

HISTORY^{Year 9}

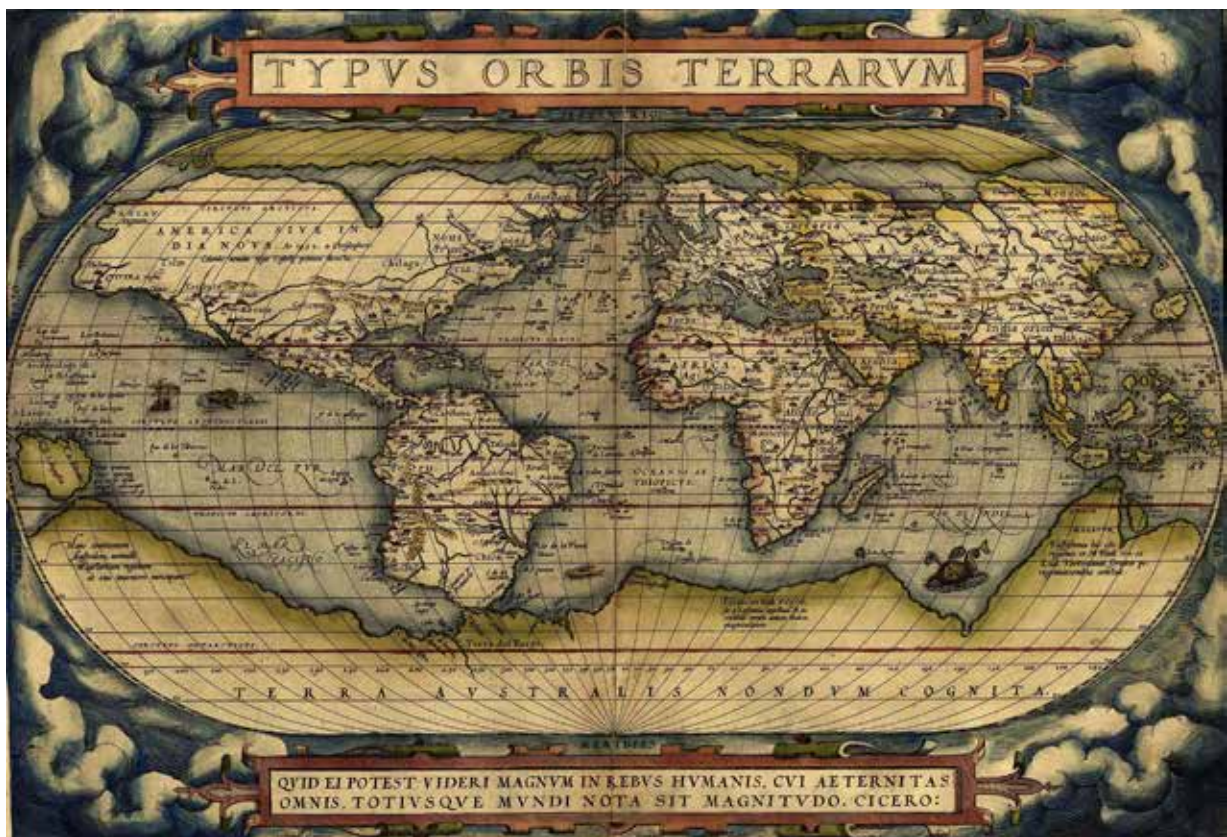
CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Introduction: The Back Story

The Back Story

The start of it: Terra Australis Incognita (30 seconds)

In about 150AD, a Greek mapmaker named Claudius Ptolemy believed that the world was a sphere—round like a tennis ball and had to be balanced, or it would topple over. So, he drew in an imaginary land [the South Polar continent] on the bottom of his maps to balance the world he knew on top (see below).



1570 map by Abraham Ortelius depicting "Terra Australis Nondum Cognita" as a large continent on the bottom of the map

Over time, this unknown land came to be referred to as Terra Australis Incognita meaning the Unknown Southern Land. Europeans were very curious about this land they had never seen. They expected to find vast quantities of gold and treasure there. Finally, in the 15th century, European explorers set across the seas in search of this huge unknown southern land.

The Age of Discovery / Exploration (3 minutes)

[Watch](#) the video (2.11mins)



Name 3 things these early explorers were looking for:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____