Australia - History - Captain James Cook

James Cook was born in East Morton, in Yorkshire.

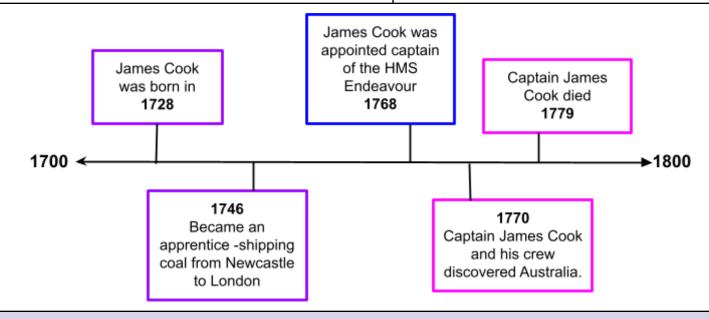
The HMS Endeavour



A British explorer and navigator, Captain James Cook led three expeditions around the South Pacific. James Cook was born on October 27, 1728, in Marton, Yorkshire, England. His father was a farmer, but as James grew older he began to feel the lure of the sea. At around the age of 18 he took an apprenticeship as a merchant seaman. In his time at sea, James became a master at map making. His ability at surveying, navigating, and creating large accurate maps was noticed by those high up in the Navy.

In 1768 Captain James Cook was appointed the captain of the HMS Endeavour and sent on his maiden voyage to observe the planet Venus. However he did not realise that he had actually been sent on a secret mission to discover an unnamed island in the Pacific Ocean that we know today as Australia.





Key Historical Terms and Vocabulary

Diary- a daily personal record of what has happened.

Explorer- a person who explores an area that is not known.

Recount - a piece of writing that recalls an event or an experience.

Account - a story or report of something that has happened.