

Stories from Australia's History

Captain Cook's Voyage in the *Endeavour*



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GRAPHIC
PAGES!

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

ON THE GRAPHIC PAGES, TEXT WITH THIS COLOURED BACKGROUND COMES FROM A HISTORICAL SOURCE.

Stories from Australia's history

The story of modern Australia starts on 26 January 1788. On that day, Captain Arthur Phillip arrived at Sydney Cove from England with the **convict** ships of the First Fleet. The new **settlement** brought disaster to Australia's **Indigenous peoples** because the newcomers took their land. This event marks the beginning of Australia as we know it today.

Just 18 years before settlement, in 1770, no European had ever seen the east coast of Australia. Englishman Captain James Cook discovered the east coast while on a voyage to explore the South Pacific. Cook **mapped** the coast from Victoria to Queensland and returned to England with reports of lush, fertile land around Botany Bay. The British government needed a place to send convicts, and decided that the land Cook described would be perfect. They sent the First Fleet, which arrived in 1788, and Australia was born. Captain Cook's voyage in the *Endeavour* led to the **founding** of modern Australia, and is one of the great stories in Australia's history.

What does it mean?

Cook sailed his ship, the *Endeavour*, across the world from England to the east coast of Australia.

founding: setting up something new that will last a long time

Captain Cook's voyage in the Endeavour

At dawn on 19 April 1770, Captain James Cook's ship, the *Endeavour*, was sailing west from New Zealand, through uncharted waters. Cook knew that the land of Australia – known then as New Holland – lay ahead but he didn't know exactly where. Only the west coast of the country had been explored, and nobody knew where the east coast was. Suddenly, Lieutenant Zachary Hicks shouted 'Land-ho!', and the crew came rushing up on deck. It was the east coast of Australia. Cook and his men were the first Europeans ever to see it.

In the weeks that followed, Cook sailed the *Endeavour* from eastern Victoria to the tip of Queensland. Cook and his team of scientists, led by Joseph Banks, explored the land and mapped every feature of the coastline. When they reached the northernmost point, Cook claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain. Cook did not know it, but his exploration of Australia's east coast would lead to the European settlement of Australia.

This is the story of the people, the ideas and the events of Captain Cook's voyage in the *Endeavour*, and how it changed Australia forever.

On 24 August 1770, Captain Cook landed on Possession Island, off the coast of Queensland. There he claimed the entire east coast of Australia for Britain.



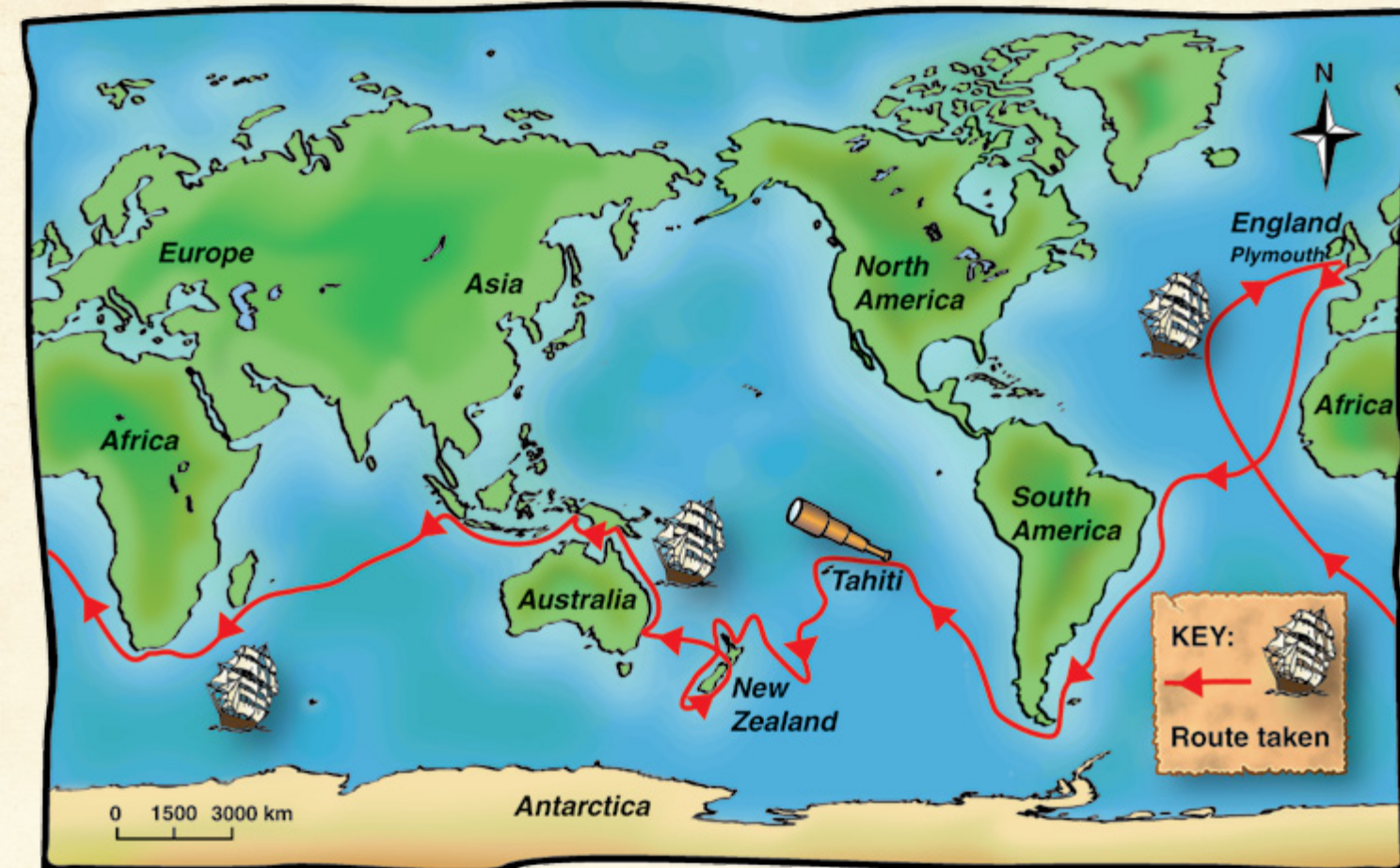
The big picture

By the mid-1700s, Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch **explorers** had **mapped** the west coast of Australia, but nobody had explored the South Seas on the other side. Some people believed there was a great southern land, **Terra Australis**, lying to the east of New Holland in the Pacific Ocean. Captain Cook was sent to see if that was true.

The transit of Venus

In 1768, the Royal Society, a group of wealthy scientists in London, England, decided to send a scientific **expedition** to Tahiti. Their mission was to study an important event in the sky – the **transit** of Venus across the face of the Sun. They hoped that studying this event would help them to understand the distance between the planets. The British government also had another mission for Cook – to explore the South Seas and solve the mystery of *Terra Australis*.

Before Cook's journey in the *Endeavour*, little was known about what lay in the South Seas to the east of New Holland. This map shows how Europeans believed the land in the south looked before Cook's discovery.



This map of the world shows the **route** that Captain Cook took on his voyage in the ship *Endeavour*, between 1768 and 1771.

Eyewitness words

Lord Colville, Cook's commander in Canada, wrote a letter of recommendation to the Royal Society in London:

“... from my experience of Mr Cook's genius ... I think him well qualified for the work he has performed and for greater ... [work] of the same kind. These ... [maps and charts] ... may be the means of directing many in the right way, but cannot mislead any.”

Lord Colville, 30 December 1762

James Cook

James Cook was asked to lead the expedition because he was already well known for mapping the coast of Canada. Cook was a strong leader. He had the scientific skills to observe the transit of Venus, and he was keen to complete the map of New Holland by exploring its unknown east coast. He also had good ideas about how to prevent **scurvy** by eating fresh food. Without this knowledge the men could not have survived such a long journey, and the expedition would have failed. Captain James Cook was given command of the ship *Endeavour* and prepared to sail.

Key people

Two people played key roles in the voyage of the *Endeavour* to the South Seas.

James Cook

Born: 27 October 1728 at Marton, Yorkshire, England

Role: Captain of the *Endeavour* and leader of the **expedition** to the South Seas

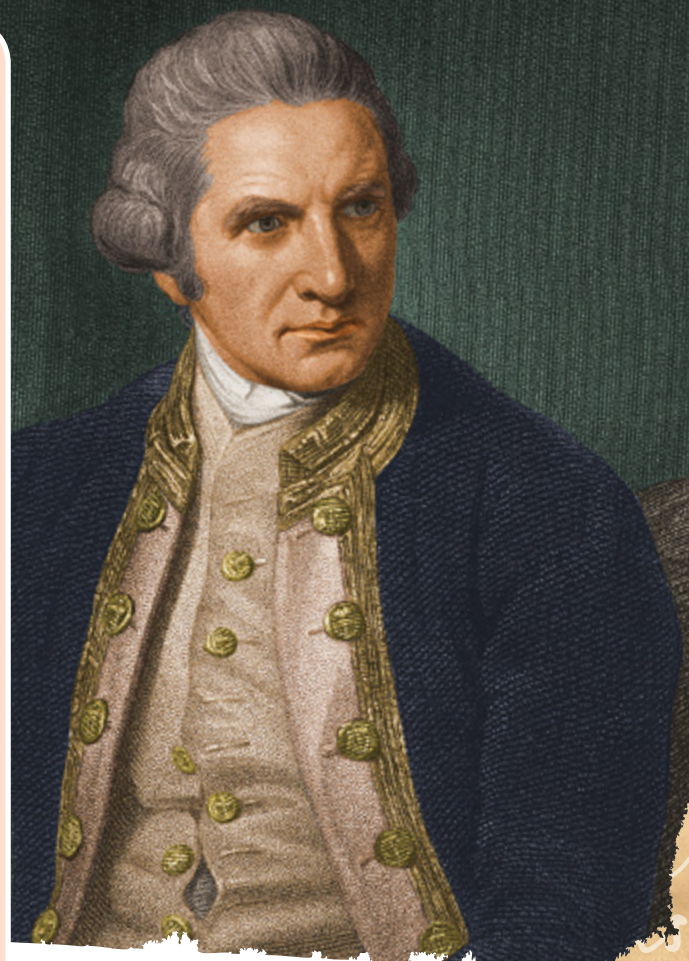
Age at the beginning of the voyage (1768): 39

Died: 14 February 1779 in Hawaii

Appearance: Tall, strong, sturdy build, brown hair tied back, small piercing brown eyes, thick eyebrows, plainly dressed

Character: Clever, quiet, strong; a plain-speaking, no-nonsense sort of man. Strong-willed and determined, Cook was a strict master but was admired and trusted by his men. Although he was shy, he made many lifelong friends.

Comments: James Cook was a brilliant **navigator** and **explorer** whose skills won respect from all who knew him. Although he was uneducated, Cook's abilities and excellent leadership skills helped him to achieve success. He had a burning desire to discover new lands and understand other cultures.



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Joseph Banks

Born: 13 February 1743 in London, England

Role: Plant and animal scientist for the expedition

Age at the beginning of the voyage: 25

Died: 19 June 1820

Appearance: Tall, solid build, long wavy brown hair tied back, round face, dark brown lively eyes, olive skin, well dressed

Character: Lively, witty, clever, friendly and charming, Banks was a good companion with a strong personality. He was well educated, outgoing and self-confident.

Comments: Joseph Banks had all the advantages in life that Cook lacked: wealth, a noble family, a country estate, a fine education and friends in high places. Banks was a young man when he sailed with Captain Cook in the *Endeavour*, but he was already a well-known **botanist**. He brought with him a group of fine scientists and artists to record their discoveries. Banks could be difficult, but he respected Cook and they became good friends.



Voyage to the South Seas

The Royal Society in London, England, planned a scientific voyage of discovery to the southern Pacific Ocean. The expedition would include some of the best scientists in Britain. James Cook, sea captain and navigator, was chosen to lead the expedition.

5 May 1768

Royal Society, London

Cook received his instructions.

Cook also received secret orders from the British government.

WE'VE HEARD GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOU, COOK.

STUDY THE TRANSIT OF VENUS FROM ONE OF THESE ISLANDS.

YES, SIR.

TOP SECRET
You are to search for Terra Australis and explore New Zealand
by order
His Majesty King George III

27 May

London Docks

Cook inspected his ship.

SHE'S SOLID AND STRONG. SHE'LL DO WELL.

Joseph Banks brought his team of scientists on board ...

I'M JOSEPH BANKS.

WELCOME ABOARD, MR BANKS.

... including Dr Daniel Solander, a botanist ...

... and Francis Parkinson, an artist.

26 August

Plymouth

Captain Cook set sail from England in Endeavour with 94 men on board. They had to reach Tahiti by 3 June 1769 to record the transit of Venus.

The Endeavour made good time on her journey from England to Tahiti.

26 August 1768

Plymouth

England

EUROPE

AFRICA

Equator

SOUTH AMERICA

13 April

Cook arrived in Tahiti.

13 November - 7 December

Rio de Janeiro. The Governor thought Cook was a spy and tried to arrest his men.

Mid-October

Anyone who had not crossed the Equator before got dunked on the way over it!

16 January 1769

27 January

Cook sailed through the Straits of Magellan safely.

Bay of Success. Banks and his team of scientists got lost in a snowstorm. Two servants died.

KEY:

--- Endeavour's route

In Tahiti, Cook prepared for the transit of Venus.

THIS PLACE WILL DO FOR OUR OBSERVATORY, MR BANKS.

3 June 1769

The transit of Venus – when Venus crosses in front of the Sun.

Cook and the scientists made a careful record of the event.

... and Cook completed his map of the island.

MAKE THE FENCE STRONG, LADS.

The fence stopped the local people stealing the equipment.

WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN. OUR WORK HERE IS DONE.

Cook prepared to leave.

A Tahitian man named Tupia and his servant joined them for the next leg of the expedition.

HE'LL HELP US SPEAK TO THE ISLANDERS.

Cook named the observatory Fort Venus.

Banks and Solander loaded the plants and animals they had collected onto the Endeavour ...

13 July

SET SAIL FOR THE SOUTH.

AYE AYE, SIR.

Endeavour left Tahiti to explore the South Pacific.

August

Cook went looking for Terra Australis in the southern Pacific Ocean.

ANY LAND, MR HICKS?

NO, CAPTAIN.

Cook tried to land at Poverty Bay, but ...

LOOK OUT, CAPTAIN!

9 October 1769
... the most disagreeable [day] my life has yet seen; black be the mark for it ...

Banks was upset, but Cook sailed on around the coast of New Zealand.

September

When he was sure no land was there, he turned west towards New Zealand.

7 October

No European had been to New Zealand since Abel Tasman landed there in 1642. Then ...

LAND HO!

Four Maoris were killed and the rest fled.

BANG

The Maori attack was fierce.

15 October

At Hawkes Bay, the Maoris tried to capture Tupia's servant.

NO!

HELP!

Cook named the place Cape Kidnappers and sailed on.

In Queen Charlotte Sound, Cook claimed New Zealand for Britain, even though the Maori people lived there.

I CLAIM THIS LAND IN THE NAME OF KING GEORGE III.

7 February 1770



Cook sailed through the strait between the North and South islands...



... and around the South Island.

LOOK, BANKS, NEW ZEALAND IS TWO ISLANDS.



WE'RE FINISHED HERE, ISAAC. WE'LL HEAD WEST, NOW ...

WHERE TO NOW, CAPTAIN?

Isaac Smith was a young crew member and a relative of Cook's.

1 April



The Endeavour left New Zealand.

... INTO UNEXPLORED TERRITORY.

Cook was determined to explore further.

Upon leaving this coast [of New Zealand] ... [to sail] westward until we fall in with the east coast of New Holland, and then to follow ... that coast to the northward ... until we arrive at its northern extremity (tip).



KEEP WATCH FOR LAND, MR HICKS.

AYE AYE, CAPTAIN.



Cook headed for the part of Tasmania mapped by Abel Tasman in 1642 but ...

... a storm blew the ship northwards.

19 April

Lieutenant Hicks sighted the east coast of mainland Australia.



NEW HOLLAND, CAPTAIN?

I BELIEVE SO, MR BANKS.



FIRES, CAPTAIN.

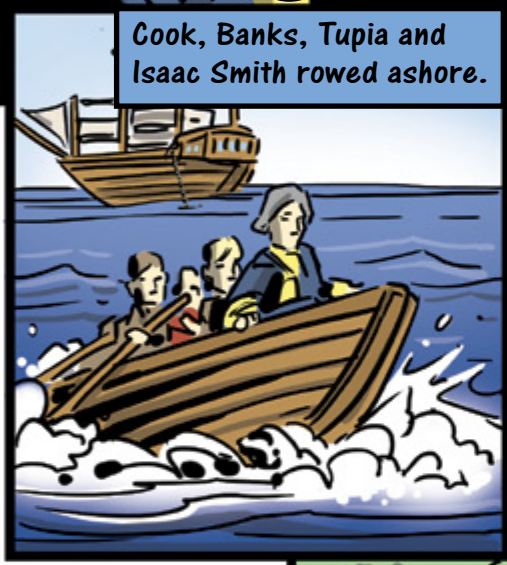
PEOPLE MUST LIVE HERE.

The Endeavour sailed northwards. Cook carefully mapped the coast.



Bateman's Bay
Cape Howe
Point Hicks

I THINK I'LL NAME IT NEW SOUTH WALES.



Cook, Banks, Tupia and Isaac Smith rowed ashore.



He searched for a landing place so he could explore, but ...

THE SEA'S TOO ROUGH.

WE CAN'T LAND HERE!



JUMP OUT, ISAAC.

Isaac Smith was the first European to land in New South Wales.

28 April



Then ...

IT'S A BAY, CAPTAIN.

GOOD. HEAD INTO SHORE.



The Indigenous people tried to drive the strangers away.

WE WON'T HARM YOU.



BANG

DON'T KILL THEM!

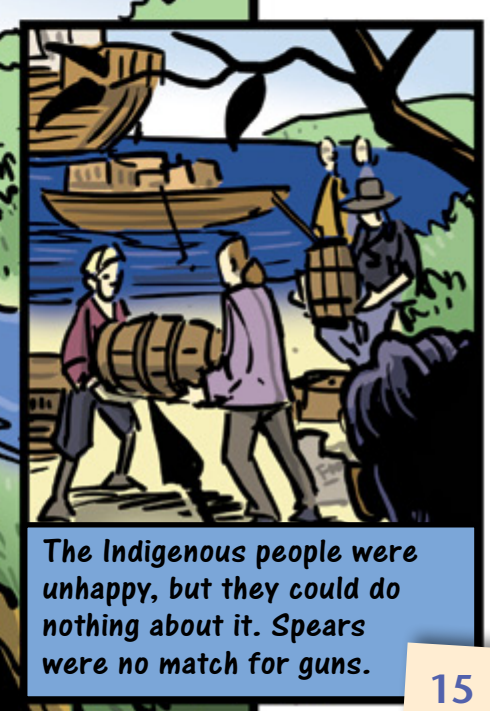
No one was seriously hurt but the Indigenous people stayed away.



Cook's men searched for water.

FRESH WATER, CAPTAIN!

EXCELLENT! WE'LL STAY HERE A FEW DAYS.



The Indigenous people were unhappy, but they could do nothing about it. Spears were no match for guns.

Viewpoints

The men on the *Endeavour* had never seen Australian Indigenous people before and had different reactions to them. Some regarded the Indigenous people and their way of life as poor and backward, but others saw them in a more positive way. The following extracts written at the time show these different attitudes.

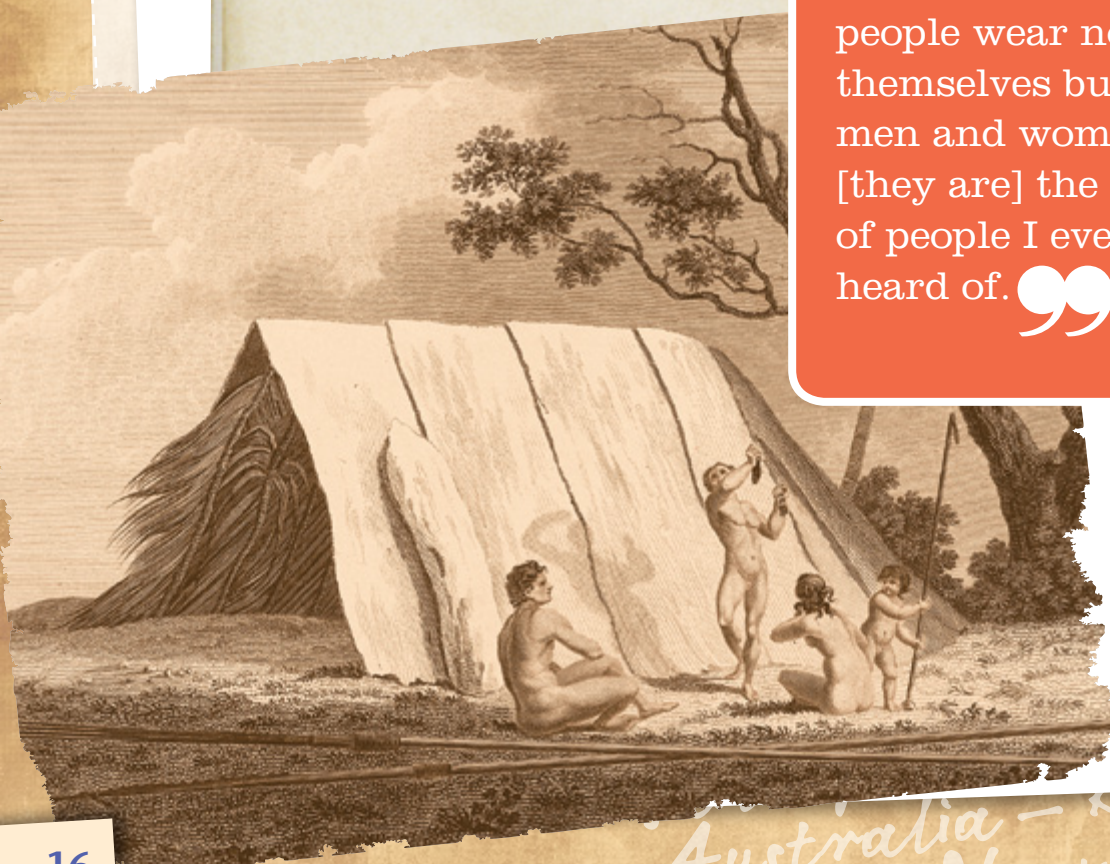
James Roberts, servant on the *Endeavour*

James Roberts was a 16-year-old servant to Joseph Banks, the **botanist** on board the *Endeavour*. While at Botany Bay, he described the Indigenous people in his journal:

“... their houses are several pieces of bark, set up one against the other and open at each end and are the worst I ever saw. The people wear nothing to cover themselves but go quite naked, men and women ... In short, [they are] the most wretched set of people I ever beheld (saw) or heard of.”

James Roberts,
5 May 1770

James Roberts struggled to understand the way the Indigenous people lived.



James Cook, captain of the *Endeavour*

James Cook took a great interest in Australian Indigenous people, though he did not hesitate to fire on them if they threatened him or his men. He saw the Indigenous people as contented and peaceful, as shown in the following letter he wrote to a friend in England:

“[Australian Indigenous people] may appear to some to be the most wretched [people] upon earth, but in reality they are far happier than we Europeans ... They live in a tranquility (peacefulness) which is not disturbed by the inequality of condition; the earth and sea ... furnish (supply) them with all things necessary to life; they [do not want] ... magnificent houses, household stuff, and etc; they sleep as sound in a small hovel (hut) or even in the open as the king in his palace on a bed of down (feathers).”

James Cook,
13 September 1771

Cook ordered his men to treat Australian Indigenous people kindly.



Exploring the new country

Cook, Banks and his team of scientists were eager to explore the coast of New South Wales. Banks and Solander, the botanists, were delighted with the new plants and animals they found there.

1 May 1770 Botany Bay

Cook and his team began exploring the area.

LOOK, SOLANDER.

WE SHOULD CALL IT BANKSIA AFTER YOU.

Cook, Banks and Solander explored inland.

AFTER IT!

Banks' greyhound could not catch the strange animal.

4 May Back on board Endeavour, Banks was delighted.

Cook was happy with their discoveries, but disappointed that he could not befriend the Indigenous people.

The scientists collected many plants – all unknown in England.

SO MANY PLANTS – BUT WE CAN'T EVEN EAT THEM!

PUT THESE IN THE BOAT, LAD.

COULDN'T GROW MUCH ON THIS LAND.

BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF GRASS. IT COULD BE GOOD LAND FOR FARMING.

7 a.m. 7 May Endeavour left Botany Bay.

AYE AYE, CAPTAIN.

SET SAIL FOR THE NORTH.

LOOKS LIKE AN ENTRANCE TO A BAY.

PERHAPS, CAPTAIN.

Noon

Cook named the bay Port Jackson, but sailed past it. It is now known as Sydney Harbour.

Moreton Bay

Port Stephens

Port Jackson

Botany Bay

NEW SOUTH WALES

Cook carefully mapped the coastline ...

... and named landmarks, such as the Glasshouse Mountains.

THEY LOOK LIKE THE GLASS FACTORIES BACK HOME.

24 May

Endeavour anchored in a bay to collect fresh water.

IT'S AS BIG AS A TURKEY!

Cook named the place Bustard Bay, after the bird.

4 June

They sailed on until they reached tropical waters.

Cook named the calm waters Whitsunday Passage.

11 June

CORAL REEFS, CAPTAIN!

SLOW AND STEADY.

Cook had sailed safely through many reefs and islands, but ...

... later that night...

CRUNCH

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Endeavour was stuck fast on a reef 30 kilometres from shore.

Our collection of plants was now grown so immensely large ... care they should spoil.

Cook named the place Botany Bay because of the many plants found there.



Cook did everything he could to save the ship.

SHE'S LEAKING, CAPTAIN!

MAN THE PUMPS!



WE'LL HAVE TO FLOAT HER OFF.

LIGHTEN THE SHIP!

12 June 1770

As the tide rose, the leaks got worse.

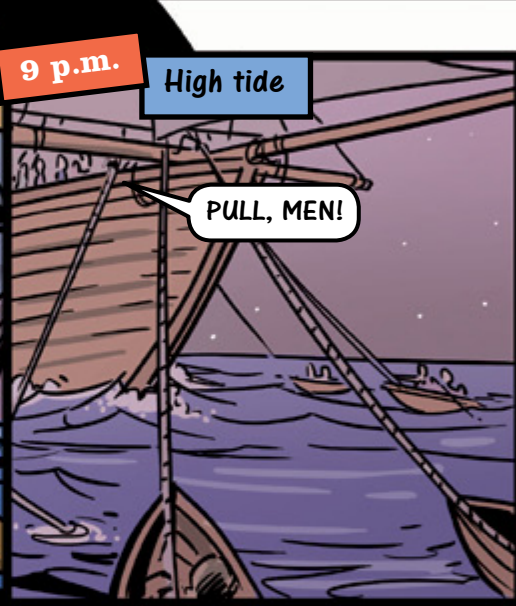


No one panicked and the crew worked brilliantly.

AT HIGH TIDE, WE'LL PULL HER OFF THE REEF.



DOUBLE THE PUMPS!



9 p.m.

High tide

PULL, MEN!



HEAVE-HO!

Forty-five tonnes of cannons and stores were thrown overboard.

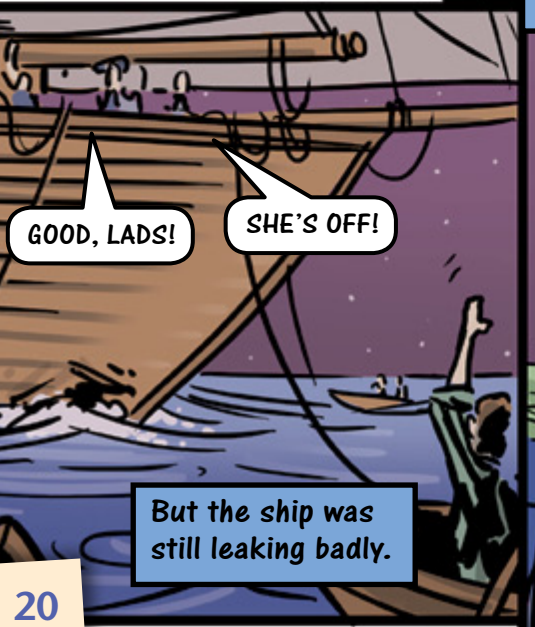
Then, Midshipman Monkhouse had an idea.



FOTHERING, SIR.

STICK BITS OF WOOL ONTO A SAIL AND DRAG IT OVER THE HOLE.

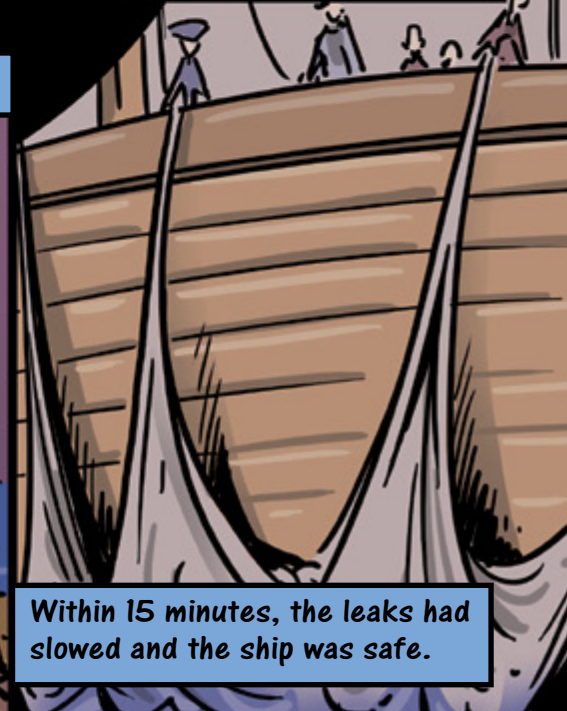
THAT'LL PLUG THE HOLE. LET'S TRY IT!



GOOD, LADS!

SHE'S OFF!

But the ship was still leaking badly.



Within 15 minutes, the leaks had slowed and the ship was safe.



Cook looked for a safe place on shore to repair the ship.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK THERE.

YES, SIR.

8 July

While Endeavour was being repaired, the scientists studied the wildlife.



LOOK BANKS, THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE STRANGE ANIMALS!

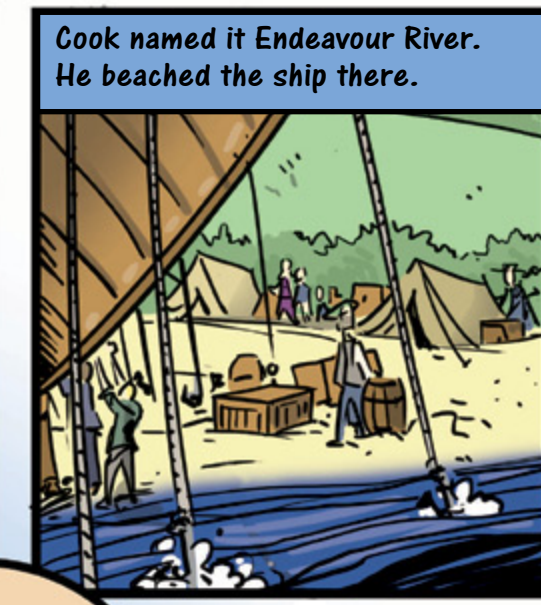
THERE'S NO OTHER ANIMAL LIKE IT, SOLANDER.



18 June

They found a river mouth.

IT'S DEEP ENOUGH AND SHELTERED.



Cook named it Endeavour River. He beached the ship there.

The Indigenous people were friendly ...



This animal went only upon two legs, making vast bounds (leaps) ...

KANGAROO.

... but when Cook's men began to hunt turtles, they became angry.



NO, WE CAUGHT IT!

6 August

After six weeks, Endeavour was repaired and sailed off, but ...



The Indigenous people tried to set fire to the tents ...

REEFS ALL AROUND US, SIR.

HMM ... I MUST FIND A WAY THROUGH.

... but Cook persuaded them to make peace.

12 August

Cook and Banks climbed Lizard Island.

I SEE A GAP, BANKS.

LET'S CALL IT COOK'S PASSAGE.

Next day, Endeavour sailed safely out of the Great Barrier Reef.

Everyone was relieved to be free of the reef that had trapped them for so long.

... having been entangled among islands and shoals (reefs) ... ever since the 26th May ...

... but they were too far from the coast now.

I CAN'T MAP THE COAST FROM HERE.

Cook wanted to find out whether New Guinea was joined to Australia.



22 August

Cook sailed close to the shore, mapping it carefully. Then ...

THERE'S SEA BEYOND, CAPTAIN!

It was the northern tip of Australia. Cook named it Cape York.

THERE'S A CHANNEL, SIR.

TORRES WAS RIGHT. NEW GUINEA IS SEPARATE.

24 August

Cook sailed through the channel and landed on Possession Island.

I CLAIM THE EAST COAST OF NEW HOLLAND FOR BRITAIN.

HOORAY! HOORAY!

15 August 1770

HEAD THE SHIP BACK TOWARDS THE COAST.

AYE AYE, CAPTAIN.

I HOPE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

The tide was pulling Endeavour towards the rocks.

THERE'S NO WIND TO HELP US, SIR.

LOWER THE BOATS. WE'LL PULL HER OFF.

16 August

REEFS AHEAD, SIR.

HEAD FOR THAT GAP.

In the night, the ship drifted ...

LOOK OUT - A REEF!

Just then, a puff of wind blew the ship away from the reef.

PULL, MEN!

... a few days ago ...
I rejoiced at having got ... [outside] the Reef, but that joy was nothing ... compared to what I now felt at being safe at an anchor within it.

Endeavour was safe, but she was inside the Barrier Reef once again.

12 July 1771

England

Cook claimed the land even though he knew it was already occupied.

The Indigenous people living in Australia had their land stolen from them.

October

After stopping in Indonesia to repair Endeavour, Cook headed home.

GOOD WORK, MEN.

Cook had explored the South Pacific, mapped New Zealand and Australia's east coast and found the Torres Strait. He had opened up new worlds to Britain.

What happened next?

On his return to England in July 1771, Captain Cook became a hero. He was recognised as the world's leading **navigator** and **explorer**. The British government was delighted that Cook had claimed the east coast of Australia for Britain and began planning **settlements** there.

Scientific discoveries

The scientists of the Royal Society were unhappy with Cook's observations of the **transit** of Venus. They did not believe the observations were accurate. However, they were pleased with the 1300 new plant and animal specimens that Banks and Dr Solander brought back, which caused a sensation in London. The Banksia plant was named in Banks' honour.

George Stubbs used a kangaroo skin brought back by Banks as a reference when painting this picture in 1773.



THE KANGAROO.

Joseph Banks

Banks wanted to join Cook's next voyage of discovery, to Antarctica, but Banks' plans fell through. In London, Banks hired Dr Solander to look after his large plant collection. Banks was elected president of the Royal Society from 1778 to 1820, and was knighted Sir Joseph Banks in 1781. He became the leading expert on all things Australian. It was on his suggestion that the British government sent the First Fleet of **convict** ships to Botany Bay to begin a settlement there in 1788.

Cook's carefully drawn maps, such as this one, along with Banks' recommendation, helped the British government to plan a settlement at Botany Bay.



Eyewitness words

In 1779, Joseph Banks recommended to the British government that unwanted convicts should be sent to Botany Bay. He said:

“... the place which appeared best ... for such a purpose was Botany Bay ... the weather was mild and moderate ... the ... [amount] of rich soil was small in comparison to the barren (unfertile) but ... [enough] to support a large number of people ... The country was well supplied with water. There was ... [plenty] of timber and fuel ... ”

Joseph Banks, 1779

The effects of Cook's voyage in the Endeavour

Captain Cook's voyage in the *Endeavour* had important and long-lasting effects in Australia.

Cook was the first European to explore and **map** New Zealand and Australia's east coast. When the British government needed a place to send unwanted **convicts**, it chose New South Wales because Cook and Banks had reported lush, fertile land there. Although **Indigenous Australians** had been living there for thousands of years, the British declared the land to be *terra nullius*, meaning 'land belonging to no one'. Within 20 years, convicts were being sent to Australia and free settlers were making their homes there. Without Cook's voyage in the *Endeavour*, there would have been no First Fleet and Australia as we know it would not exist.

Mapping the Southern Hemisphere

The maps Cook made were so accurate that they were used right up to the 1900s. Cook discovered that there was no great southern land east of New Holland. He also proved Luis Vaez de Torres' claim that there was a channel or **strait** between New Guinea and Australia, cutting down travel times between Europe and the East.

Indigenous people

Cook's voyage was a disaster for Australia's Indigenous peoples. It led to British **settlement** of Australia and the loss of the Indigenous peoples' lands, which meant the end of life as they knew it. Today, Indigenous stories describe the terrible things that happened after Captain Cook came long ago and destroyed their old way of life.

What ever happened to ...

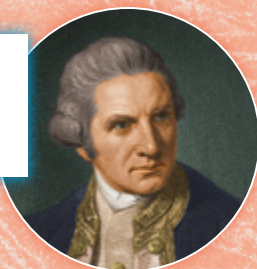
Captain James Cook?

Within a year of returning from the voyage on the *Endeavour*, Cook was promoted to **Commander** and sent on an **expedition** to sail around Antarctica. In 1776, aged 46, Cook went on a third voyage of discovery, travelling north to the Arctic Circle. On the way, he stopped at Hawaii where, on 14 February 1779, he was killed in a fight with local people. He was buried at sea.



Timeline

This timeline shows the most important events related to Captain James Cook's voyage in the *Endeavour*.



27 October 1728
James Cook is born in Marton, Yorkshire.

17 June 1755
Cook joins the Royal Navy.

13 April 1769
The *Endeavour* arrives in Tahiti.

3 June
Cook observes the transit of Venus.

7 October
The *Endeavour* reaches New Zealand.

1 April 1770
Cook leaves New Zealand.

19 April
Lieutenant Hicks sights the east coast of Australia.

28 April
Cook lands at Botany Bay.

13 August
Cook escapes the Great Barrier Reef via Cook's Passage.

17 August
The *Endeavour* just escapes being sunk again.

22–24 August
The *Endeavour*, Cape York. Cook proves Australia is separate from New Guinea, and claims the east coast of Australia for Britain.

July 1746
Cook joins the merchant navy.

1758–1762
Cook maps the coast of northern Canada.

May 1768
The Royal Society appoints Cook leader of an expedition to the South Seas.

26 August 1768
The *Endeavour* leaves England.



July–September
Cook searches the South Pacific but does not find *Terra Australis*.

October 1769–March 1770
Cook maps New Zealand's coastline and claims New Zealand for Britain.

7 May
The *Endeavour* leaves Botany Bay and sails north.

11 June
The *Endeavour* crashes onto the Great Barrier Reef.

18 June
Cook repairs his ship at Endeavour River.

12 July 1771
The *Endeavour* returns to England.

14 February 1779
Cook dies in Hawaii.

What do you think?

Captain Cook's voyage to eastern Australia raises important questions about the impact of European exploration on **Indigenous peoples**. Try the following activities to test your own ideas about this important subject.

Who is right?

Captain James Cook is seen as a hero by many people, but others, including many of Australia's Indigenous peoples, disagree. Read the following opinions and have a discussion about who you think is right.

European settlers

Under the laws of his time, Cook had a right to claim Australia for Britain. He opened up the land for European settlers who built the country into the modern nation of Australia. We should all celebrate Captain Cook.

Indigenous Australians

Indigenous people had lived in Australia for thousands of years before Cook came. He had no right to claim land that was already occupied. The European settlers were invaders who stole land from the Indigenous people. There is no reason to celebrate Captain Cook.



What would you do?

The following events actually occurred around the time of Captain Cook's voyage in the *Endeavour*. Read each scene, then choose what you would do.

Scene 1

You are Captain Cook exploring the coast of New Zealand. During a stop, three of your crewmen steal sweet potatoes from a **Maori** farm. Would you ...

- A** praise the crewmen for finding fresh vegetables
- B** ignore the theft, pretending it never happened
- C** flog the crewmen for stealing from the Maoris?

Scene 2

You are Captain Cook at Botany Bay, eager to see Indigenous people. You come across a bark hut with small children inside. Would you ...

- A** capture them and take them on board the *Endeavour*
- B** leave beads in the hut as gifts and quietly go away
- C** leave bullets behind as a warning to their parents not to attack you and your men?

Scene 3

You are Julien-Marie Crozet, a French **navigator** who sailed around New Zealand with Captain Marion de Fresne in 1771, a year after Cook left. When you arrive back in Europe you find that Cook's maps are much better than the ones you made. Would you ...

- A** praise Cook's maps and declare they are much better than anything you could do
- B** copy Cook's maps and pretend you made them
- C** claim Cook's maps are full of mistakes?

Once you have chosen what you would do in each scene, find out what actually happened on page 31.

Find out more

Website

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/history_nation/voyages/discovery/endeavour.html

This site from the State Library of New South Wales includes original journal and ship's log extracts, maps and artwork from members of the *Endeavour* **expedition**. It also has information and documents covering the exploration of Australia before Cook's voyage.

CD-ROM

Endeavour: Captain Cook's Journal 1768–1771

This CD ROM from the National Library of Australia reproduces the full text of Cook's original hand-written journal from his voyage in the *Endeavour*. Specifically designed for students and teachers, it includes sections on Cook's discoveries, **Indigenous peoples**, historical and political contexts and a virtual tour of the *Endeavour*.

DVD

Captain Cook: Obsession and Discovery

Directed by Wain Fimeri, Paul Rudd and Matthew Thomason, 2007

This four-part dramatised documentary tells the story of Cook's life and voyages, presenting the views of both Europeans and Indigenous peoples.

Place to visit

Captain Cook's Cottage, Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne, Victoria

This cottage was transported from Yorkshire, England, in 1933. It was the home of Cook's parents, although Cook himself probably never lived there. The building includes a discovery centre and offers school tours and interactive programs.

Captain Cook's Cottage,
Melbourne



Glossary

botanist plant expert

convict someone serving a sentence in jail for committing a crime

expedition a journey of discovery

explorers people who travel into little-known regions

fothering a method of plugging a hole in a ship's hull

Indigenous peoples the original peoples of Australia

Maori the term used to describe the indigenous people of New Zealand

mapped studied and made a map of

navigator a person who explores by ship

observatory a place for making scientific studies of the skies

route a way to a place

scurvy a disease that many sailors used to die from, caused by a lack of vitamins

settlement a place where people live

strait a channel between two points of land

Terra Australis a continent believed to exist in the southern Pacific Ocean

transit passing across or through a place

What actually happened in the 'What would you do?' scenes described on page 29:

Scene 1: C. Cook was furious that his crew stole food from the **Maoris** and had his crewmen flogged.

Scene 2: B. Cook left simple gifts for the children in the bark hut to show their parents he would not harm them.

Scene 3: A. Crozet praised Cook's maps saying they astonished him by their accuracy. He used Cook's maps and drew his own **route** on them, explaining 'I think ... that I cannot do better than to lay down our track ... on the chart prepared by the celebrated English **navigator** (Cook)'.

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