

HISTORY^{Year 9}

ANALYSING COOK'S DIARY

Worksheet 4

Analysing Cook's Diary

Cook's entire journal is available online and can be found at:

[Cook's journal | National Museum of Australia \(nma.gov.au\)](http://nma.gov.au)

Your task is to analyse one primary resource – an entry from Captain Cook's diary. Analyse one of the extracts below. Ensure you cover the "6Cs" in your answer. You may need to use the Internet for research purposes.

Further, you are to make brief personal commentary regarding your own perspective of Cook and his diary entries.

(Note: the "crossed out" sections in the third entry are as found in the original entry by Cook.)

The 6 C's of Primary Source Analysis:

1. Citation - When was this created?
2. Content - What is the main idea? Describe in detail what you see
3. Context - What is going on in the world, the country, the region, or the locality when this was created?
4. Connections - Link the primary source to other things that you already know or have learned about.
5. Communication - Is this source reliable?
6. Conclusions - Ask yourself: How does the primary source contribute to our understanding of history?

Choose one of the following diary entries to analyse:

1.

23rd August 1770

From what I have said of the Natives of New-Holland they may appear to some to be the most wretched people upon Earth, but in reality they are far more happier than we Europeans; being wholly unacquainted not only with the superfluous but the necessary conveniencies so much sought after in Europe, they are happy in not knowing the use of them. They live in a Tranquillity which is not disturb'd by the Inequality of Condition.

2.

Tuesday 1 May 1770

Tuesday, May 1st Gentle breezes northerly. In the PM ten of the Natives again Visited the watering place. I being on board at this time went emmediatly aShore, but before I got there they were going away, I follow'd them alone and unarm'd some distance along shore but they would not stop untill they got farther off than I choose to trust myself these were arm'd in the same manner as those that came yesterday.

In the evening I sent some hands to haul the Saine but they caught but a very few fish. A little after sun rise I found the Variation to be 11°.3' East.

Last night Torby Sutherland seaman departed this life and in the AM his body was buried a shore at the watering place which occasioned my calling the south point of this Bay after his name.

This morning a party of us went aShore to some hutts not far from the watering place where some of the natives are daily seen, here we left several articles such as Cloth, Looking glasses, Combs, Beeds, Nails &Ca after this we made an excursion into the country which we found deversified with woods, Lawns and Marshes; the woods are free from under wood of every kind and the trees are at such a distance from one a nother that the whole Country or at least great part of it might be cultivated without being oblig'd to cut down a single tree, we found the soil every where except in the Marshes to be a light white sand and produceth a quantity of good grass which grows in little tufts about as big as one can hold in ones hand and pretty close to one another, in this manner the surface of the ground is coated in the woods between the trees.

Dr Solander had a bad sight of a small Animal some thing like a rabbit and we found the dung of an Animal which must feed upon grass and which we judge could not be less than a deer we also saw the track of a dog or some such like Animal.

we met with some hutts and places where the natives had been and at our first seting out one of them was seen the others I suppose had fled upon our approach. I saw some trees that had been cut down by the natives with some sort of a blunt instrument and several trees that were barked the bark of which had been cut by the same Instrument, in many of the trees, especialy the palms, were cut steps about 3 or 4 feet asunder for the conveniency of Climeing them — We found 2 sorts of Gum one sort of which is like Gum Dragon and is the same as I suppose Tasman took for Gum lac it is extracted from the largest tree in the woods.

3.

Sunday 6th May 1770:

On the Sand and Mud banks are Oysters, Muscles, Cockles &Ca which I beleive are the cheif support of the inhabitants who go into shoald water with their little canoes and pick them out of the sand and Mud with their hands and sometimes roast and eat them in the Canoe, having often a fire for that purpose as I suppose for I know no other it can be for.

The Natives do not appear to be numerous neither do they seem to live in large bodies but dispers'd in small parties along by the water side. those I saw were about as tall as Europeans of a very dark brown colour but not black nor had they woolly frizled hair, but black and lank much like ours — no sort of cloathing or ornaments were ever seen by any of us upon any one of them or in or about any of their hutts from which I conclude that they never wear any —

some that we saw had their faces and bodies painted with a sort of white paint or Pigment . Altho I have said that shell fish is their chief support yet they catch other sorts of fish, some of which we found roasting on the fire the first time we landed, some of these they strike with gigs and others they catch with hook and line we have seen them strike fish with gigs & hooks and lines were found in their hutts — Sting rays I believe they do not eat because I never saw the least remains of one near any of their hutts or fire places, However we could know but very little of their customs as we never were able to form any connections with them, they had not so much as touch'd the things we had left in their hutts on purpose for them to take away.

During our stay in this Harbour I caused the English Colours to be display'd a shore every day and an inscription to be cut out upon one of the trees near the watering place seting forth the Ships name, date &Ca —
