

Captain James Cook was an English explorer in the British Royal Navy.

In 1768 Captain Cook and his crew on the HMB *Endeavour* set sail from England in search of new lands and scientific knowledge.

This is the story of how Captain Cook discovered the east coast of New Holland (Australia) on that voyage.

Before Captain James Cook became a famous explorer, he was . . .



a baby born in a
two-room cottage



a schoolboy



a farm boy



a worker in a seaside store



a sailor's apprentice
studying at night



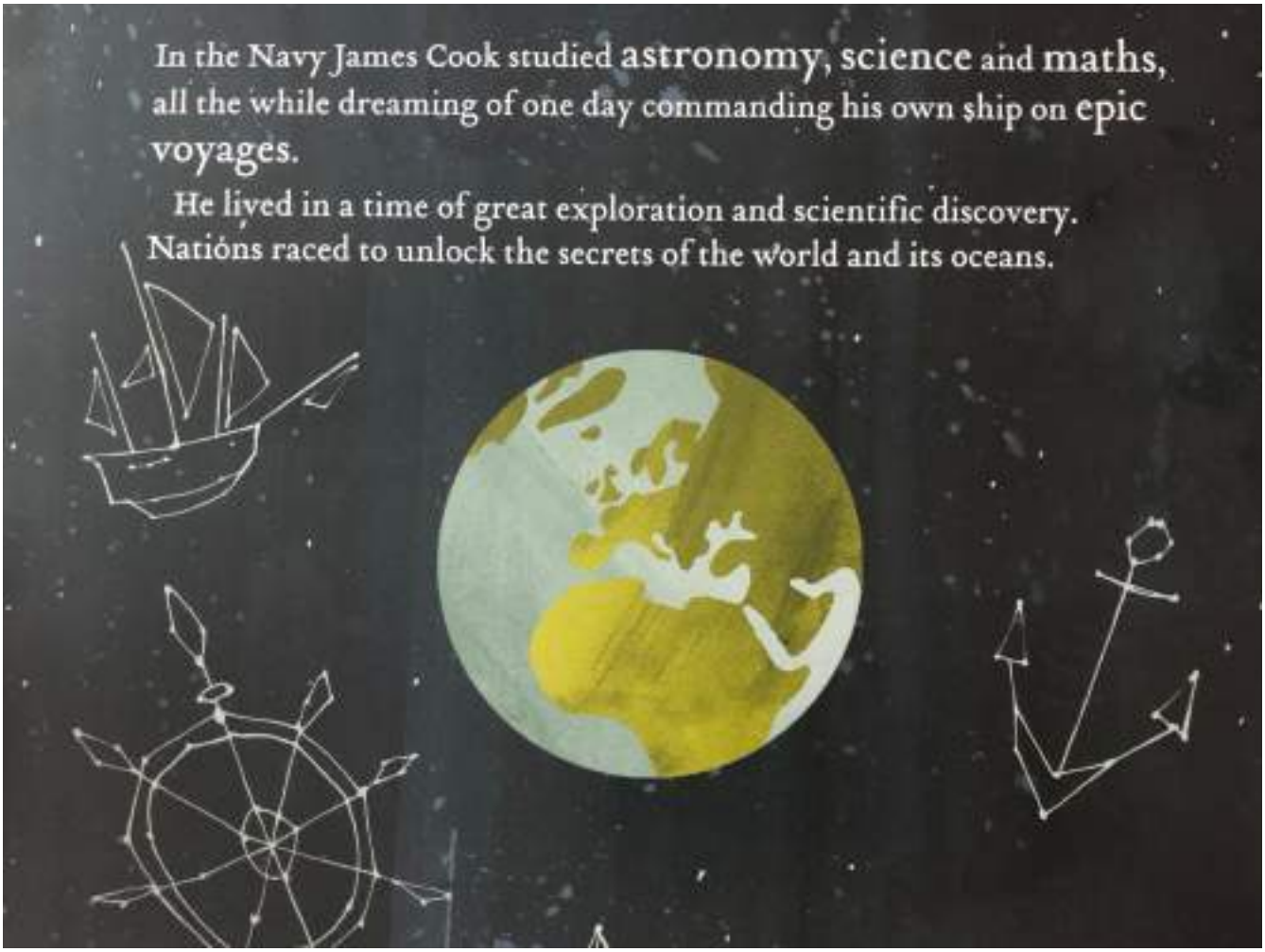
a husband, a father,



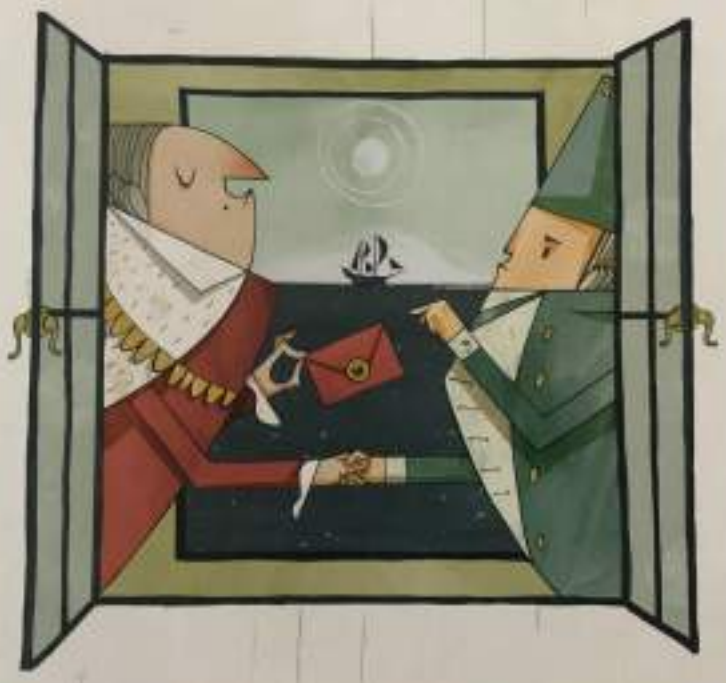
and a mariner in
Britain's Royal Navy.

In the Navy James Cook studied **astronomy**, **science** and **maths**, all the while dreaming of one day commanding his own ship on **epic voyages**.

He lived in a time of great exploration and scientific discovery. Nations raced to unlock the secrets of the world and its oceans.



So when James was asked to lead an expedition for England, he accepted with pride. He was to captain a ship bound for King George's Island. From there he was to chart the transit of the planet Venus across the sun.



Captain Cook was also handed a sealed letter from the King. He was given firm instructions to open it only when this mission was complete.

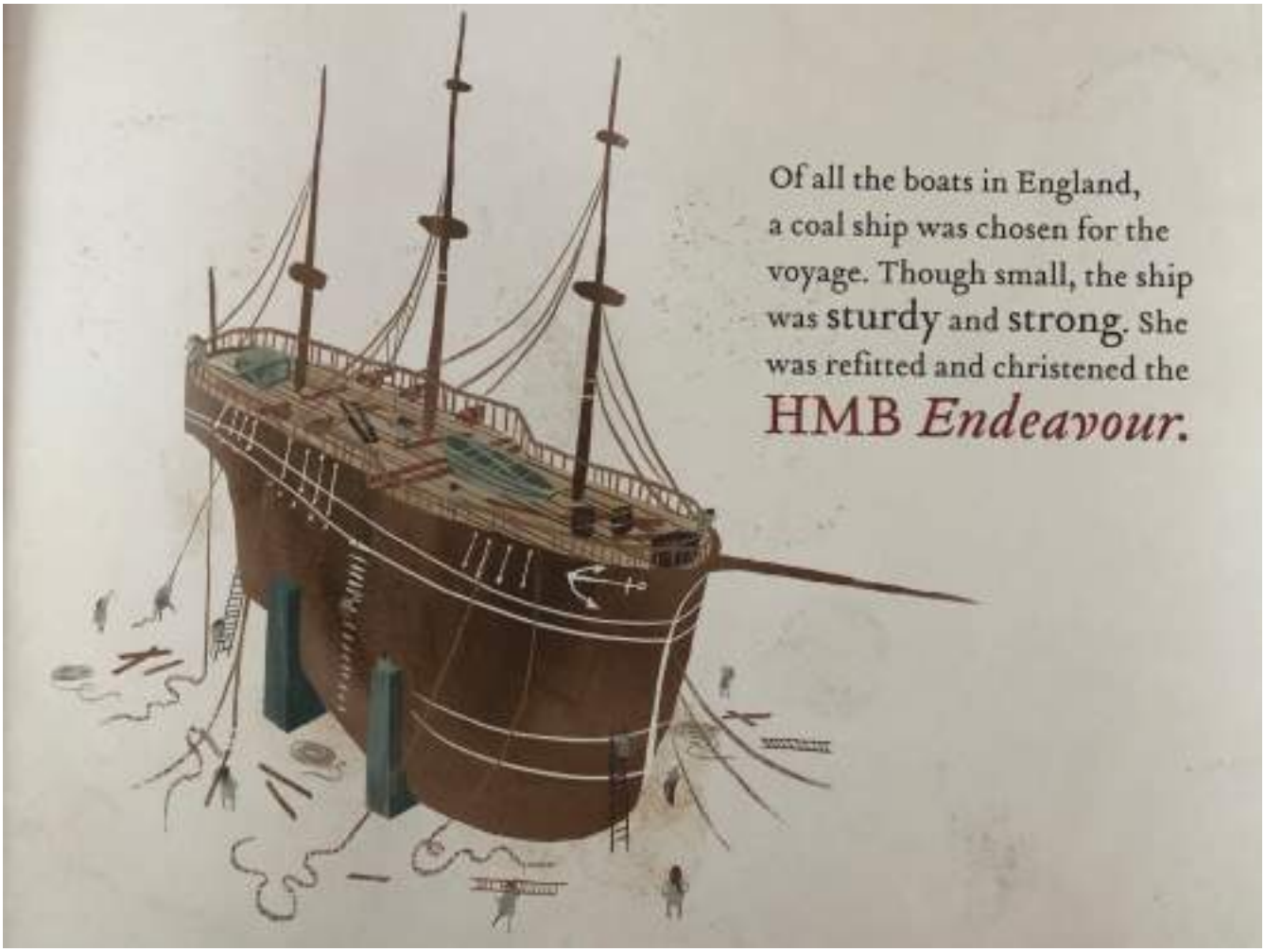


Captain Cook set about preparing for the expedition.

For weeks he studied ...

... and planned ...

... and calculated.

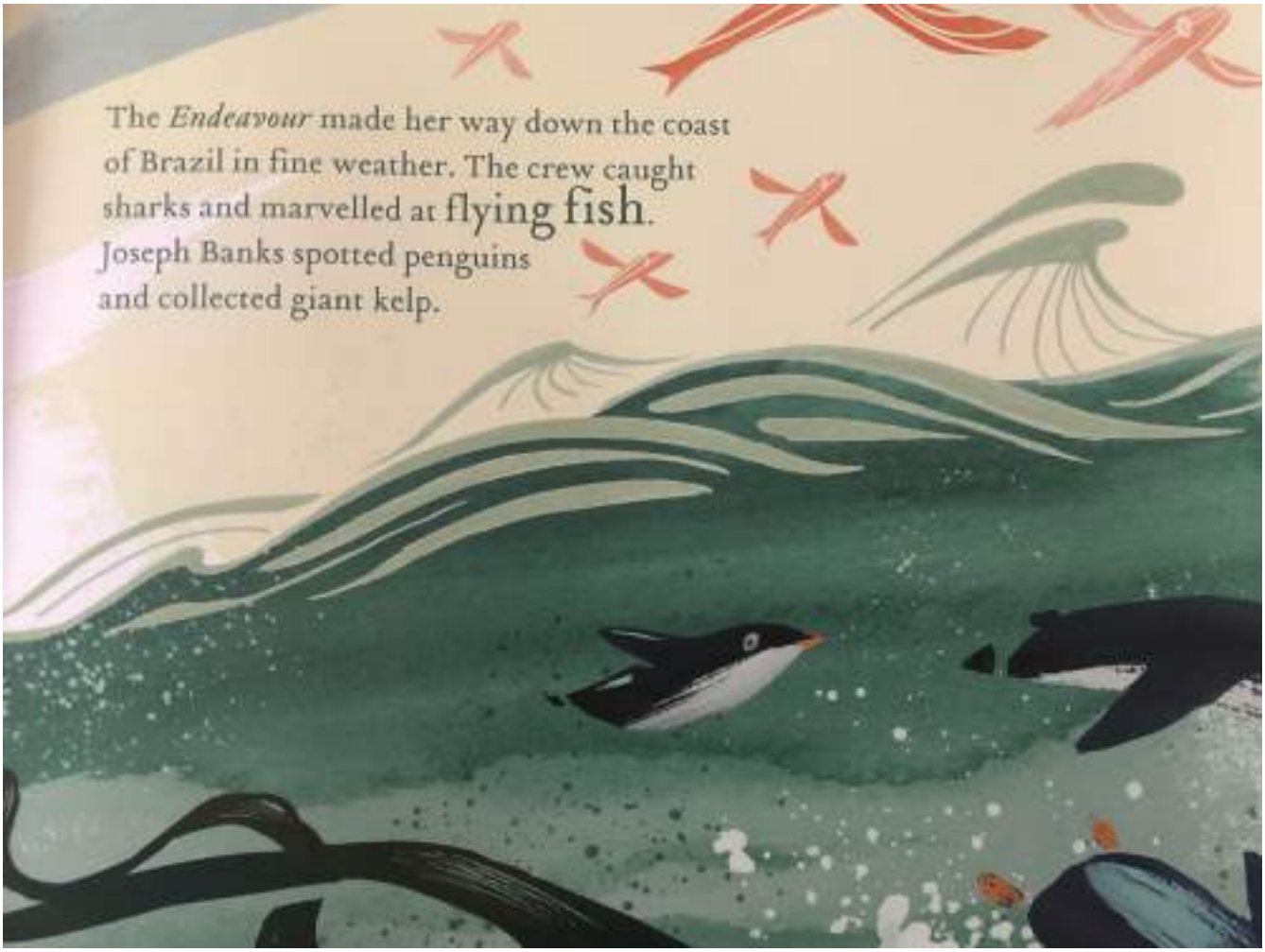


Of all the boats in England, a coal ship was chosen for the voyage. Though small, the ship was **sturdy** and **strong**. She was refitted and christened the HMB *Endeavour*.


In August 1768, the *Endeavour* embarked on her maiden voyage with great pomp and fanfare. Among those onboard were a variety of animals, 55 sailors, a one-handed cook, an astronomer, four artists and a botanist by the name of Joseph Banks.
This motley crew readied themselves for the dangers of the open seas and the strange lands that were rumoured to lie ahead.






The *Endeavour* made her way down the coast of Brazil in fine weather. The crew caught sharks and marvelled at flying fish. Joseph Banks spotted penguins and collected giant kelp.


But the tropics soon gave way to the violent weather of the South Atlantic. Captain Cook and his crew prepared for the challenge of rounding Cape Horn. After three failed attempts, the *Endeavour* overcame icy winds and bitter gales to forge through the dreaded passage and emerge into the South Pacific.





After eight long months at sea, the crew dropped anchor off the coast of King George's Island. The locals paddled out to welcome them. They traded fresh food in exchange for beads and metal tools.

Captain Cook and his men built a fort and an observatory, where on a clear day they gathered to watch Venus pass across the sun.

At last it was time to open the King's secret letter.
It revealed a new and most important task:
to venture south in search of new land.

The Dutch had already discovered New Zealand and parts of the neighbouring continent of New Holland. But both were still unmapped. And there were whispers that the Pacific Ocean was also home to a great southern land, *Terra Australis*.

Captain Cook was to find it and claim it for the King.

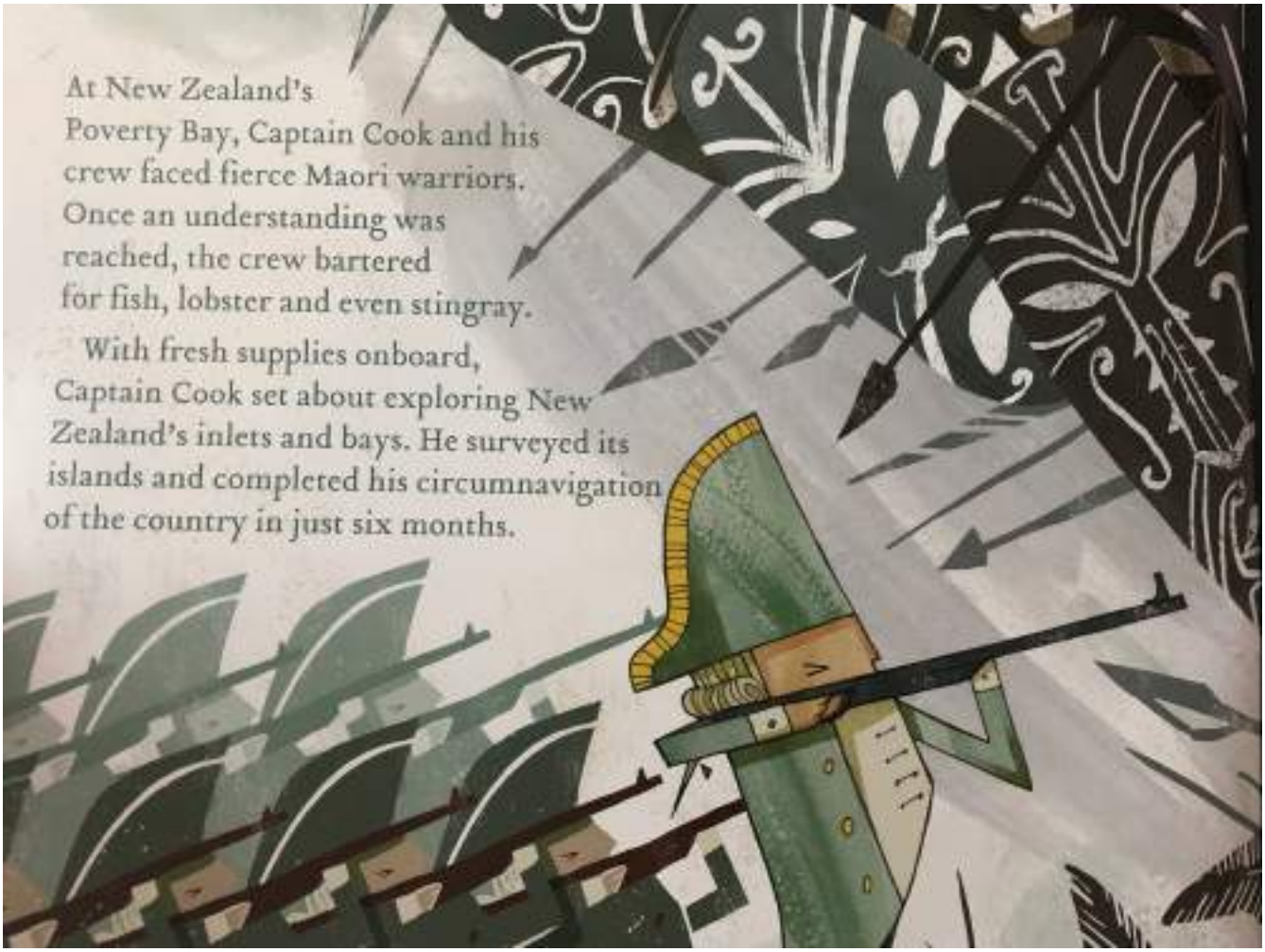


Captain Cook sailed the *Endeavour* southwards without a map. He steered by the sun and the stars over seas as wide as the sky. When no new land was found, the *Endeavour* turned west, passing whales and seals and albatross.



Supplies onboard ran low, and without land in sight, the crew grew tired and homesick.

When at last Captain Cook spotted seaweed and driftwood with barnacles, he was sure New Zealand was near.



At New Zealand's Poverty Bay, Captain Cook and his crew faced fierce Maori warriors. Once an understanding was reached, the crew bartered for fish, lobster and even stingray.

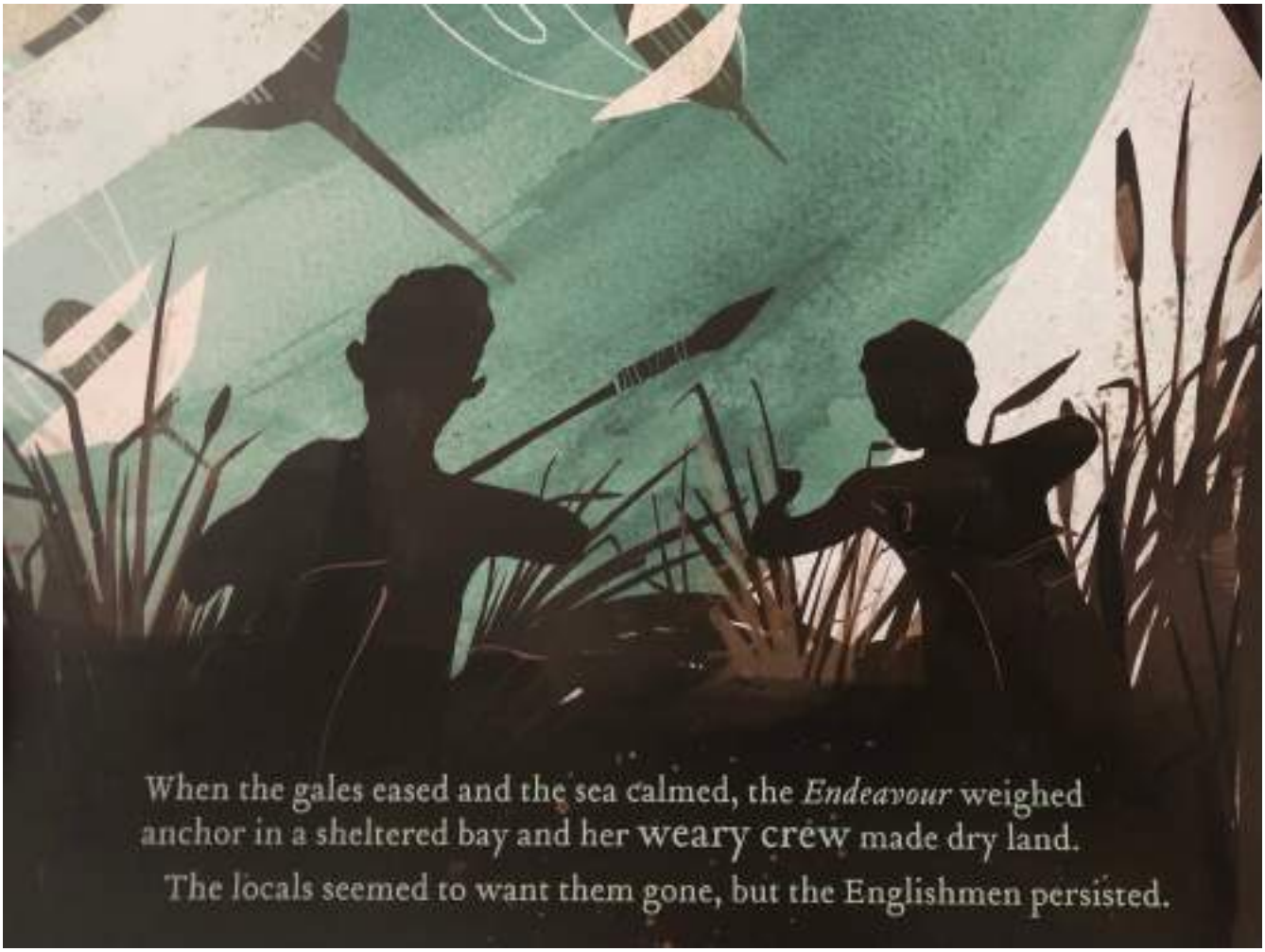
With fresh supplies onboard, Captain Cook set about exploring New Zealand's inlets and bays. He surveyed its islands and completed his circumnavigation of the country in just six months.

Captain Cook then turned his sights towards New Holland. Again the *Endeavour* and her crew headed out to sea.

They voyaged northwest until early one morning the sloping hills of southeastern New Holland came into view. It was a sight no European had seen before.



But foul winds kept the *Endeavour* at sea. For days, Captain Cook and his crew sailed up the coast. They spotted smoke in the sky and saw men and women of dark skin living on the land.



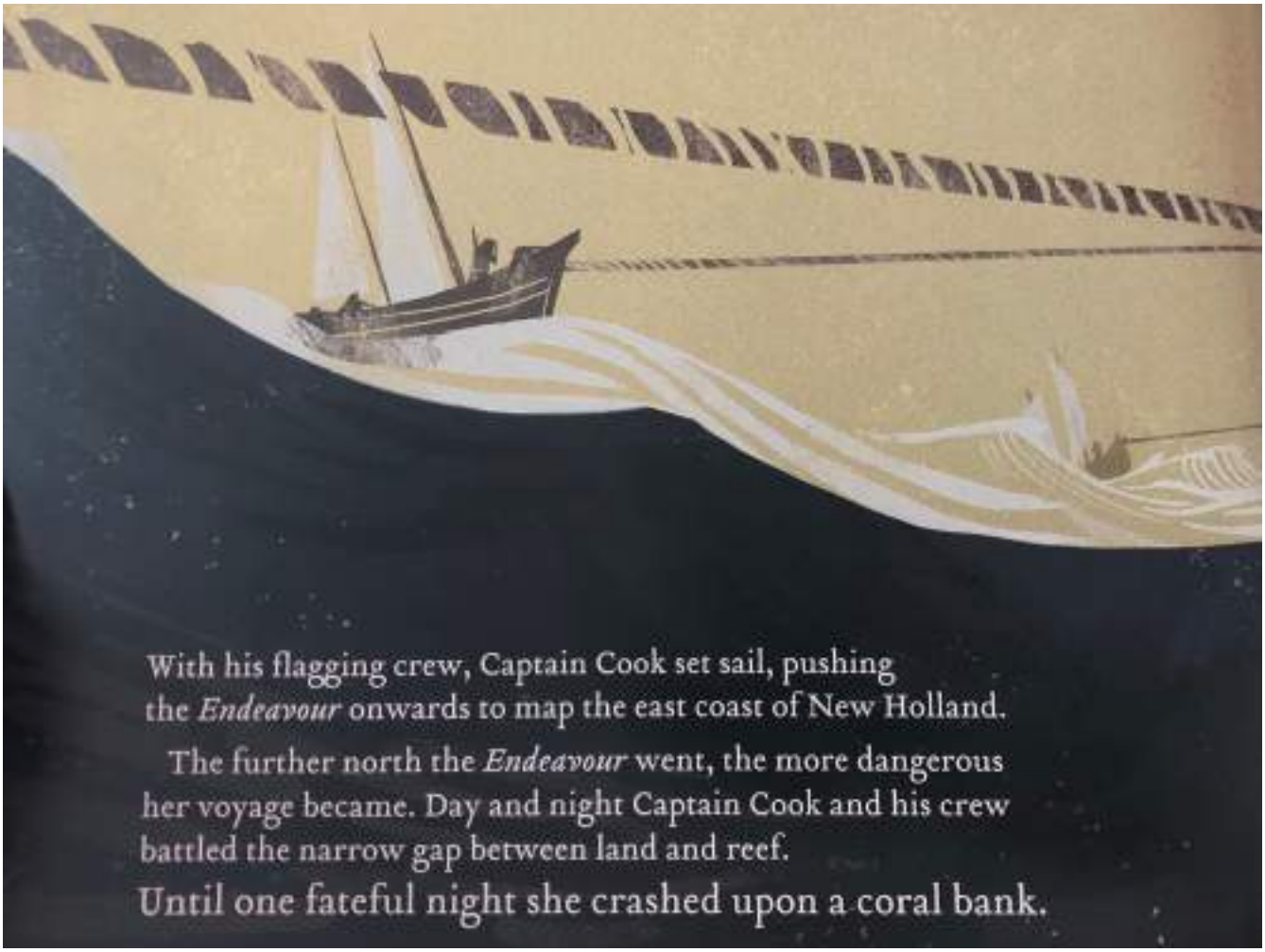
When the gales eased and the sea calmed, the *Endeavour* weighed anchor in a sheltered bay and her weary crew made dry land.

The locals seemed to want them gone, but the Englishmen persisted.



The crew barrelled fresh water and caught more fish than all hands could eat.

Joseph Banks ventured inland. He observed strange animals, collected flora, and examined the soils and waterways.



With his flagging crew, Captain Cook set sail, pushing the *Endeavour* onwards to map the east coast of New Holland.

The further north the *Endeavour* went, the more dangerous her voyage became. Day and night Captain Cook and his crew battled the narrow gap between land and reef.

Until one fateful night she crashed upon a coral bank.



Captain Cook commanded his men to heave. But the ship wouldn't budge and water came rushing in.

At high tide, Captain Cook again rallied his crew. Exhausted, the men heaved and **heaved** then **heaved** again . . .

At last the *Endeavour* came free, but she was still leaking and in urgent need of repair.



Three days later, Captain Cook found a harbour to beach his leaky ship and begin repairs.

The crew caught turtles and picked wild greens. They saw straw-coloured *wolves*, fat *alligators* and a strange-looking beast with a long tail and a hop like a rabbit.



An uneasy truce was struck with the locals. Fish were exchanged and new language was learned, including the word for the strange-looking beast.

After several weeks the *Endeavour* was ready to set sail with the first fair wind.

Captain Cook surveyed the land and its waters. From the very tip of the continent, he plotted a course to navigate the *Endeavour* clear of danger and out to open sea.

On behalf of England and King George III, Captain Cook claimed the east coast and called it New South Wales.

It was now time to return home.





Was New Holland the great *Terra Australis*?
Or did the Pacific Ocean hold more undiscovered continents?
Captain Cook did not know, but he vowed to one day return and find out.