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# *JAMES COOK*

(27 Oct 1728-14 Feb 1779)

By Eva

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# What is exploration?

Exploration is when you thoroughly examine an unfamiliar area. The main reason for exploration is just because we are curious. Another reason is that we want to learn new things and understand how they work. We also explore to find new resources. Two of the most well known types of exploration are space exploration and geographical exploration.

## What did he do?

James Cook found Australia and claimed it for his country, Great Britain. He was the first person to cross the Antarctic circle as well as the first European to land on the Hawaiian Islands. He also went on expeditions to Tahiti and New Zealand. His expeditions were very important as he introduced the Europeans to many different cultures. He drew maps of his journeys and those detailed maps helped Great Britain conquer Quebec city which ultimately led to the end of the war between Great Britain and France.

## What was his motivation?

James Cook had always wanted to be a captain and a leader so when he became a ship captain in 1752, he volunteered for the Royal Navy to progress his career.



*A statue of James Cook in New Zealand*

# Changes

One of the changes is that John Cook claimed Australia for Great Britain and because of that, british people had new land where they could settle. Another one is that the Europeans learned about different cultures and that is why now we know about them as well. One more change is that thanks to one of his expeditions people know a lot more about the distance between the sun and the earth.

# Perspectives

James Cook:

- I claimed 'new land' for my country (Australia)
- I introduced my people to many different cultures and places (Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia)
- My maps helped end the war between Great Britain and France

As you can see, James Cook and his people thought they did the right thing

The native people:

- They stole our land
- They started living on our land as if it was theirs all along
- Eventually we had to start speaking their language and following their traditions

But, the native people of the countries they visited, thought they were treated unfairly

# Central Idea

Looking at James Cook's story we can clearly see that there are a few perspectives on exploration; there is the perspective of the explorer, how they found "new land" and introduced their country to new cultures, and there is the perspective of the native people, how strangers stole their land and started living on it, how they had to give up their language and their cultures. I think that this evidence supports the central idea.