

# HOW DID CAPTAIN COOK REACH AUSTRALIA?

In 1768, Captain James Cook and 93 crew members sailed from Plymouth, England, on a three-year-long, round-the-world voyage of discovery on board the *Endeavour*.

Cook's orders were to sail to Tahiti, from where he was to search for a mysterious southern continent in the Pacific Ocean. A number of mariners had spotted parts of Australia or New Zealand but Cook was the first to reach both and accurately chart parts of their coastlines. He was an accomplished sailor and navigator who prepared for the journey carefully, equipped with a tough ship suitable for exploration. He also looked after his crew. Many sailors of the time suffered from scurvy and other diseases caused by unclean living conditions and a lack of fresh foods. Cook insisted his crew keep as clean as possible and ate fresh food whenever they could to ward off disease.



1. Sextant is pointed towards the horizon (where sea and sky appear to meet). A swinging post – the index bar – can be moved along a curving scale marked with angles.



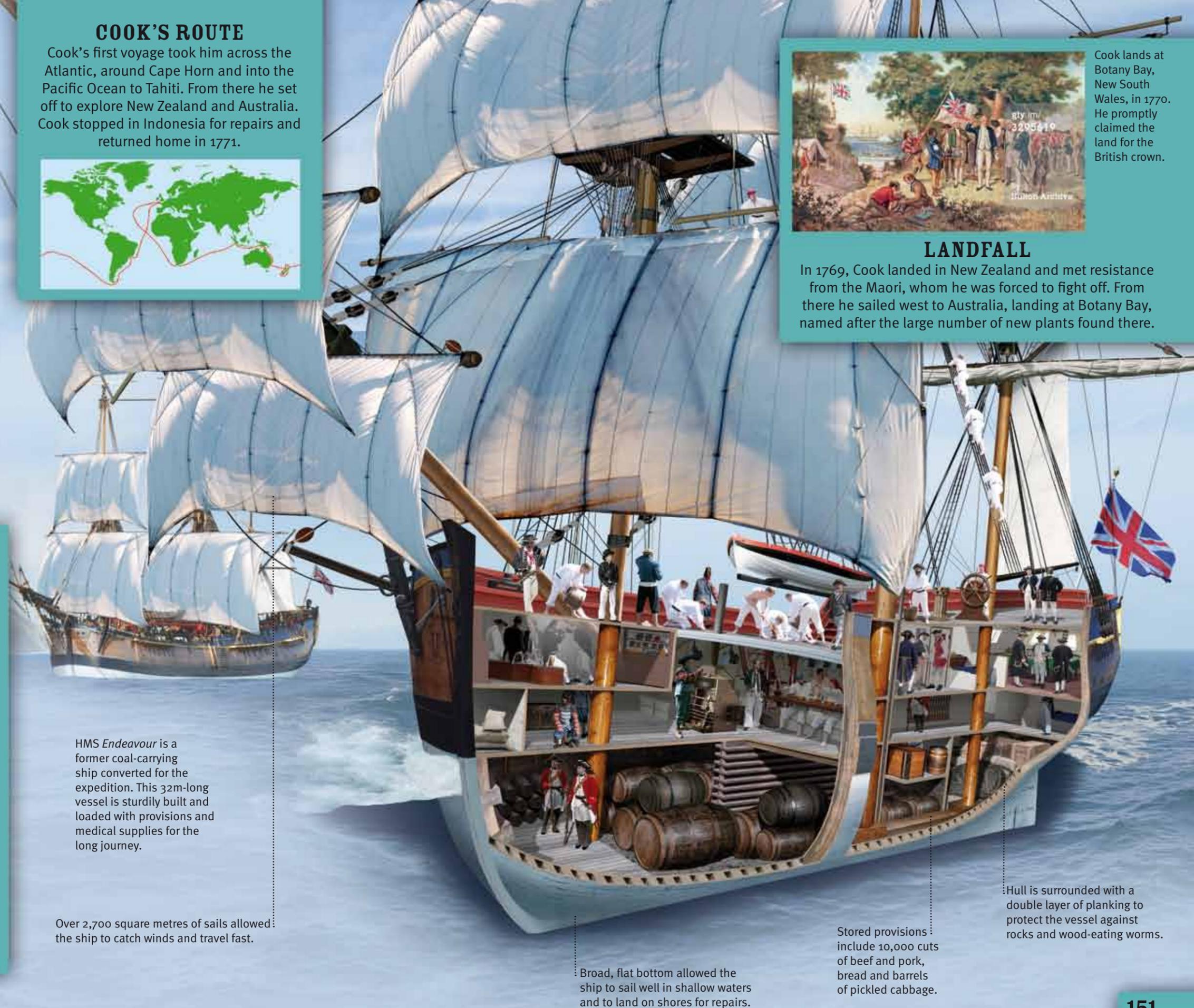
2. As the index bar is moved, the image through the viewfinder splits in two and the Sun is brought down to the horizon. The angle can be read off the curved scale and converted into the altitude of the Sun above the horizon.

## SEXTANT AND NAVIGATION

Captain Cook used an instrument called a sextant to calculate the angle of the Sun or stars above the horizon. The angle was used with tables of star positions to calculate the ship's position.

## COOK'S ROUTE

Cook's first voyage took him across the Atlantic, around Cape Horn and into the Pacific Ocean to Tahiti. From there he set off to explore New Zealand and Australia. Cook stopped in Indonesia for repairs and returned home in 1771.



HMS *Endeavour* is a former coal-carrying ship converted for the expedition. This 32m-long vessel is sturdily built and loaded with provisions and medical supplies for the long journey.

Over 2,700 square metres of sails allowed the ship to catch winds and travel fast.

Broad, flat bottom allowed the ship to sail well in shallow waters and to land on shores for repairs.



Cook lands at Botany Bay, New South Wales, in 1770. He promptly claimed the land for the British crown.

## LANDFALL

In 1769, Cook landed in New Zealand and met resistance from the Maori, whom he was forced to fight off. From there he sailed west to Australia, landing at Botany Bay, named after the large number of new plants found there.

Hull is surrounded with a double layer of planking to protect the vessel against rocks and wood-eating worms.

Stored provisions include 10,000 cuts of beef and pork, bread and barrels of pickled cabbage.