Captain James Cook

James Cook was a British navigator and explorer who sailed and mapped much of the South Pacific.

Where did Captain Cook grow up?

James Cook was born on October 27, 1728 in Marton, 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 a job as a merchant seaman. Although he did well and was advancing in the merchant navy, Cook decided to enlist in the Royal Navy.
It was during this time that James became a master at map making.

The Endeavour

Cook was given command of the Endeavour.

Captain Cook introduced some rigid and innovative rules in order to keep his crew healthy and safe. These rules and planning helped his men to stay healthy throughout the long voyages ahead.

First Expedition

Cook set off for his first journey on August 26, 1768. His main objective was to observe the planet Venus as it passed between the Earth and the Sun.

During this trip he visited Tahiti (where he made the observations of Venus), the Society Islands, and New Zealand.

Next stop on the journey was the east coast of Australia. Here James and his crew found all sorts of interesting animals and plants including the kangaroo.

Finally they returned home in July of 1771, nearly three years after their departure.