

HISTORY^{Year 9}

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

The Back Story (continued)

The Back Story

The Age of the Enlightenment, Early Explorers and now, not so Incognito (4 minutes)

The first to sight and record landfalls of the Australian mainland was Dutch navigator, Willem Janszoon.

He sighted the coast of Cape York Peninsula in early 1606, and landed near the modern town of Weipa on Cape York.

The Dutch charted the whole of the western and northern coastlines and named the island continent "New Holland" during the 17th century, but made no attempt at settlement.



Willem Janszoon 1606

The Dutch navigators mapped much of Australia's west coast, and then in 1642 Abel Tasman sailed under it, demonstrating that it was NOT joined to the South Polar continent or Terra Australis Incognita.

Tasman named this separate land New Holland, and also named the part he actually saw (and thought was separate) as Van Diemen's Land. He then continued eastwards (because he was looking for the South Polar continent) and discovered and named New Zealand (which he thought might be the west coast of the South Polar continent).



Abel Tasman, wife and child 1642

William Dampier, an English explorer and privateer, (and first person to circumnavigate the world three times.) landed on the north-west coast of New Holland in 1688 and again in 1699 on a return trip.



William Dampier 1688

The Evolving Map



This map of New Holland [by the famous Dutch cartographer Joan Blaeu] was published in 1659 as it was known at the time {all the way up to Cook}.

The Dutch claimed the whole land of HOLLANDIA NOVA including all their discoveries in the east.



On the map (left) that we now know as Australia, quickly mark the areas the 3 early New Holland explorers located:

Given your knowledge of what early explorers were looking for, what possible reasons might you propose that none of the early explorers stayed in New Holland? (3 minutes)
