



## James Cook

Captain James Cook was a British sailor. He lived in the 1700s. A lot of the world was unexplored back then. We didn't know what was there. We didn't know what it looked like. Cook led three big expeditions to find out.

Cook had new ideas about sailors' health. He made rules the sailors had to follow. They had to bathe every day. They had to keep the ship clean. They had to air their bedding twice a week. They had to eat plenty of fresh fruit. These rules kept the sailors healthy.

### VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

Which of the following were rules Captain Cook's sailors had to follow?

Wear clean pants everyday

Bathe everyday

Eat plenty of fish

Eat plenty of fruit

Air your socks every week

Air your bedding twice a week

Write home once a week

Keep the ship clean

### First expedition - 1768

Captain Cook had 2 missions on this adventure. First to watch the planet Venus. He needed to see it pass between Earth and the Sun. This was to calculate how far the sun was from Earth. His second mission was to find a large body of land, the southern continent. Cook searched but didn't find the continent.

On his trip, Cook visited Tahiti, the Society Islands and New Zealand. Then he sailed to Australia. In Australia, he found lots of new interesting animals. He found lots of new



interesting plants. Cook was a master at map-making. He made maps of everywhere he travelled.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**I** Captain Cook went to Australia by boat. How would we travel there today?

**P** Captain Cook found new and interesting animals. Name 2 Australian animals

## Second expedition – 1772

Captain Cook took 2 ships. Cook tried to find the southern continent again. Cook travelled the furthest south that he could. He proved there was no southern continent.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R** Does the southern continent exist?

## Third expedition - 1776

Captain Cook's final adventure was to find a shortcut through the Arctic Ocean. He wanted to find a passage to connect Europe, Asia and America. This would make trade quicker. He searched but couldn't find one. Cook found the Hawaiian Islands. There were people living there. Captain Cook and his crew got on well with the people. Then, one day, an islander stole a sailboat. There was a big fight. Captain Cook was killed.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S** How many expeditions did Captain Cook have?

**V** What is another word for expedition?