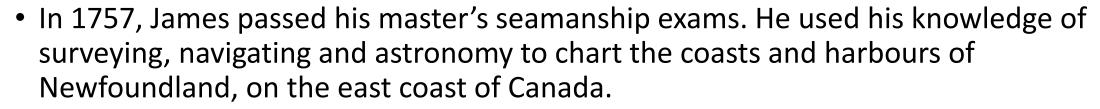
The Explorations of Captain James Cook

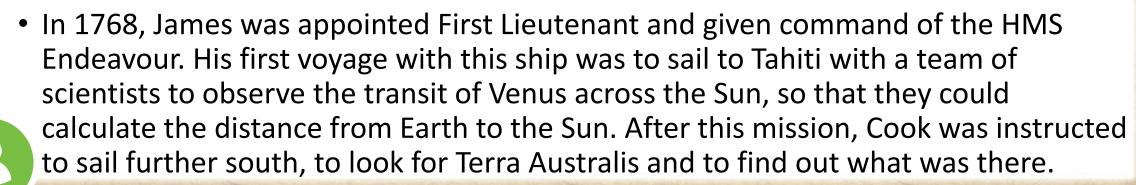
Did he really discover a Terra Nullius?



James Cook

- James Cook was born in 1728 in Marton, a town in Yorkshire, England. Although his father was a farm labourer, James decided to be a sailor.
- When he was 18, James became a seaman apprentice. In 1755, he joined the British Navy as an able seaman.







Timeline of Cook's First Endeavour Voyage

August 1768

James Cook and his crew of nearly 100 men leave Plymouth, England on the HMS Endeavour to observe the transit of Venus and to search for Terra Australis Incognita.

April 1769

James Cook arrives at Tahiti for the scientific observation of the transit of Venus. He anchors the HMS Endeavour in Matavai Bay, where he establishes a fortified base. Fort Venus.

August 1769

James Cook sails from Tahiti to the neighbouring Society Island. Here, Cook takes on board a Tahitian priest named Tupaia. The priest acts as an interpreter for Cook when they come into contact with other Polynesian people and also assists with navigation.

March 1770

James Cook circumnavigates New Zealand. As he sails around, he accurately charts the entire coastline. discovering that New Zealand is made up of two main islands, 'Te Ika a Maui' in the north and 'Te Wai Pounamu' in the south.

June 1770

On the 10th of June, 1770, the HMS Endeavour strikes the Great Barrier Reef. The ship is badly damaged. For the next three months, repairs are carried out on the ship in the Endeavour River. Here. James Cook and his men sight their first kangaroo.

October 1770

In October 1770, the HMS Endeavour leaves Australia and heads back to England via Batavia, Java. In Batavia many sailors catch dysentery and typhoid and over 30 men lose their lives.









June 1769

On the 3rd of June. 1769. James Cook completes his first mission, the observation of the transit of Venus.

The people of Tahiti are very friendly. Cook establishes positive relations with the Tahitians.



October 1769

In search of the southern continent, Cook sails to New Zealand. Initially, relations with the Maori people of New Zealand are hostile. Eventually, relations improve and Cook is able to trade with the Maori for fresh supplies.



April 1770

James Cook and the HMS **Endeavour leave New** Zealand and set sail for the east coast of New Holland (Australia). On his voyage, Cook begins charting the coastline. On the 29th of April, Cook lands in Stingray Bay (later to be named Botany Bay).



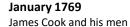
August 1770

While waiting for their ship to be repaired, Cook and his men come into contact with the inhabitants of New Holland (Australia). They are different to the Maori and are very wary of their new visitors. The Aboriginal people are not interested in trading and Tupaia, the Tahitian priest, is unable to communicate with them.



July 1771

In July 1771, Cook and his ship arrive back in Kent, England after a successful voyage. They recorded the Transit of Venus and incorrectly established the idea of Australia as a terra nullius. They collected unique records of the people, flora and fauna of the places they visited.



arrive at Tierra de Fuego. They introduce themselves to the local people and Joseph Banks collects a range of botanical specimens. Unfortunately, two of Banks' servants (Richmond and Dorlton) pass away due to exposure to the weather.



Cook Makes First Contact

- While exploring the coastline of Australia in 1770, James Cook recorded in his journal that he had sighted 'native men, women and children sitting around small campfires.' Eventually Cook, Sir Joseph Banks and Tupaia tried to make contact with the indigenous population.
- Cook and his men described the people they saw and wrote detailed journal entries which would later make their way back to England.
- Despite their efforts, Cook and his men were unable to speak with the Australians. They did not welcome the British and had no interest in trading with them.



First Contact with the Original Inhabitants

In 1770, James Cook and his men made first contact with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia.

In small groups, role play what might have happened at this encounter.

Note: The British explorers and the first inhabitants were unable to understand each other. The Australians were very wary of their new visitors.







James Cook - Independent Activity

Imagine you are James Cook. You have just been appointed as First Lieutenant and given command of the HMS Endeavour. Your first voyage is a special mission to the South Pacific and Terra Australis.

Write a diary entry sharing your thoughts, feelings and experiences about your new role and your first voyage to the south.







James Cook - Quiz

Use the information from the previous slide to answer these questions.

- 1. What nationality was James Cook?
- 2. What year was James Cook born?
- 3. What was James Cook's first job?
- 4. How old was James Cook when he joined the British Navy?
- 5. What was one of the places that James Cook drew charts for?
- 6. What appointment was given to James Cook in 1768?
- 7. Where did Cook's voyage on the Endeavour take him and why?



James Cook Quiz - Answers

- 1. What nationality was James Cook? British
- 2. What year was James Cook born? 1728
- 3. What was James Cook's first job? seaman apprentice
- 4. How old was James Cook when he joined the British Navy? 33
- 5. What was one of the places that James Cook drew charts for? Newfoundland
- 6. What appointment was given to James Cook in 1768? First Lieutenant, commander of the HMS Endeavour
 - . Where did Cook's voyage on the Endeavour take him and why? Tahiti to see the transit of Venus, then south to a possible Terra Australis.



Terra Nullius

- 'Terra Nullius' was a phrase used to describe a land that was empty of people.
- When James Cook and his men explored the coastline of Australia in 1770, they made some contact with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (even though this was not overly successful).
- Even though Cook had drawings and other detailed information about encounters he had with the first inhabitants of Australia, he told the British government on his return to England that Australia was a Terra Nullius.
- Using the information presented from Cook, the British government decided that Australia would be a suitable place for England to send their convicts.
 They decided to establish a penal colony in a place which they believed was 'nobody's land'.



Terra Nullius - Independent Activity

Imagine that you are James Cook.

In pairs, write a letter to convince the British government that Australia is a Terra Nullius and the perfect location to establish a penal colony.

Use the list of reasons from the whole class activity to help you.



