

HISTORY^{Year 9}

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Worksheet 2

British French Rivalry

British French Rivalry

Like Dampier's map, the exploration of 1766-1769 by French explorer Louis-Antoine comte de Bougainville shows they had mapped only the west coast of the continent.



Q. Identify Australia on the map.

Q. What is it called?

Q. Identify New Zealand on the map.

Q. How close did Bougainville come to discovering the north of Australia?

Q. Use a modern atlas to identify approximately where Tahiti would be on this map.

When Cook was ready to leave Tahiti after observing the Transit of Venus, he opened the Secret Instructions from the British Government that gave him his orders about the second part of his journey – to finally decide if there was a Terra Australis Incognita, or Great South Land.

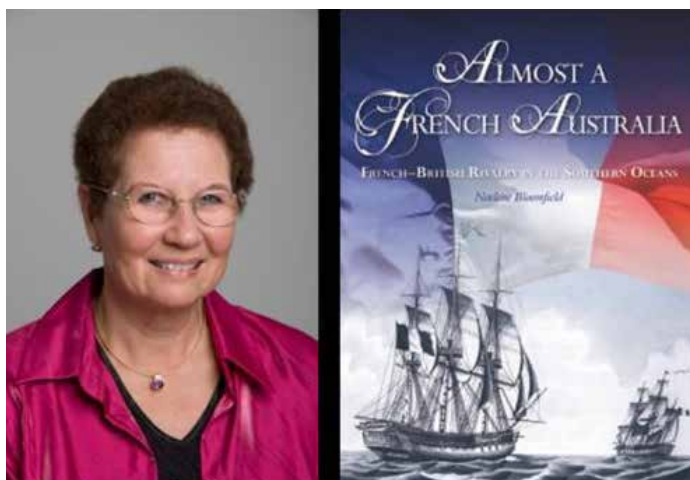
The instructions were secret as there was great rivalry between Britain and France. Cook was about to do something that the French would be very interested in. The east coast awaited Captain Cook's survey.

Advertisement for a lecture about French and British rivalry in the Pacific, and a map of a French voyage

A Batavia Lecture Series 2013

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Only a historical accident prevented Australia's settlement by the French, who persistently explored this region in fierce rivalry with the British, as both nations attempted to establish trade opportunities above and below the Equator.



In a strategic battle with her perennial rival across the English Channel, France sent numerous scientific and commercial expeditions to the Indian and Pacific Oceans in the 1700s and 1800s, attempting to solve the mysteries of the legendary Terra Australis Incognita, and to locate suitable ports for trade below the Equator. Many French captains, officers, scientists and crew-members died from a variety of illnesses during these voyages and were unable to report their exciting discoveries directly to their King or Emperor. Given the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 and its subsequent turmoil, this turn of events meant that France was not in a position to develop colonies in the southern oceans for many decades.

<https://museum.wa.gov.au/whats-on/almost-french-australia-french-british-rivalry-southern-oceans>

Q. Why were the French and British in continual rivalry during this time?

Q. Explain the reasons why Cook's second set of instructions were kept secret and were only to be opened once he had completed his astronomical work in Tahiti?
