

Name _____ Date _____

Explorers: Captain James Cook 1728 - 1779

The First Voyage- Australia

*Wanted: Young, healthy men who seek adventure. Join Lieutenant James Cook of Yorkshire, England as a crew member aboard the Royal Navy's ship **Endeavor** for a three-year voyage to the South Pacific.*

Sail Date: August 25, 1768.

The son of a day laborer, Cook had apprenticed with a seafaring family. He married Elizabeth Batts, and the couple had six children. At the age of thirty-nine, he was chosen to be the captain for a voyage that would later lead to becoming “the greatest Pacific explorer of all time!”

To all of the men on board, the journey to Tahiti was primarily to calculate the distance of the Earth from the Sun by observing the planet Venus as it passed between the Earth and the Sun... but James Cook also had a hidden mission.

On this voyage, he was to find a fabled southern continent that the Dutch explorers had spoken of, and claim that continent for England.

Unlike many other ship captains, Cook was determined to keep his ninety-four crew members healthy. The ship was kept impeccably clean. The crew bathed daily, and kept their clothing and bedding clean. To prevent scurvy, a deadly disease that was common to sailors, Cook kept fresh fruit and vegetables on board and made sure that his men ate onions and cabbage daily.

After his scientific observations in Tahiti of the planet Venus, Cook headed southwest in search of the mysterious continent, and discovered the island of New Zealand. Conflicts with the native Maori people ended with Cook and his crew’s departure from New Zealand. They spent two months circling the island from the water, charting the territory and observing the land.

Convinced that this was not the great continent he was looking for, Cook sailed west. Cook soon came to Australia.

After charting the Australian coast, Cook headed home through the West Indies. Despite Cook’s efforts, thirty crew members fell ill from malaria and dysentery. Cook was forced to sign on new crew members in South Africa in order to return home to England.

King George III rewarded Cook for his work with a promotion to Naval Commander.

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the following questions about Captain James Cook:

1. By studying the planet Venus, Cook hoped to learn

2. How long did Cook's first voyage last?

_____ years _____ weeks _____ days

3. What did Cook and his crew do while on board the ship to prevent disease?

Dictionary: Look up and provide a definition for:

1. Scurvy _____

2. Discover _____

3. Voyage _____

Geography: Using an Atlas

1. What are the names of the seven continents?

2. Through which continents does the equator run?

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Explorers: Captain James Cook 1728 - 1779 **The Second Voyage: Antarctica**

One year later, Captain Cook left England with the Royal Navy ships the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*, His orders once again were to find the mysterious southern continent, and to circumnavigate the globe. This task was made easier by an invention by John Harrison called the chronometer. The chronometer made it possible for Cook to know his exact position on the globe and to keep perfect time, even under rough sea conditions.

Heading around the Cape of Good Hope toward Antarctica, Cook and his ships encountered too much ice to continue. A second attempt a few months later also was unsuccessful, so after charting several more islands in the Pacific, Cook ended his two year voyage and headed back to England. Through heavy storms and dangerous sea conditions, Cook successfully returned to England without the loss of one life, which was quite a feat in those days.

Comprehension Questions:

1. John Harrison invented the _____. This helped Cook because _____

Geography: Using an Atlas

James Cook relied heavily on longitude and latitude in all three of his voyages. Latitude gives the location of a place north or south of the equator. Longitude gives the position of a place east or west of the Prime Meridian (which runs north to south).

Locate the following places on an Atlas, and record the latitude and longitude of each.

Equator _____

Tahiti _____

England _____

Australia _____

Antartica _____

New York City _____

West Indies _____

Sandwich Island _____

Antartica _____

Cape of Good Hope _____

Name _____ Date _____

Explorers: Captain James Cook 1728 - 1779 **The Third Voyage: Hawai'i**

Another year passed before Cook and his 112 crew members once again left England, this time aboard the *Resolution*. This time, Cook was in search of the Northwest passage. Other explorers had failed, but Cook decided to attempt a route from the Pacific side.

Six months into the journey, Cook discovered a set of islands in the Pacific, which he named the Sandwich Islands, after the Earl of Sandwich. The native people welcomed Cook and his crew because they believed him to be a god, and that his men were supernatural beings.

After two weeks spent on the Sandwich Islands, Cook once again sailed further north to find the passage. After six months, Cook concluded that there was no Northwest passage, and headed back to the Sandwich Islands.

During his second two-week stay on the island, the natives became hostile and abducted one of his ships. Cook held the island's king hostage until the ship was returned. During a fight elsewhere, one of Cook's men killed a tribal chief. When this news reached the king, Cook and some of his crew members were attacked with clubs and knives by the natives. Captain James Cook was badly injured, and died.

James Cook died February 14, 1779. In his career with the Royal Navy he discovered a preventative cure for scurvy, and charted most of the Pacific Ocean, sailing farther south than any other explorer before him. He was the first European explorer to chart Antarctica, and the first explorer to chart Australia, New Zealand, the Sandwich Islands, and to discover several other island groups in the Pacific.

Comprehension Questions:

1. On his last voyage Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands. What are these islands called today? _____

2. When Cook arrived on the Sandwich Islands, the natives believed him to be _____ and his men to be _____

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Review

Captain James Cook undertook three separate voyages for the Royal Navy. Review your knowledge of those voyages now!

1. The first voyage was to _____
and the purpose was to _____

Was he successful? _____

2. The second voyage was to _____
and the purpose was to _____

Was he successful? _____

3. The third voyage was to _____
and the purpose was to _____

Was he successful? _____
