:

- Manila, in modern-day Philippines, which was controlled by the Spanish
- Batavia, which is now Jakarta in Indonesia, which was controlled by the Dutch
- Goa, in India, which was controlled by the Portuguese.



▲ After 54 days of sickness and fighting with the local people, Quirós' crew forced him to leave the settlement in Vanuatu.

## See also

**Portuguese and Spanish exploration**, Volume 2  
**Luis de Torres** (voyage to discover *Terra Australis*), Volume 2

# Luis de Torres

Spanish navigator

*Luis Váez de Torres was a Spanish navigator. He was the first European to find the sea passage between New Guinea and Australia.*

## Life facts

- Year of birth unknown
- 1605** Sails to the Pacific Ocean with Quirós
- 1606** Separated from Quirós in a storm and sails through sea passage
- Year of death unknown

Little is known about the early life of Torres. He was appointed second-in-command to Quirós on his voyage to discover *Terra Australis* in 1605–06.

When Quirós became separated from the rest of the fleet in a storm, Torres searched for him. He then decided to complete the planned journey to Manila, the capital of the Spanish colony in the Philippines.

## Torres Strait

Unfavourable winds forced Torres to sail along the southern coast of New Guinea, rather than along the northern coast. He carefully navigated the many islands and reefs. He finally passed through a 150-kilometre-wide sea passage, now called the Torres Strait. His voyage proved that New Guinea was an island and not the northern part of *Terra Australis*.



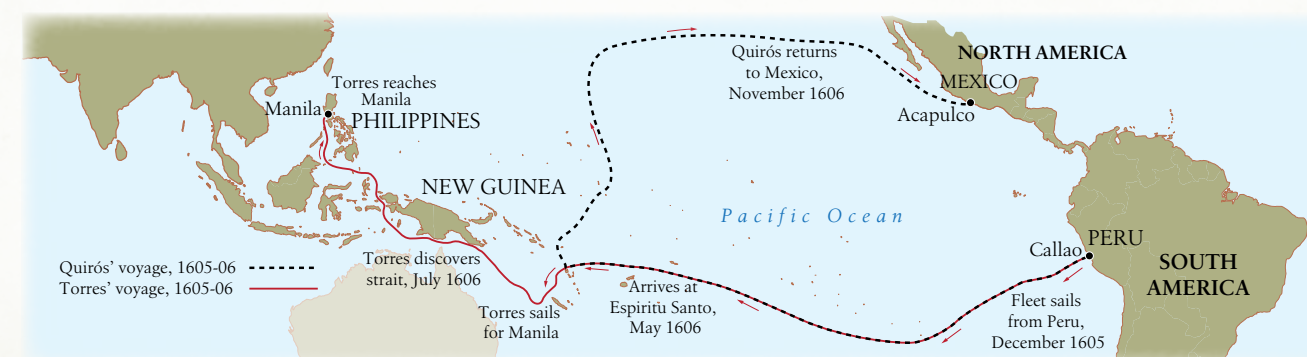
▲ Torres' ships, San Pedro and Los Tres Reyes, sailed close to Cape York in 1606.

Torres and his men landed on various islands in the strait. They recorded that often 'the Indians took to the hills'. Early navigators used the word 'indians' to describe all indigenous peoples. Torres also recorded that he took 20 captives from the islands. It is not known what happened to them. Torres sailed close to Cape York, the northern tip of Australia, but probably thought it was just another island.

Torres wrote about his voyage after he reached Manila. The Spanish decided to keep this voyage secret.

## See also

**Portuguese and Spanish exploration**, Volume 2  
**Pedro de Quirós** (voyage to discover *Terra Australis*), Volume 2



▲ Map showing the routes taken by Quirós and Torres



# Dutch exploration

*Dutch navigators dominated world exploration in the first half of the 1600s.*

During the 1500s, the Dutch people were ruled by Spain. Many Dutch people broke away from the Catholic Church and became **Protestants**. When Spain tried to force them to become Catholic again, the Dutch rebelled. They declared their independence in 1579, and fought a war against Spain until 1648.

## Controlling the spice trade

Dutch ships had been the main carriers of spices from Portugal to the rest of Europe. Spain took control of this spice trade, cutting out the Dutch merchants. The Dutch decided they wanted to take over the spice trade themselves. They managed to smuggle some secret Portuguese maps back to the Netherlands. In 1602, Dutch merchants formed the Dutch East India Company, also known as the VOC.

The Dutch had many battles with the Portuguese and eventually won control of the spice trade. The Dutch East India Company established its headquarters in Batavia, now Jakarta in Indonesia. Dutch ships regularly crossed the Indian Ocean on slow voyages to the Spice Islands, now the Molucca Islands. It took nearly a year to sail one way.

### More about...

#### The spice trade

Spices are vegetable parts used to flavour food. They were used in Asian cooking for thousands of years before being 'discovered' by Europeans. Popular spices were pepper, cloves and nutmegs from the East Indies. Demand for these spices led to increased trade between Europe and the East Indies.



◀ A Dutch East India Company fleet returns to Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, in 1599.



▲ Dutch navigators sailed further south, used the Roaring Forties to sail east and then turned north to reach Batavia.

## Accidental discoveries

In 1611, a quicker route from Europe to the East Indies was discovered. Dutch navigator Hendrick Brouwer proved that it was quicker to sail a longer route that went further south. The Roaring Forties, great westerly winds in the southern oceans, gave extra wind power and speed to the sailing ships. Once they had rounded the Cape of Good Hope, at the south of Africa, the ships would sail east across the Indian Ocean then turn northwards. Ocean **currents** then helped the ships reach Batavia. The ships could save up to six months by sailing this route.

The main problem with Brouwer's route was working out when to turn north. Many ships sailed too far east. Some were wrecked on the reefs, but others accidentally discovered a barren land they named New Holland. The western and southern coasts of this land were mapped, piece by piece, by Dutch explorers.

## The search for new lands

The Dutch East India Company also sent navigators to find the legendary 'island of gold' called New Guinea. The Spanish and the Portuguese had seen this land in the 1500s. While mapping New Guinea, Dutch explorers also mapped the northern coastline of New Holland.

The Dutch East India Company sent Abel Tasman to search for *Terra Australis Incognita*. He did not succeed in his mission but he did 'discover' Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania, and Staten Land, now part of New Zealand.



# Willem Jansz

*Dutch navigator*

*Willem Jansz, also called Janszoon, was the Dutch navigator who made the first recorded sighting of Australia in 1606.*

## Life facts

- About 1570** Born in the Netherlands
- 1605** Sails to New Guinea
- 1606** Maps the western coast of Cape York Peninsula
- 1619** Honoured for bravery in battle against British
- 1630** Dies

Jansz was born in the Netherlands around 1570. He worked for the Dutch East India Company. He was promoted to captain of the *Duyfken*, meaning 'little dove'. His job was to explore the seas

around the East Indies and to find more places to trade.

## Voyage to New Guinea

In November 1605, Jansz set sail to explore New Guinea, the legendary land of gold. He explored treacherous waters, reefs and islands along the south-western coastline, which were full of hidden dangers. Indigenous people on one of the islands killed eight of his men.

Jansz did not know of Torres Strait and did not realise that he could sail through a sea passage towards the Pacific Ocean. Instead of continuing to sail east, he turned south and saw a dry, barren land. He thought it was part of New Guinea but it was the Cape York Peninsula, part of Australia.



▲ A special coin was released in 2006 to celebrate the anniversary of Jansz landing in Australia.

## Mapping the Cape York Peninsula

The *Duyfken* sailed south along the coast. Jansz was mapping the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula. He turned back after more than 300 kilometres, naming the place where he turned Cape Keerweer, meaning 'turn around'. The map that Jansz made was the first map drawn from observing any part of the Australian coastline.

On his return journey back up the Peninsula, Jansz was desperate to find food and water. He joined his crew to row a **longboat** up a small river, which was later called the Wenlock River. Suddenly, a group of indigenous people appeared on the banks. These people were the first Indigenous Australians to encounter Europeans.

The crew feared for their lives and fired at the group. They wounded several people. The Indigenous Australians threw long spears towards the boat, killing one of the crew. Jansz returned to the ship empty handed and sailed back to the East Indies.

Jansz completed other voyages for the Dutch East India Company. He was honoured for bravery shown in a battle against the British. Jansz died in 1630.

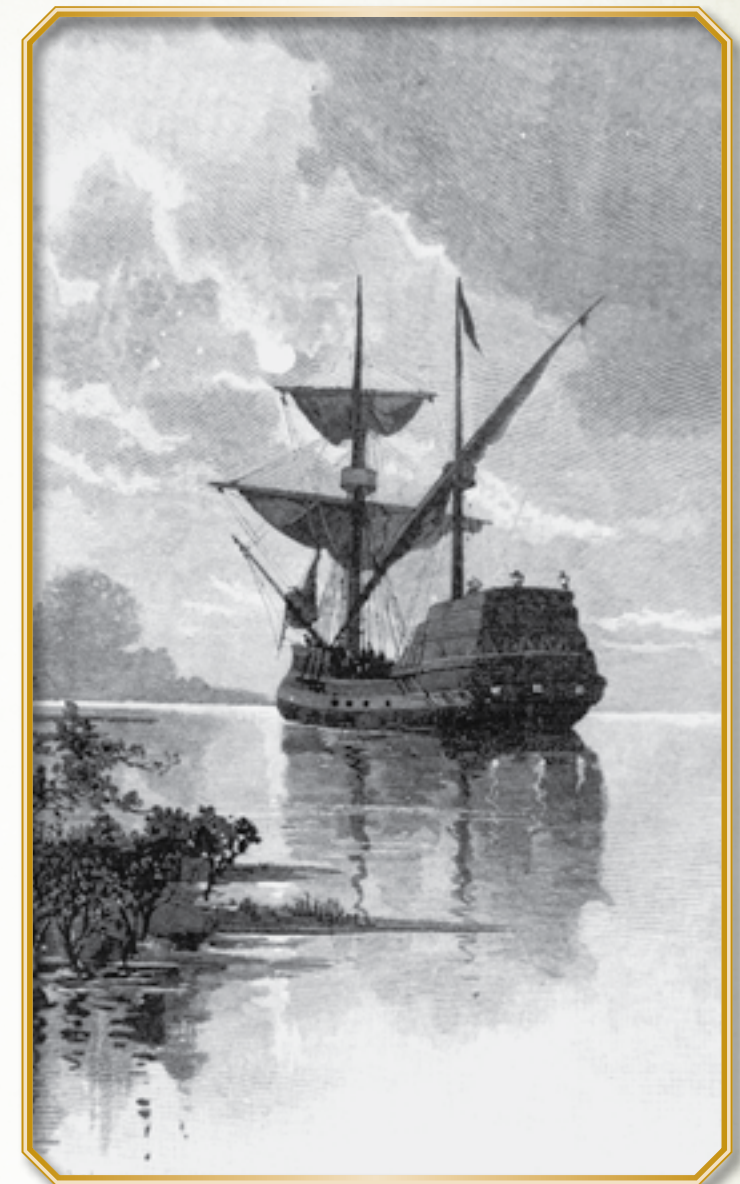


▲ *Williem Jansz's voyage*

## More about...

### Duyfken

A copy of the *Duyfken*, called a replica, was built in Fremantle, Western Australia. It was launched in 1999. In 2006, it followed Jansz's route along Cape York as part of the 400th anniversary of his voyage.



▲ *Jansz's ship, Duyfken, anchored off the coast of Australia in the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1606.*

## See also

**Dutch exploration**, Volume 2  
**Luis de Torres** (Torres Strait), Volume 2



# Dirk Hartog

*Dutch navigator*

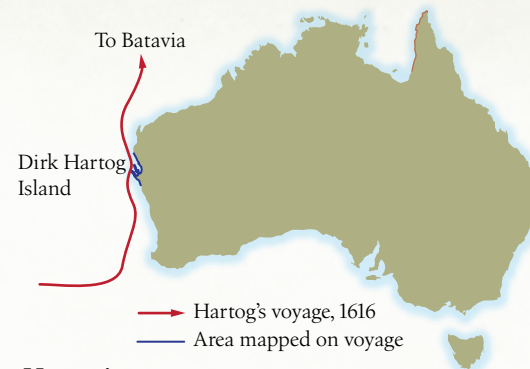
*Dirk Hartog was a Dutch navigator and the first European to land on the western coast of Australia.*

## Life facts

- 1580** Born in the Netherlands
- 1615** Becomes commander of the *Eendracht*
- 1616** Lands on the western coast of Australia
- 1618** Returns to the Netherlands on the *Eendracht*
- 1621** Dies in the Netherlands

Hartog was born into a sea-faring family in the Netherlands. He became a commander of merchant ships and sailed in the Baltic and Mediterranean seas around Europe. In 1615, Hartog was

employed by the Dutch East India Company. He was made commander of a ship called *Eendracht*, meaning 'unity'.



▲ Hartog's voyage

## Hartog's voyage

Hartog left the Netherlands for the East Indies, following the new, quick route discovered by Hendrick Brouwer. After rounding the Cape of Good Hope, Hartog sailed west with the help of the Roaring Forties. When he steered north again, he saw Australia's western coastline. It was a dangerous area, with many cliffs, reefs and rocky islands.

Hartog found a safe place to anchor the *Eendracht*, just off a large island. His crew rowed him ashore. To mark the occasion, he left a metal plate nailed to a post. On the plate, he recorded the date, ship and crew. This was the first written record of Europeans landing in Australia. Hartog continued sailing north, charting the coast, before he sailed on to the Dutch port at Batavia.

## More about...

### Dirk Hartog Island

Hartog had landed in an area that was home to the Malkana people, near modern-day Shark Bay in Western Australia. The place where Hartog left the metal plate is now called Cape Inscription and the island is called Dirk Hartog Island.

## See also

**Dutch exploration**, Volume 2  
**Willem de Vlamingh** (Dirk Hartog Island), Volume 2



▲ The engraved metal plate that Hartog left in 1616 is the first written evidence of Europeans landing in Australia.

# Frederick de Houtman

*Dutch navigator*

*Frederick de Houtman was a Dutch navigator who 'discovered' a group of rocky islands off the western coast of Australia.*

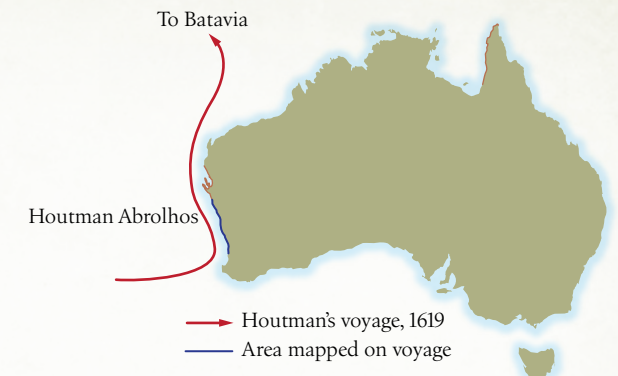
## Life facts

- 1571** Born in the Netherlands
- 1595** Sails to the East Indies for the first time
- 1618** Sails on the *Dordrecht* to the East Indies
- 1619** Sights and names the Houtman Abrolhos Islands
- 1627** Dies in the Netherlands

Houtman was born in the Netherlands in 1571. He sailed as an **astronomer** on the first Dutch expedition to the East Indies in 1595. He made records of several **constellations** during the voyage.

## Voyage to the East Indies

In 1618, Houtman captained the ship *Dordrecht* on a voyage to the East Indies. Jacob Edel was the captain of another ship, called *Amsterdam*, which sailed with the *Dordrecht*. In July 1619, the two ships sighted the Australian coast, just north of where Perth stands today.



▲ Houtman's voyage

The ships sailed northwards and narrowly avoided being wrecked on coral islands about 80 kilometres from the mainland. Houtman named these islands Houtman Abrolhos. Abrolhos is a Portuguese word used for reefs and is thought to mean 'keep your eyes open'.

## More about...

### The Batavia wreck

In 1629, the Dutch East India Company ship *Batavia* ran aground at the Houtman Abrolhos. It was carrying 316 people and many treasures. Captain Pelsaert took the ship's longboats to Batavia to find help. Many of the people left behind died of thirst and hunger. There was a bloody **rebellion** and 125 men, women and children were murdered. When Pelsaert returned, he executed the rebel leaders. Two of the crew were punished by being left on the mainland. They were never heard of again.

◀ A fleet of ships commanded by Houtman leaves for the East Indies in 1623.

## See also

**Dutch exploration**, Volume 2



# Jan Carstensz

*Dutch navigator*

*Jan Carstensz, also called Carstenzoon, was a Dutch navigator who explored the Gulf of Carpentaria.*

## Life facts

Year of birth unknown

**1623** Explores Gulf of Carpentaria

Year of death unknown

In 1623, Carstensz explored the area that had been mapped by Willem Jansz. The Dutch East India Company wanted him to

find people to trade with. He sailed with two ships, the *Pera* and the *Arnhem*. Willem van Coolsteerdt captained the *Arnhem*.

Carstensz explored the southern coast of New Guinea. Ten of his crew were killed while searching for food and water on an island. Carstensz then sailed along the western coast of Cape York. In some parts, smoke from fires lit by the Indigenous Australians hid the land.

## Encountering Indigenous Australians

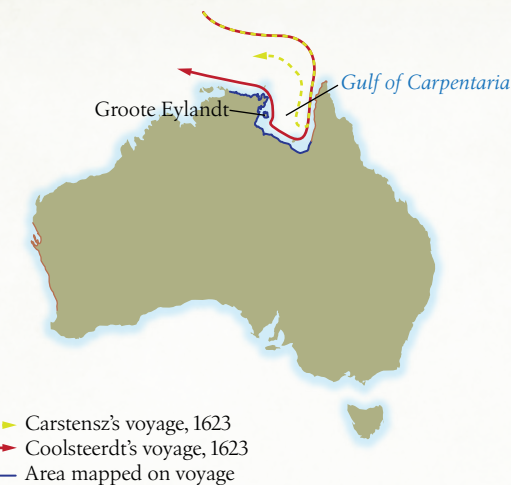
Carstensz was surprised by the number of Indigenous people he saw. On 18 April 1623, he met a large group of people. They 'showed no fear and were so bold as to touch the **muskets** of our men ... while they wanted to have whatever they could make use of'.

Carstensz had been given instructions to capture and question any indigenous people. He showed them beads and metal objects. While they were distracted, his crew led away an Aboriginal man. There was a fight and another Aboriginal man was shot.



▲ This map was drawn by the crew of the *Arnhem* in 1623.

On Carstensz's next attempt to land, over 200 people appeared and made angry gestures. Shots were fired, killing another Aboriginal man. In another violent event, three Indigenous Australian men were killed. Two others were captured for questioning. It is not known what happened to them.



▲ Voyages of Carstensz and Coolsteerdt

Carstensz reported to the Dutch East India Company that the land was:

*'the most **arid** and barren region that could be found anywhere on earth; the inhabitants too are the most wretched and poorest creatures that I have ever seen ...'*

In Carstensz's opinion, he had tried to be friendly and had been mistreated by the Indigenous Australians:

*'in spite of all our kindness ... the blacks received us as enemies everywhere.'*

## Different values

The people that Carstensz encountered were probably the Wik or Kaantju peoples. They did not have spices, precious metals or anything else that Carstensz thought was valuable for trade. He did not value the things they valued, such as middens. He saw huge middens, up to 13 metres high. The middens contained 200 000 tons of shell, which had built up over many generations.

Carstensz thought the land was flat and barren, too. When the *Pera* was separated from the *Arnhem*, Carstensz sailed north again. He completed mapping the eastern part of the Gulf of Carpentaria. He named it after the Governor-General of the East Indies, Pieter de Carpentier.

## More about...

### Arnhem Land

After being separated from the *Pera*, Captain Willem van Coolsteerdt sailed westwards on the *Arnhem*. He saw and named Arnhem Land, mapping the north-western coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria. He also mapped Groote Eylandt, the largest island in the Gulf.

## See also

Dutch exploration, Volume 2



# François Thijssen

*Dutch navigator*

*François Thijssen was the Dutch navigator who charted Australia's southern coastline.*

## Life facts

Year of birth unknown

**1627** Reaches Cape Leeuwin

Year of death unknown

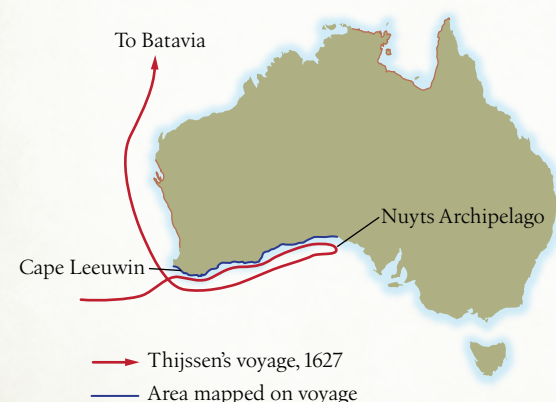
Thijssen was the captain of *Gulden Zeepaard*, meaning 'golden seahorse'. It was one of a fleet of nine ships that sailed to Batavia for

the Dutch East Indies Company. The company's chief merchant on the ship was Pieter Nuyts.

Thijssen's ship sailed too far south and was separated from the rest of the fleet. On 26 January 1627, Thijssen reached Cape Leeuwin, the most south-westerly point of Australia. This cape had been named after the ship *Leeuwin*, which had reached it in 1622.

## Mapping the southern coastline

Thijssen and Nuyts continued to sail along the coastline. They followed and mapped the coastline of the Great Australian Bight as far as a group of islands they named Nuyts Archipelago, near modern-day Ceduna in South Australia.



▲ Voyage of Thijssen and Nuyts



▲ This Dutch map of New Holland was drawn after the voyages of Thijssen and Gerrit de Witt.

The parts of the Great Australian Bight mapped by Thijssen included the Country of the Ngatjumay, Mirning and Wirangu peoples.

Thijssen's map was the first to show the southern coast of Australia. The Dutch called the area along the southern coast Nuytsland. He showed that New Holland did not stretch all the way to the South Pole.

The *Gulden Zeepaard* sailed back to Batavia. By the time the time it reached there, 28 members of the 220 passengers and crew had died from disease.

## See also

[Dutch exploration](#), Volume 2

# Gerrit de Witt

*Dutch navigator*

*Gerrit Frederickszoon de Witt was a Dutch navigator who charted a section of the north-western coast of Australia.*

## Life facts

Year of birth unknown

**1628** Charts the north-west of New Holland

Year of death unknown

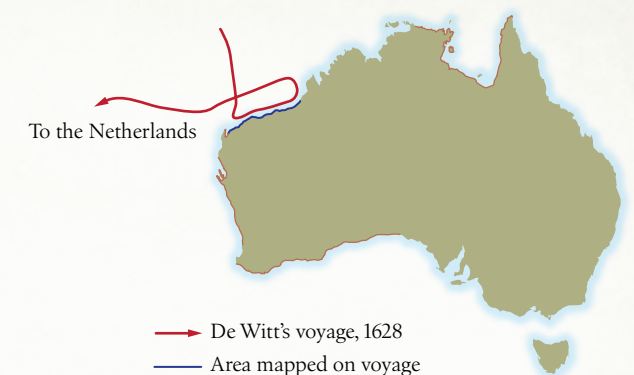
De Witt was captain of the ship *Vianen*, part of the fleet of the Dutch East India Company. In 1628, on its voyage from Batavia back to the

Netherlands, the *Vianen* was forced off course by strong winds.

## Nearly shipwrecked

The *Vianen* was driven aground in shallow water on the north-west coast of New Holland. The crew had to lighten the ship's load by throwing overboard some of the valuable cargo of copper and pepper. The ship was refloated again without damage.

De Witt sailed north and charted several hundred kilometres of coastline. The crew sighted Indigenous Australians on the shore, probably the Ngarluma people.



▲ De Witt's voyage

The ship reached the area that is now Port Hedland in Western Australia. De Witt turned south for the Netherlands. The ship arrived safely seven months later.

De Witt reported that all he had seen was 'a foul and barren shore, green fields, and very wild, black, **barbarous** inhabitants'.

Dutch map-makers named newly mapped areas after the navigator, the ship or the chief merchant onboard the ship. The area that De Witt mapped was named De Witts Land. Today, it is called the Pilbara region.

## See also

[Dutch exploration](#), Volume 2



▲ De Witt sailed from the Dutch trading port of Batavia before his ship was forced off course.



# Abel Tasman

## Dutch navigator

*Abel Janszoon Tasman was the Dutch navigator who 'discovered' Tasmania and New Zealand. His two voyages were the last major Dutch explorations of New Holland.*

### Life facts

- 1603** Born in the Netherlands
- 1631** Employed by Dutch East India Company
- 1642** Takes possession of Van Diemen's Land for the Netherlands
- 1643** Arrives back in Batavia, now Jakarta in Indonesia
- 1644** Sails on second voyage in the Pacific
- 1659** Dies in Batavia

Tasman was born in the Netherlands in 1603. He was employed by the Dutch East India Company in 1631. He completed many voyages from Batavia to Sumatra, Japan and the Spice Islands, now the Moluccas.

### Searching for *Terra Australis*

In 1642, Tasman was given command of two ships, the *Heemskerck* and *Zeehan*. He was instructed to sail south of New Holland to search for *Terra Australis*. Late in November 1642, Tasman sighted a new land. He named it Van Diemen's Land, after the Governor-General of the East Indies. This land was later called Tasmania.

### Claiming Van Diemen's Land

At first, rough weather prevented any landing at Van Diemen's Land. A crew of ten men rowed ashore on the eastern coast. They saw smoke and heard the sounds of people, but they saw nobody.

On 3 December, Tasman attempted another landing. The surf was too rough so he instructed the ship's carpenter to swim ashore and plant a flag. Tasman claimed Van Diemen's Land for the Netherlands. He said that he had 'taken possession of the said land as our lawful property'.

### More about...

#### The people of Van Diemen's Land

The crew that rowed ashore saw two trees with notches cut into them for climbing. The notches were set far apart. This made them think that the Indigenous peoples 'without doubt ... must be men of unusual height'. They also saw footprints of animals 'not unlike those of a tiger's claws'. Tasman had landed in the Country of the Paredarerme people, and his crew had seen the footprints of the Tasmanian tiger.

◀ A portrait of Tasman, his wife and his daughter was painted in 1637.

### Sailing to New Zealand

Tasman sailed eastwards and again came across land. He named this mountainous land Staten Landt. It is now called New Zealand. The Maori people attacked one of his boats and killed four of his crew.

Tasman then sailed northwards to the Pacific islands of Tonga and Fiji. Finally, he sailed along the northern coast of New Guinea. He arrived back in Batavia in June 1643.

### Second voyage in the Pacific

There were still big gaps in the maps of New Holland so, in 1644, Tasman was sent on a second voyage. This time Tasman sailed along the southern coast of New Guinea and along the Cape York Peninsula. Like Willem Jansz and Jan Carstensz, he did not find the opening to Torres Strait.

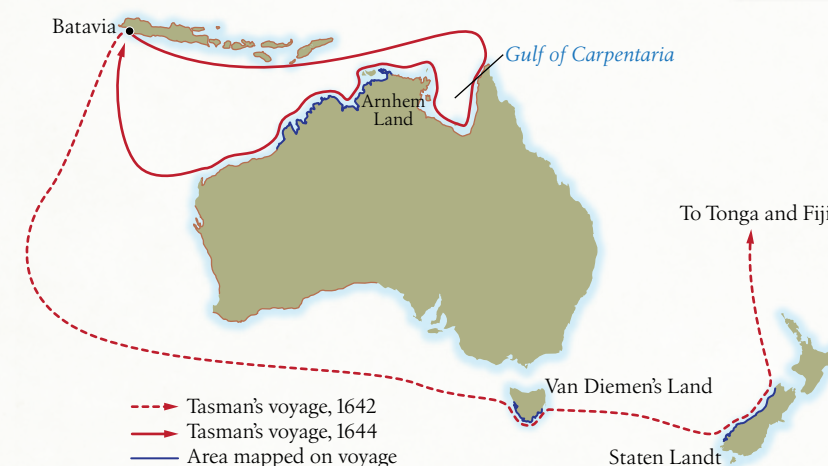
Tasman completed the charting of the Gulf of Carpentaria and Arnhem Land. He followed the coast down to North West Cape, in north-western Western Australia.

The Dutch East India Company was disappointed that Tasman had not found any trading areas or any useful shipping routes. After Tasman's voyages, there was little interest in New Holland for a long time.

### More about...

#### Dutch maps

Dutch maps drawn after 1644 show how much of New Holland had been seen by the Dutch. The general outline of the northern, western and southern coasts had been mapped. Little was known, however, about any eastern coast of this land. The Dutch assumed that New Guinea and Van Diemen's Land were part of the same piece of land. They had not found Torres Strait, the passage of water between New Guinea and Australia, and they had not realised that Van Diemen's Land was an island.



▲ Tasman's voyages

### See also

**Dutch exploration**, Volume 2  
**Luis de Torres** (Torres Strait), Volume 2  
**Willem Jansz** (Torres Strait), Volume 2  
**Jan Carstensz** (Torres Strait), Volume 2



# Willem de Vlamingh

## Dutch navigator

*Willem de Vlamingh was a Dutch navigator who explored the western coast of Australia.*

### Life facts

- 1640** Born in the Netherlands
- 1688** Joins the Dutch East India Company
- 1696** Searches for shipwrecks off western Australia
- 1698** Dies

De Vlamingh was born into a Dutch sea-faring family in 1640. He worked in the whaling industry for many years. De Vlamingh joined the Dutch East India Company quite late

in his career, in 1688. He made two trips from the Netherlands to Batavia and impressed the trading company.



### Shipwreck coast

There were many shipwrecks along the western coast of New Holland. In 1694, the Dutch East India Company lost one of its most important ships, the *Ridderschap van Holland*. De Vlamingh was instructed to search for the ship on his way to Batavia. The company also wanted him to search for signs of the *Vergulde Draeck*, which had been wrecked in 1656. De Vlamingh was told to look for the wrecks and any survivors, and map the rest of the western coast of New Holland.

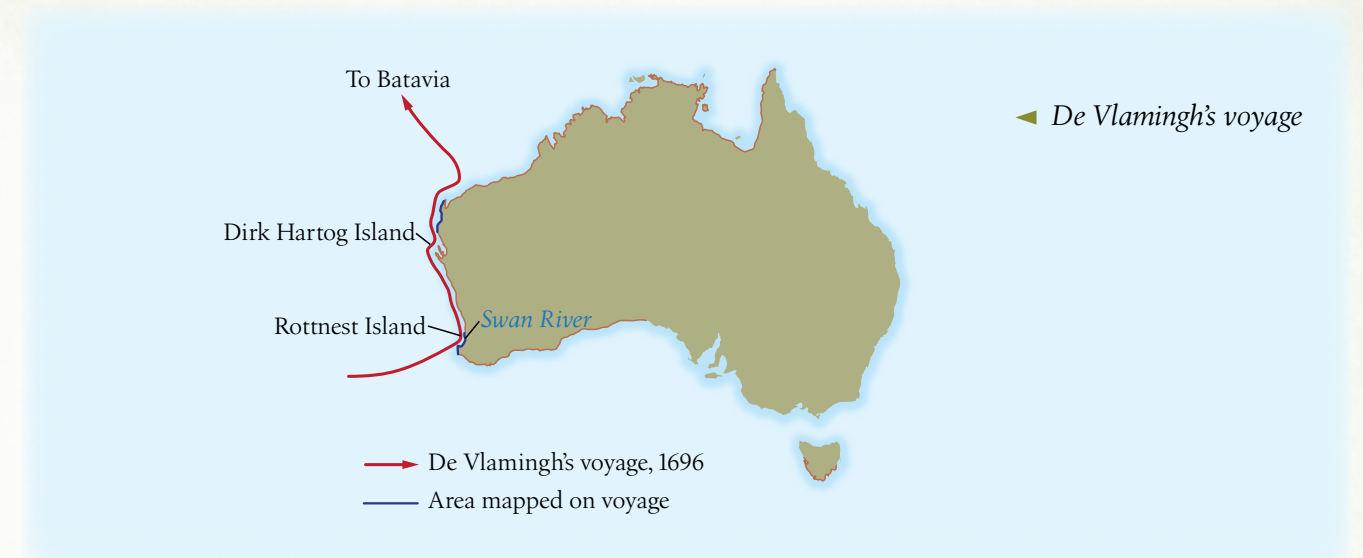
### More about...

#### Searching for shipwrecks

De Vlamingh was asked to search for signs of two missing ships:

- The *Ridderschap van Holland* was carrying 325 passengers and crew and many treasures on its way to Batavia, but it never arrived.
- The *Vergulde Draeck* carried 193 passengers. Over 100 people were lost when it was wrecked on a reef 100 kilometres north of where Perth is now. Some of the survivors set off for Batavia in a longboat, leaving behind 68 other people. They reached Batavia, but the people who were left behind were never seen again. Some people think that it is possible that they survived and became part of Aboriginal Australian groups.

◀ De Vlamingh stands near a globe in a portrait painted during the 1690s.



### Rat's nest Island and Swan River

In May 1696, de Vlamingh sailed from the Netherlands with three ships. By December, he had reached the western coast of New Holland where he explored an island off the coast. He saw a strange animal that he thought was a rat. He named the island Rottenest, which is Dutch for 'rat's nest'. The animal was a quokka and the island is now called Rottnest Island. On the island, de Vlamingh also found timber containing nails from a wreck. There was no other sign of the missing ships.

In January 1697, de Vlamingh took some longboats up a river on the coast. There were signs of people, but he found nobody. He had landed in the Country of the Wajuk people.

De Vlamingh was impressed by the many black swans he saw, so he named the river Swan River. He captured two of the swans, but they died soon after their arrival in Batavia.

### Sailing north to Batavia

De Vlamingh sailed north, mapping the coast and reefs for nearly 1500 kilometres. There was no sign of any wrecked ships. Along the way, he landed at Dirk Hartog Island and found the plate that Hartog had left in 1616, almost 80 years before. De Vlamingh replaced it with a new plate.

After arriving in Batavia, de Vlamingh reported that there was nothing of value in the barren land of New Holland. He reported seeing smoke from fires all along the coast. He had made 16 landings with a large number of armed men. Sometimes they saw people from a distance, but each time they were unable to make contact.

#### See also

Wajuk people, Volume 1  
Dutch exploration, Volume 2  
Dirk Hartog (Dirk Hartog Island), Volume 2



# British and French exploration

*During the 1600s and 1700s, Britain and France competed for world power. They began to lead explorations into the Pacific Ocean, and their navigators encountered the southern lands and peoples.*



▲ Tahitians offer a gift of fruit to French navigator Louis de Bougainville, during his voyage around the world.

## Building empires and fighting wars

The British were more interested in spreading their culture than the Portuguese or Dutch had been. They sent settlers to North America to build new colonies. They took over the running of countries such as India. France also started new colonies in North America and competed with Britain for the control of India.

Throughout the 1700s, France and Britain fought in many wars against each other. From 1756 to 1763, they fought the Seven Years' War. One of the reasons for this war was to sort out who would rule in North America and India. Britain was victorious.

## Looking towards the Pacific

William Dampier's voyages awakened British interest in New Holland at the end of the 1600s. His reports were so negative, however, there was no further exploration for many years.

In the 1700s, competitiveness between Britain and France shifted to the Pacific. French and British writers urged their governments to explore the Pacific Ocean. It was one of the last areas untouched by Europe. Explorers were urged to find *Terra Australis* and make their country rich.



▲ After Cook's explorations in 1770, British maps of Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea were almost complete.

## Scientific expeditions

In the 1700s, educated people in France and Britain were interested in finding out about the natural world. There was a growing interest in scientific knowledge. This was another reason to explore the Pacific.

France sent Louis Antoine de Bougainville on a scientific expedition around the world between 1766 and 1769. In 1768, Britain sent James Cook to the Pacific to make scientific observations and search for the unknown southern land. In 1770, Cook claimed the eastern coast of New Holland for Britain.

## An island continent

Cook's later voyages showed that there was no *Terra Australis* other than the island continent of New Holland. He sailed close to Antarctica but he saw only icebergs. Cook's three voyages led Britain to start a settlement at Botany Bay. Further scientific voyages by Frenchmen such as Jean-François Lapérouse, Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux and Nicolas Baudin convinced Britain to start other settlements around the coast, too. Britain thought it was very likely that the French would try to settle the land if they did not.

Matthew Flinders completed the mapping of the whole coastline in 1803. He was the first person to propose the land be called Australia. Bungaree, a Kuring-gai man, accompanied Flinders on his voyage. He was the first Indigenous Australian to sail around his ancient homeland.



# William Dampier

*British navigator*

*William Dampier was a British navigator who made trips to New Holland in 1688 and 1699. He became famous for the books he wrote about his adventures.*

## Life facts

- 1651** Born in England
- 1679** Becomes a buccaneer
- 1688** Wrecked on the north-western coast of Australia
- 1697** Publishes *New Voyage Round the World*
- 1699–1700** Visits Australia for a second time
- 1715** Dies in London, England

Dampier was born in England in 1651. He first went to sea when he was 19 years old. Soon after, he joined the British navy and fought in a war against the Dutch. By 1679, he had become a **buccaneer**. He led an adventurous life, raiding and stealing

from Spanish ships and settlements. Spain was an enemy of England, so Dampier was seen as a hero not a criminal.

## First visit to New Holland

Dampier's first voyage around the world was as a crew member on a buccaneer ship. After attacking Spanish settlements in South America, he sailed for the East Indies on the *Cygnet*.

Early in 1688, the *Cygnet* was beached for repairs on the north-western coast of Australia. The crew camped on the beach for over two months. Dampier made notes on the plants, animals and people that he observed. The Indigenous Australians who lived where Dampier camped were the Bardi people.

When Dampier returned home, he wrote a book about his adventures called *New Voyage Round the World*. It became a bestseller.



▲ Dampier is pictured with a globe and a measuring instrument for map-making, with a sailing ship behind him.

Dampier did not understand the cultures of the Indigenous Australians he saw, and he described them in a very negative way:

*'The inhabitants of this Country are the miserablest People in the World ... [They] have no Houses, skin Garments, Sheep Poultry, Fruits of the Earth ... Their Eyelids are always half closed, to keep the Flies out of their Eyes ... I did not perceive they did worship anything.'*

## Second visit to New Holland

The British Government was so interested in Dampier's book, they employed him in the Royal Navy. They instructed him to return to New Holland in a ship called the *HMS Roebuck*.

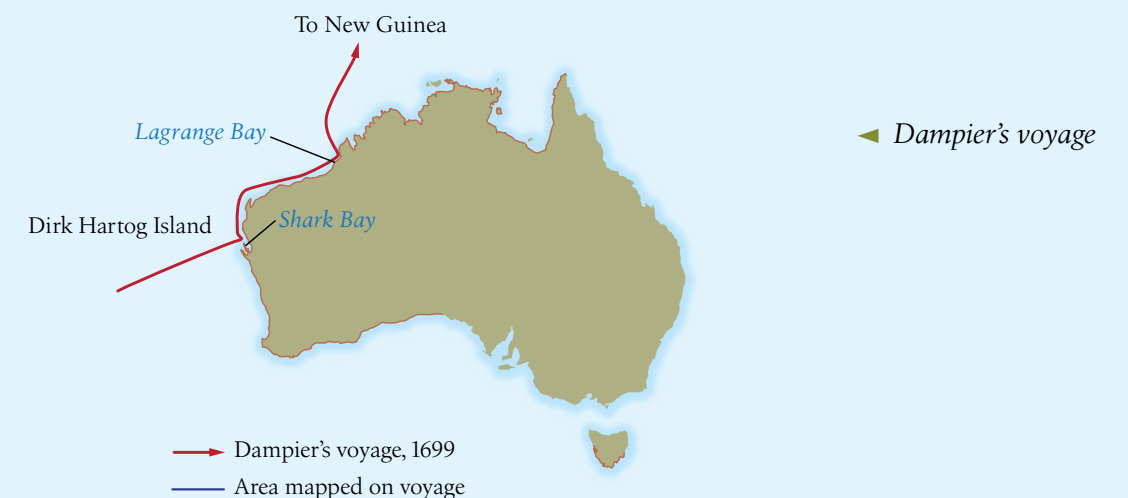
Dampier reached Dirk Hartog Island by July 1699. He spent eight days exploring an area he named Shark Bay. Again, Dampier kept detailed notes of his observations. He wrote about the huge 10-metre change in sea level from the tides. He observed anthills that were large enough to be people's homes. He also saw an unusual animal. It had short front legs and hopped everywhere.

Dampier sailed northwards and charted the coast, reefs and islands. He was desperate to find water. He landed at Lagrange Bay with a party of ten armed men. He hoped the Indigenous Australians would help him.

The Indigenous Australians who lived in the Lagrange Bay area were the Karajarri people. At first, they hid from the Europeans. When they did make contact, two Aboriginal men were kidnapped. A fight followed and one man from each side was wounded.

Dampier was unable to find water so he decided to head to New Guinea. On the voyage back to Britain, the *Roebuck* sank and Dampier was marooned, or trapped there, for almost a year. He returned home in 1701. He was found guilty of mistreating his men and was dismissed from the British navy.

Dampier went back to sailing the oceans and plundering enemy ships. He completed two more voyages around the world before he died in 1715.



## See also

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2



# James Cook

*British navigator*

*James Cook was one of the greatest navigators in history and the first person to chart the eastern coast of Australia. His three voyages added enormously to human knowledge of the Pacific Ocean, Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica.*

## Life facts

- 27 October 1728** Born in England
- 1755** Joins Royal Navy
- 1762** Marries Elizabeth Batts
- 1768** Leaves England on scientific expedition to Tahiti
- 1769** Observes transit of Venus in Tahiti
- 1770** Reaches eastern coast of Australia and claims it for Britain
- 1772–75** Searches again for *Terra Australis*
- 14 February 1779** Dies in the Sandwich Islands

Cook was born in northern England in 1728. He came from a poor farming family. A love of the sea led Cook to work on coal ships, called colliers. These small, sturdy ships were Cook's first choice on his later voyages. A collier had a flat bottom, which made it easier and safer to sail in shallow waters.

## Early naval career

In 1755, Cook joined the British Royal Navy. He went to North America to fight against France in the Seven Years' War. Cook worked hard in the navy, and took every opportunity to learn mathematics and map-making.

Britain aimed to expand its empire. To do this, it needed accurate maps. The maps Cook made in North America helped Britain win important battles. Cook was an intelligent and ambitious man. He told people that his goal was to sail 'farther than any man has been before me'.



▲ Cook is pictured at 47 years old, after his second voyage in the Pacific.

## More about...

### Captain Cook's wife

Cook married Elizabeth Batts on his return to England in 1762. Between 1768 and 1779, they were together for three one-year periods only, in between each of his global voyages. They had six children, but all died before them.

## Scientific expedition to Tahiti

The Royal Society and the Royal Navy agreed to send a scientific expedition to Tahiti, an island in the Pacific. The Royal Society was a group of wealthy, educated Englishmen who were interested in science and the study of nature. Tahiti was the ideal place to observe the transit of Venus.

To everyone's surprise, the Royal Navy chose Lieutenant Cook as leader of the expedition. A team of scientists was assembled. Cook's ship was a former coal carrier called the *Endeavour*. It was specially prepared for the voyage.

The expedition left England in August 1768. The *Endeavour* sailed around Cape Horn, in South America, and arrived in Tahiti in April 1769.

## More about...

### The transit of Venus

On 3 June 1769, the planet Venus passed between Earth and the Sun. This was a rare opportunity to measure the path of Venus across the face of the Sun. Measurements would then be used to calculate the distance of the Sun from Earth. The transit of Venus could only be seen from certain places on Earth, such as Tahiti.

## Searching for *Terra Australis*

After the transit of Venus, Cook opened secret instructions he had been given for the homeward voyage. The instructions told him to sail south in search of *Terra Australis*.

After three months sailing through the Pacific, Cook sighted New Zealand. He mapped its two large islands, proving that New Zealand was not part of *Terra Australis*. He then sailed west, towards Van Diemen's Land.

Due to a storm, Cook sailed too far north. On 19 April 1770, he came to the eastern coast of the land that the Dutch called New Holland. For the next week, the *Endeavour* sailed north. Cook could see smoke from fires lit by Indigenous Australians.



► Map of Cook's voyage and places that he named

Continued on page 34 ►



# James Cook

British navigator

## Landing at Botany Bay

On 29 April 1770, the *Endeavour* anchored in a protected inlet. Indigenous men and women stood on the shore. When Cook attempted to land, they all ran off except for two Indigenous Australian men. Cook fired shots between the two men. The men waved spears and threw a stone before running off.

Over the next week, botanist Joseph Banks and his scientists and artists collected and recorded many plant and animal samples. Cook named the inlet Stingray Bay, but this was later changed to Botanists' Bay, then Botany Bay.

## Wrecked on a reef

On 6 May 1770, Cook sailed north, mapping the coast and naming several capes and bays. Before midnight on 11 June, the *Endeavour* ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef. Water flooded into a hole made by the coral. For 23 hours, the ship was stuck. Luckily, the ship was floated again on the incoming tide and Cook sailed for land to make urgent repairs.

► It took two months to repair the ship at the mouth of the *Endeavour* River.

Cook was impressed with the Indigenous Australians he met. He wrote in his journal:

*'From what I have seen of the Natives of New Holland, they may appear to some to be the most wretched people upon Earth, but in reality they are far more happier than we Europeans ... The Earth and sea of their own accord furnishes them with all things necessary for life ... they live in a fine and warm climate and enjoy a very wholesome Air.'*

## Claiming New South Wales

Two months were spent repairing the ship at a place Cook called Endeavour River. Friendly contact was made with the local Indigenous people, the Guugu-Yimidhirr. Food and gifts were exchanged. One misunderstanding was quickly settled.

Using his exceptional skills, Cook safely steered *Endeavour* through the Great Barrier Reef. On 22 August, having named Cape York, the northernmost point of New Holland, Cook

landed on a small island. He raised the British flag and took possession of the eastern coast of New Holland in the name of King George III. Cook named the land New South Wales.

By the time *Endeavour* reached Batavia in October, not one man had been lost to **scurvy**. On 13 July 1771, the *Endeavour* finally reached England and the end of its voyage.

### More about...

#### Scurvy

Cook was one of the first people to understand that scurvy, a disease that killed many sailors, was caused by a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables. Cook paid attention to his crew's diet and used sauerkraut, which is pickled cabbage, as a source of Vitamin C. He did not lose a man to scurvy on his first voyage.

## Second and third voyages

Cook completed a second voyage exploring the Pacific Ocean and searching for *Terra Australis* between 1772 and 1775. He sailed so far south that he almost reached Antarctica. Walls of ice blocked him from the continent.

Cook did not finish his third voyage in the Pacific. On 13 February 1779, Cook was stabbed to death in the Sandwich Islands, in modern-day Hawaii. He was buried at sea.

### See also

**Dutch exploration** (*Terra Australis* and New Holland), Volume 2

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2

**Abel Tasman** (Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand), Volume 2

**Joseph Banks** (Botany Bay), Volume 2





# Joseph Banks

*British botanist*

*Joseph Banks was the leading botanist on James Cook's first circumnavigation of the world. When he returned home, he became famous and convinced the British Government to settle at Botany Bay.*

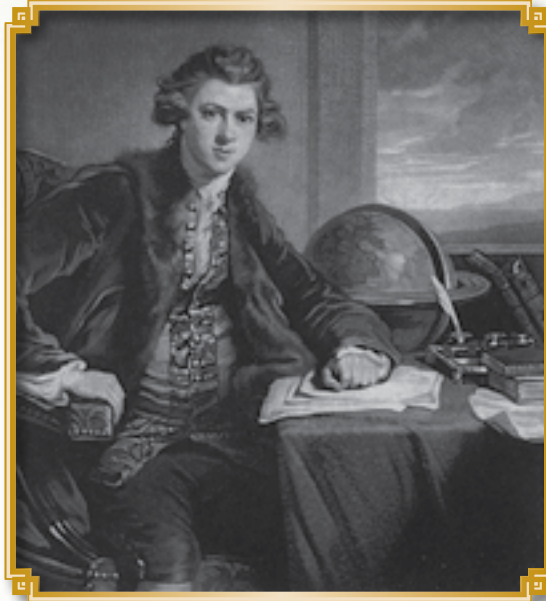
## Life facts

- 13 February 1743** Born in England
- 1768** Leaves England on scientific expedition to Tahiti
- 1769** Observes transit of Venus in Tahiti
- 1770** Collects specimens in Botany Bay
- 1778** Becomes President of the Royal Society
- 1779** Recommends Botany Bay as a place for a penal colony
- 19 June 1820** Dies in England

Banks was born into a wealthy family. He became interested in natural science at a young age. After returning from an expedition to the eastern coast of Canada, he was selected to go on Cook's voyage to the south Pacific. This was a huge opportunity for Banks.

## Collecting specimens

During the trip, Banks led the study and collection of many plants from South America, Tahiti and New Zealand. Between 28 April and 5 May 1770, Cook anchored the *Endeavour* in a bay on the eastern coast of New Holland. Banks worked furiously with other botanists to collect **specimens** of the many strange plants they found. Sydney Parkinson, a young artist, illustrated around 800 specimens. There was such excitement about the plants they found that Cook renamed the inlet Botany Bay.



▲ Banks became a world leader in science after he brought back plant and animal specimens from Cook's first voyage.

## Fame and influence

Banks became even more famous than Cook on their return to England. Banks was elected President of the Royal Society and became one of the world's leading scientists. Many new plants were named after him. It was even suggested that the eastern part of Australia be called 'Banksia'.

When the British Government searched for a place to start a new penal colony, Banks suggested Botany Bay. He convinced them that this was the best location, despite the distance and expense. Banks advised on issues in the colony and helped select the first four governors of the colony of New South Wales.

## See also

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2  
**James Cook** (Botany Bay), Volume 2  
**Arthur Phillip** (penal colony at Botany Bay), Volume 3

# Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne

*French navigator*

*Marc-Joseph Marion Dufresne was a French navigator who landed in Van Diemen's Land.*

## Life facts

- 1724** Born in France
- 1735** Joins French East India Company
- 1761** Travels to the Indian Ocean for the transit of Venus
- 1768** Organises expedition to the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean
- 1772** Lands in Van Diemen's Land
- 12 June 1772** Dies in New Zealand

Marion Dufresne was born in France in 1724. He joined the French East India Company when he was eleven years old. He fought in the French navy during the Seven Years' War. He completed several voyages to the East Indies.

## Search for Terra Australis

Marion Dufresne was given two ships, the *Mascarin* and the *Castries*, to search for *Terra Australis*. On the voyage, *Castries* had an accident at sea. Timber was needed to rebuild its mast so, in March 1772, Marion Dufresne landed in Van Diemen's Land, very close to the place Abel Tasman had landed.

Marion Dufresne took a longboat ashore and made two soldiers swim naked to meet the Indigenous Australians gathered along the beach. They had landed in the Country of the Paredarerme people.

At first, the people seemed happy to greet the two men. As soon as a second longboat appeared, however, the people started hurling stones and spears. Marion Dufresne ordered his men to fire. Several Indigenous Australian men were killed or wounded.



▲ A French painting shows the murder of Dufresne in New Zealand in 1772.

One of the men on Dufresne's voyage recorded the landing at Van Diemen's Land:

*'the natives uttered loud cries, obviously of joy, as they put down their weapons and approached our two men. An old man came forward first. Holding a torch in his hand, he presented to them saying a few words ... they looked with astonishment ... They seemed to doubt that we were the same species as them; our colour was so strange that they could not stop staring and inspecting.'*

## Conflict in New Zealand

Marion Dufresne sailed to New Zealand. At first, he established friendly relations with the Maori in the Bay of Islands. Things changed, however, probably when the French broke a local law. Marion Dufresne and 26 of his crew were killed. The French fought back and killed over 200 Maori.

## See also

**Abel Tasman** (Van Diemen's Land), Volume 2  
**British and French exploration**, Volume 2



# Jean-François Lapérouse

*French navigator*

*Jean-François Lapérouse led a major French scientific expedition to Australia and the Pacific.*

## Life facts

- 1741** Born in France
- 1756** Enters the French navy
- 1759** Captured during Seven Years' War
- 1780–83** Fights in the American Revolutionary War
- 1785** Leads a scientific expedition to the Pacific
- 1788** Lands in Botany Bay, and dies at sea in the Pacific

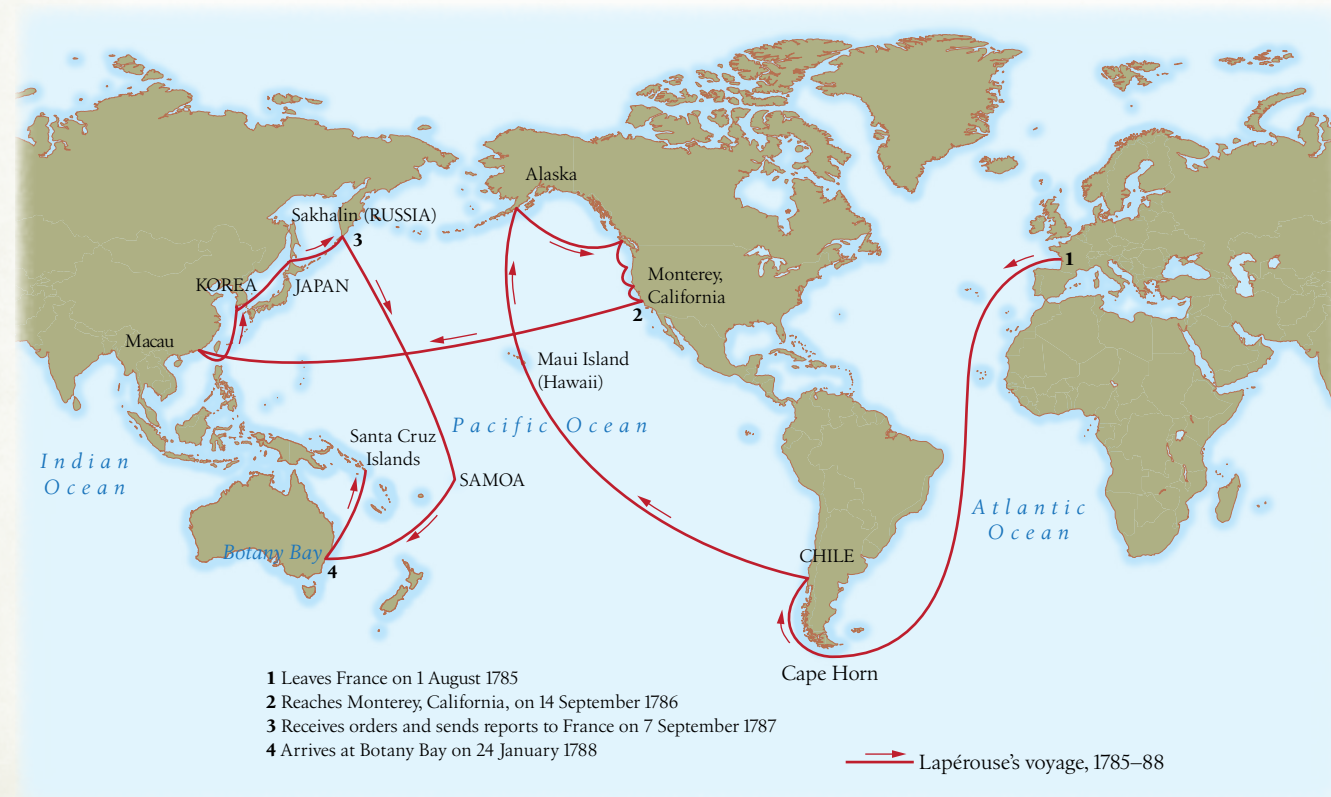
Lapérouse was born in France in 1741. When he was 15 years old, he went to naval college. He fought with the French navy in North America during the Seven Years' War. The British captured him as a prisoner of war.

Later, Lapérouse became a national hero. The French helped the Americans in the American Revolutionary War, when they fought for independence from Britain. Lapérouse captured two British forts at Hudson Bay, Canada.

## Scientific expedition to the Pacific

King Louis XVI of France was very interested in the scientific discoveries made by James Cook. In 1783, the King decided to send a major French expedition to the Pacific. Lapérouse was appointed leader.

The expedition left France in August 1785. Ten scientists travelled with Lapérouse on two ships, *Astrolabe* and *Boussole*. They sailed around Cape Horn, at the south of South America, to Chile.



▲ Route taken by Lapérouse on his scientific expedition

## More about...

### Good leaders

Successful navigators had to be good leaders. They had to make the right decisions in difficult situations. They also had to make sure their crew worked as a team. Arguments developed easily in overcrowded conditions. Good leaders insisted on discipline and fairness. Any unfair treatment could cause resentment. If the crew became unhappy, there was a risk of mutiny.



▲ The King of France, Louis XVI (seated), met with Lapérouse to give him final instructions for the voyage.

Lapérouse spent two years exploring the Pacific, stopping at Easter Island, Sandwich Islands (modern-day Hawaii), Alaska, the United States, Macau, Philippines, Korea and Russia.

In September 1787, an officer was sent overland to France to report on Lapérouse's discoveries.

Lapérouse was respected by all who sailed with him. He was a skilful seaman and navigator. He respected his crew and indigenous peoples. Lapérouse believed that it was wrong to take possession of lands if people already lived there.

## Meeting the First Fleet in Botany Bay

Lapérouse received orders to sail to Botany Bay. He arrived on 24 January 1788. He was surprised to find that the First Fleet from Britain had arrived just before him.

The British leaders were suspicious, but Captain John Hunter and Lieutenant Phillip Gidley King helped the French ships anchor in rough weather. Lapérouse set up camp for six weeks on the shores of Botany Bay. Two new longboats were built to replace the ones that had been lost.

The French astronomer helped the British to set up an observatory, from which they could watch the stars.

Lapérouse wrote letters to the French Government. He outlined his route for the rest of the voyage. The British agreed to send the letters back to Europe for him. Lapérouse's expedition sailed from Botany Bay on 6 March 1788. It never returned to France.

## Mysterious disappearance

The disappearance of Lapérouse and his expedition was a disaster for France. Several expeditions were sent to trace him, but 50 years passed before the mystery was solved. *Astrolabe* and *Boussole* had been wrecked on a reef off the Santa Cruz Islands in the Pacific. The survivors disappeared after setting sail in longboats. All the specimens, charts and records that Lapérouse had collected and made during the three years of his expedition were lost.

### See also

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2  
**James Cook** (scientific discoveries), Volume 2  
**Arthur Phillip** (First Fleet), Volume 3



# Louis François de Saint Aloüarn

French navigator

*Louis François Marie Aleno de Saint Aloüarn was a French navigator who landed on the western coast of Australia and claimed it for France.*

## Life facts

- Year of birth unknown
- 1772** Claims New Holland for France
- Year of death unknown

A second French expedition searching for *Terra Australis* left Ile de France, modern-day Mauritius, in 1772. The ship *Gros Ventre*

was under the command of de Saint Aloüarn. The expedition was led by Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen-Tremarec.

## More about...

### Mauritius

The island nation of Mauritius lies off the south-eastern coast of Africa. The Dutch made a permanent settlement there in the 1630s, but eventually abandoned it. The French began a colony in Mauritius in 1715, calling it Ile de France. It became an important base for maritime exploration.

## Expedition to find *Terra Australis*

The ships sailed south-east in the Indian Ocean. They sighted land that they thought was *Terra Australis*. Before they could land, the ships were separated in a storm. The land they saw proved to be a remote island over 4000 kilometres from New Holland, but Captain Kerguelen-Tremarec returned to Ile de France thinking he had found *Terra Australis*.



▲ The Gros Ventre docked at Port Louis, Mauritius.

## Claiming New Holland for France

De Saint Aloüarn sailed north-east to New Holland in the *Gros Ventre*. He reached Cape Leeuwin, New Holland, in March 1772. He sailed northwards along the coast to Shark Bay. Here, he buried a bottle with an Act of Possession inside it. The Act of Possession was a piece of parchment saying that he had claimed possession of the western coast of New Holland for the King of France.

De Saint Aloüarn's voyage was very significant, although it did not bring any new knowledge about New Holland. When the British heard that France had claimed the western coast, they knew that action was required. The competition to settle Australia began.

## See also

British and French exploration, Volume 2

# Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux

French navigator

*Antoine Bruni d'Entrecasteaux charted Australia's southern coast while looking for Jean-François Lapérouse.*

## Life facts

- 1739** Born in France
- 1754** Joins French navy
- 1786** Becomes Commander in the French navy
- 1787** Appointed Governor of Ile de France
- 1791** Leaves France looking for Lapérouse
- 20 July 1793** Dies at sea

D'Entrecasteaux was born in France in 1739. From an early age, he was interested in becoming a priest in the Catholic Church. His father, however, enlisted him in the French navy when he was 15 years old.



▲ D'Entrecasteaux became a rear admiral when he was appointed to command the expedition to find Lapérouse.

D'Entrecasteaux went to work in the East Indies. He was appointed Governor of Ile de France, which is modern-day Mauritius.

## Searching for Lapérouse

In France, there were many rumours about what had happened to Jean-François Lapérouse's expedition. People started to say the British had caused his disappearance. The new French Government decided to send an expedition to the Pacific to investigate.

D'Entrecasteaux was appointed commander. In September 1791, he left France with two ships, *Recherche* and *Espérance*.

D'Entrecasteaux stopped at Van Diemen's Land for food and water. He completed detailed maps of the coast and ocean bed. The ships headed to islands north of New Guinea. They could find no trace of Lapérouse's expedition.

After buying more stores in the East Indies, d'Entrecasteaux sailed to the southern coast of New Holland. He completed detailed maps of the coastline and many small islands. His ships were nearly wrecked in a violent storm.

D'Entrecasteaux's expedition headed to Van Diemen's Land and the Pacific islands for a second time. In July 1793, d'Entrecasteaux died of scurvy.

## See also

British and French exploration, Volume 2  
James Cook (scurvy), Volume 2  
Jean-François Lapérouse (expedition to the Pacific), Volume 2



# Nicolas Baudin

*French navigator*

*Nicolas Baudin was a French navigator who led a scientific expedition to the southern coast of New Holland.*

## Life facts

- 19 February 1754** Born in France
- 1769** Joins the French East India Company
- 1800** Sails for New Holland
- 1801** Reaches Cape Leeuwin, New Holland
- 16 September 1803** Dies in Ile de France, Indian Ocean

Baudin joined the merchant navy when he was 15 years old. He worked for the French East India Company. He later joined the French navy and helped the Americans fight for independence from Britain.

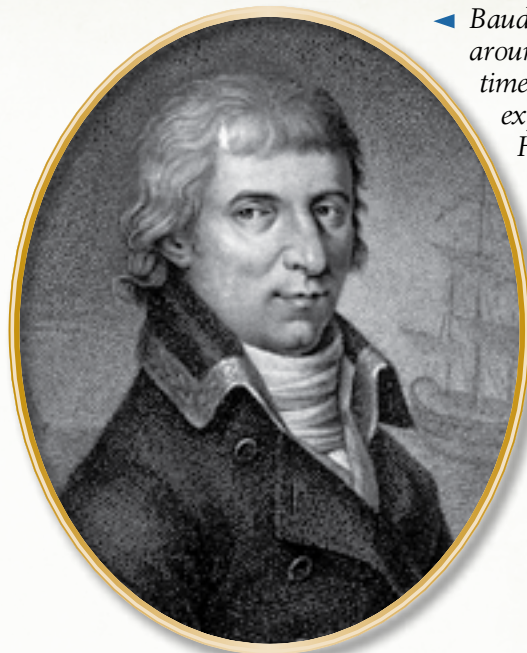
Baudin captained different ships. Some of these ships carried botanists to the Indian and Pacific oceans. Others transported slaves from Africa.

## Scientific expedition to New Holland

In 1800, Baudin led a scientific expedition to the southern coast of New Holland. His ships, *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*, reached Cape Leeuwin in May 1801. They sailed north, charting the coast.

Twenty-two scientists sailed with Baudin, but only seven survived the voyage. One of the scientists was Francois Peron. He collected over 100 000 specimens of plants and animals and later published books about New Holland.

The expedition spent a lot of time in Van Diemen's Land. The scientists wanted to understand Indigenous Australian cultures. They studied many Indigenous Tasmanian groups, such as the Nuenonne and the Paredarmerne.



▶ Baudin is pictured around 1800, at the time of his scientific expedition to New Holland.

Baudin's expedition also gathered specimens on King Island and Kangaroo Island. They spent more than two years studying New Holland. Baudin's maps named New Holland's south-eastern corner Terre Napoleon, meaning 'Napoleon's Land'.

While Baudin was charting the southern coast, he met British navigator Matthew Flinders. The place where they met was named Encounter Bay.

Baudin reached Ile de France, modern-day Mauritius, in August 1803. Soon after, he died of a disease caught during the voyage.

## More about...

### Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon Bonaparte was a French General who became Emperor of France in 1804. He invaded much of Europe and went to war with Britain.

## See also

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2  
**Matthew Flinders** (Encounter Bay), Volume 2

# George Bass

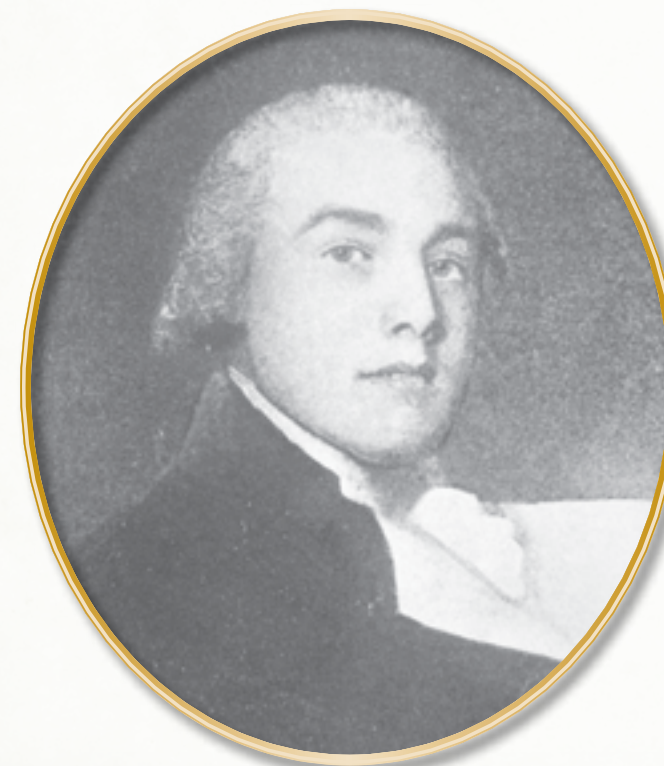
*British explorer*

*George Bass explored the coastline of New South Wales. With Matthew Flinders, he discovered Bass Strait and proved that Van Diemen's Land is an island.*

## Life facts

- 30 January 1771** Born in England
- 1795** Migrates to Australia
- 1797** Leads expedition to Western Port Bay
- 1798** Maps Van Diemen's Land with Matthew Flinders
- 1803** Disappears at sea

Bass was a surgeon in the British navy before he sought adventure in the new colony of New South Wales. He met Matthew Flinders on his journey to Sydney. They arrived in 1795.



▲ Bass was a naval surgeon who moved to New South Wales as a young man.

Bass had brought with him from England a three-metre dinghy, which they named *Tom Thumb*. Bass and Flinders sailed the unknown ocean in this very small boat, exploring the coastline around New South Wales.

## Finding Bass Strait

In 1797, Bass led an expedition to find whether Van Diemen's Land was separated from New South Wales. He sailed south of Sydney and explored the Shoalhaven River, Jervis Bay and Twofold Bay with a crew of six sailors in an open whaleboat. They reached Western Port Bay and were forced by bad weather to stay there for two weeks. During that time, Bass observed the ocean tides and swells at Wilson's Promontory. He believed they indicated a major ocean passage. A shortage of supplies forced him to return to Sydney.

In 1798, Bass joined Flinders in the *Norfolk*, the first ship built in the colony. They spent three weeks mapping the northern coast of Van Diemen's Land. When they rounded Cape Grim, they realised that Van Diemen's Land is an island. The sea passage they found was later named Bass Strait.

## Disappearance at sea

After returning to England, Bass joined a group of investors transporting goods to Sydney. The venture failed when the goods could not be sold. In February 1803, Bass set sail from Sydney to Tahiti and South America. He disappeared without a trace.

## See also

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2  
**Matthew Flinders** (explorations), Volume 2



# Matthew Flinders

*British navigator*

*Matthew Flinders was the first person to circumnavigate Australia. He also suggested that the land be called Australia.*

## Life facts

- 16 March 1774** Born in England
- 1795** Migrates to Australia
- 1798** Circumnavigates Van Diemen's Land with George Bass
- 1801–03** Circumnavigates Australia
- 18 July 1814** Dies in England

Flinders received a good education. He joined the navy against his father's wishes. He went on a voyage to Tahiti and drew detailed maps of Pacific islands. He also fought in a battle against France.

## Exploring with George Bass

Flinders met George Bass when they sailed to New South Wales together. They explored the coast around Sydney in a small boat called *Tom Thumb*. In 1798, they circumnavigated Van Diemen's Land, proving for the first time that it is an island.

## Mapping Terra Australis

The British Government was worried about French expeditions to New Holland. Flinders was asked to survey the whole coast of *Terra Australis*.

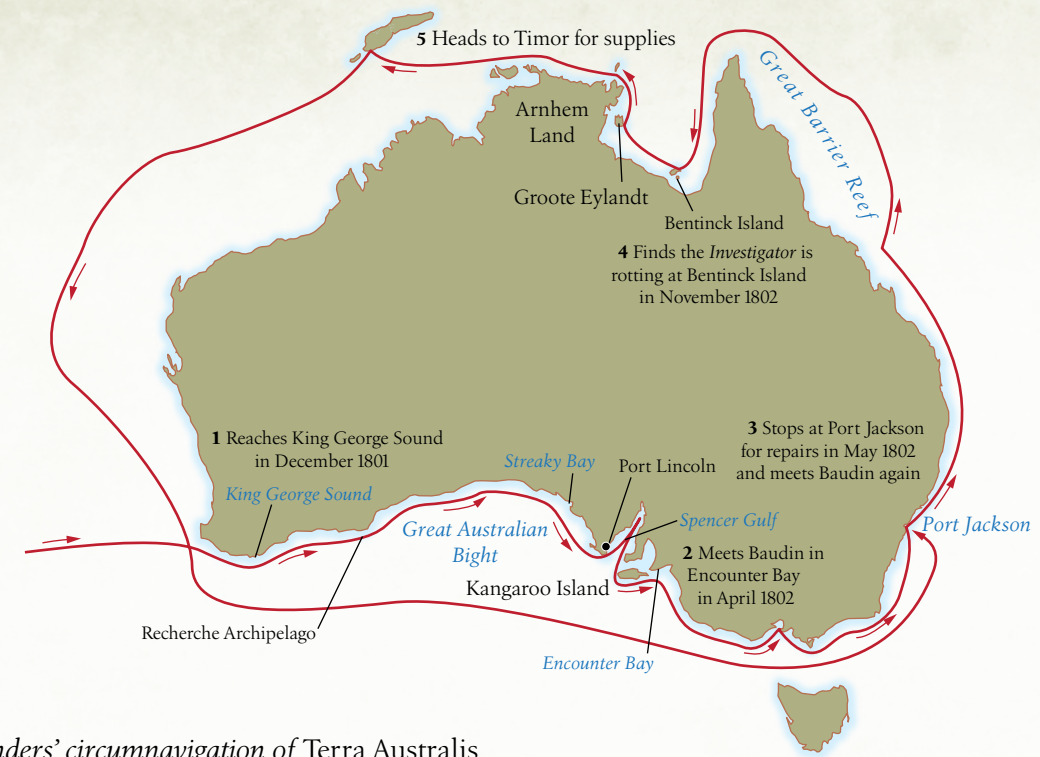
Flinders started circumnavigating Australia in December 1801 in the *Investigator*. An Indigenous Australian man, Bungaree, travelled with Flinders as an interpreter and cultural guide. Each day, Flinders sailed close to the coastline, making detailed surveys. Each night, he charted the results of the day's work.

Flinders had many adventures on his voyage. Some crew members were lost in accidents. At times, food and water ran dangerously low. In 1802, off Arnhem Land, the *Investigator* was found to be rotting. Flinders cut the trip short and returned to Sydney in June 1803.

On 21 February 1802, Flinders described one of the everyday adventures of the voyage:

*'a speckled yellow snake lay asleep before us ... By pressing the butt end of a musket upon his neck, I kept him down whilst Mr Thistle, with a sail needle and twine, sewed up his mouth; and he was taken on board alive, for the naturalist to examine ...'*

◀ Flinders circumnavigated Australia for the British Royal Navy.



▲ Flinders' circumnavigation of Terra Australis

## Encounters on the voyage

Flinders had many encounters with Indigenous Australians on his voyage, as well as with a Macassan fishing fleet. He came across the French navigator Nicolas Baudin in April 1802 at Encounter Bay. In May 1802, Flinders and Baudin celebrated together the end of the war between Britain and France when they met again in Port Jackson.

## Heading home to England

When his mission was completed in June 1803, Flinders set sail for England on the *Porpoise*. Disaster struck. The ship was wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef. Flinders courageously sailed the ship's longboat over 1000 kilometres back to Sydney. There he arranged the rescue of the shipwrecked crew.

Flinders set sail for England again, this time on the *Cumberland*. The poor condition of the ship forced him to call into the French colony at Isle de France, modern-day Mauritius, for repairs.

## Imprisoned by the French

Flinders expected friendly treatment, but Britain and France were at war again. General De Caen, the French Governor of Ile de France, treated Flinders as a prisoner of war.

Flinders remained on the island for seven years. He was released and returned to England in October 1810. Imprisonment had badly affected his health.

Flinders spent nearly four years completing the three volumes of his book *A Voyage to Terra Australis*. He died on 18 July 1814, the day after it was published.

## See also

- Macassan visitors**, Volume 2
- British and French exploration**, Volume 2
- Nicolas Baudin** (Encounter Bay), Volume 2
- George Bass** (explorations), Volume 2
- Bungaree** (cultural guide), Volume 2



# Bungaree

## Indigenous explorer

*Bungaree was the first Indigenous Australian to circumnavigate the land that had been occupied by his ancestors for over 50 000 years.*

### Life facts

Year of birth unknown

**1801–03** Circumnavigates Australia with Matthew Flinders

**24 November 1830** Dies in Sydney

Bungaree was a Kuring-gai man from the Broken Bay area, north of Port Jackson. He was an important member of Matthew Flinders' crew who

circumnavigated Australia.

### Acting as a cultural guide

On the voyage, Bungaree acted as a cultural guide whenever the ship landed. He was usually the person who was sent to make contact with the local Indigenous peoples. Bungaree was meant to be the interpreter for the different Indigenous Australian languages, but he was from the Broken Bay area on mainland Australia and did not know the languages of the peoples of Van Diemen's Land. Flinders described him as a 'worthy and brave fellow' who saved the expedition from disaster several times.

After the voyage, Bungaree became well known around Sydney. He wore British military uniforms that people had given him. Cora Gooseberry was Bungaree's wife. She was also a well-known identity, often wearing a scarf and smoking a clay pipe.

In 1815, Governor Macquarie granted Bungaree land for farming and gave him the title 'King of the Broken Bay tribe'. Bungaree lost his cultural identity and ended his life as a beggar and alcoholic.



▲ Bungaree often wore an old British military uniform.

### See also

**Impact of invasion**, Volume 1

**British and French exploration**, Volume 2

**Matthew Flinders** (explorations), Volume 2



# Glossary

**American Revolutionary War** war from 1775 to 1883 in which the American colonies won independence from Britain

**arid** too dry to support life

**astronomer** scientist who studies the universe beyond Earth

**barbarous** savage and cruel

**barren** not able to produce any plants

**botanist** scientist who studies plants

**buccaneer** pirate who attacked Spanish ships in the Americas

**Catholicism** faith of Christians who belong to the Roman Catholic Church

**Christian** belonging to the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ

**circumnavigates** sails all the way around something

**colonisation** settlement of a group of people in a place in order to take control of the land

**constellations** groupings of stars seen from Earth

**convert** change the religious beliefs of someone

**currents** strong constant movements of water in one direction

**East Indies** old name for the area including South-East Asia and India

**empires** groups of territories ruled by nations

**expeditions** journeys to explore other areas

**heritage** traditions and objects that have been passed down from previous generations

**inhospitable** harsh and difficult to live in

**Islamic** belonging to the religion of Muslims, based on the teachings of the prophet Mohammed

**longboat** extra boat carried on a ship

**maritime** to do with the ocean

**merchants** people who buy and sells goods for profit

**muskets** guns with long barrels

**navigators** people who explore by ship, using maps

**penal colony** settlement where convicts are sent to carry out their sentence

**pioneers** people who lead the way forward for others

**Protestants** members of Western Christian churches, separate from the Roman Catholic Church

**rebellion** violent resistance

**scurvy** disease, common among sailors, caused by lack of Vitamin C

**Seven Years' War** war from 1756 to 1763 in which Britain and France fought against each other for power

**smallpox** disease, caused by a virus, that can kill people

**specimens** samples for testing



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