

Background: Australia

1 Vocabulary: Captain James Cook

Go to the website below or to another site that gives you information on Captain James Cook and then complete the following text.



Internet site on James Cook:

[Captain James Cook](#)



Internet search:

[Captain James Cook](#)

James Cook was born in 1728 in Marton, England. His father had _____ (1) from Scotland. _____ (2) of eighteen James started to work on a coal carrying ship. During this time Cook began to study maths and _____ (3).

He joined the British Royal Navy in 1755 and took part in the Seven Years War. In North America he helped to _____ (4) the St. Lawrence River, which helped the British forces to _____ (5) Quebec from the French.

Soon after he was _____ (6) to lead an expedition planned by the Royal Navy to Tahiti to make astronomical observations. After having carried out his _____ (7) in Tahiti, he went on to _____ (8) New Zealand and then the east coast of Australia, which was called New Holland at the time. His _____ (9) was to claim these _____ (10) for the British.

2 Research: The First Fleet

The First Fleet consisted of eleven ships which set sail for Australia on 13 May 1787. Altogether 1,487 people, including 778 convicts (192 women and 586 men) were taken to an area now called New South Wales to establish the first European settlement on the new continent. Many Australians can still trace their families back to these first immigrants.

a) Go to the internet sites below and select three people from the lists of convicts and study their biographies. The names given below are the names of the ships.



Internet site on the First Fleet: [Alexander](#)



Internet site on the First Fleet: [Charlotte](#)



Internet site on the First Fleet: [Friendship](#)



Internet site on the First Fleet: [Scarborough](#)

b) Use other resources on the First Fleet and research the living conditions on board and other details of the voyage.

c) Present the people you have selected to your class. You can give a presentation or you can produce a poster. Your presentation should contain:

- the personal details
- the conviction
- the living conditions on board
- details of the voyage
- further biographical details

Key

James Cook was born in 1728 in Marton, England. His father had **come (1)** from Scotland. **At the age (2)** of eighteen James started to work on a coal carrying ship. During this time Cook began to study maths and **navigation (3)**.

He joined the British Royal Navy in 1755 and took part in the Seven Years War. In North America he helped to **survey (4)** the St Lawrence River, which helped the British forces to **take (5)** Quebec from the French.

Soon after he was **appointed (6)** to lead an expedition planned by the Royal Navy to Tahiti to make astronomical observations. After having carried out his **observations (7)** in Tahiti, he went on to **explore (8)** New Zealand and then the east coast of Australia, which was called New Holland at the time. His **mission (9)** was to claim these **territories (10)** for the British.