Captain James Cook

James Cook was born on November 7th, 1728 in Marton, Yorkshire, England

His father was a farmer but as he grew older James became more and more interested in the sea. When he was about 18 years old he travelled to Whitby and got a job working on the coal ships.

Discovery

Cook decided to join the Royal Navy in 1755 and learnt to sail ships. It was during this time that he became extremely good at **making maps**. His skills were noticed by people in charge in the Navy and in 1768 he was given the job of being in command of his first ship, called the **Endeavour**.
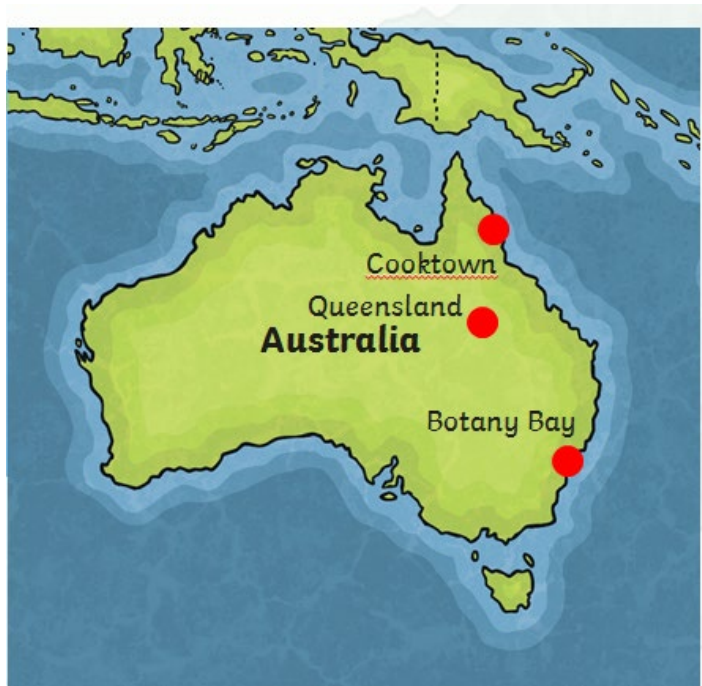
Cook set sail on his first voyage. He and his crew sailed into the **Pacific Ocean** and in April 1770 and they found **Australia**. They were the first people from Europe to discover it, so he claimed it for Britain and called it **New South Wales.**

Exploring Australia

After they had claimed Australia, Cook anchored his ship and travelled onto the shore at Botany Bay.

Next, they sailed north and almost got **shipwrecked** on the Great Barrier Reef due to rough weather conditions. Cook and his crew stopped at Queensland to repair the damage to their ship, at a place now called Cooktown, after Captain James Cook.

They returned home to England in 1771. They had sailed over 30,000 miles and charted maps for over 5000 miles of coastline.

Cook used all this information he had found to tell people about everything he had discovered and became very **famous**.

Other facts about Captain Cook

- Some believe that James Cook's discoveries helped to create many of the maps of the world.

- He created the first **accurate map** of the Pacific Ocean.

- Cook's crew were very **healthy** compared to other sailors at the time. This was because Cook set rules for them to follow; they had to **bathe** daily and eat fresh fruit to fend off **scurvy**.