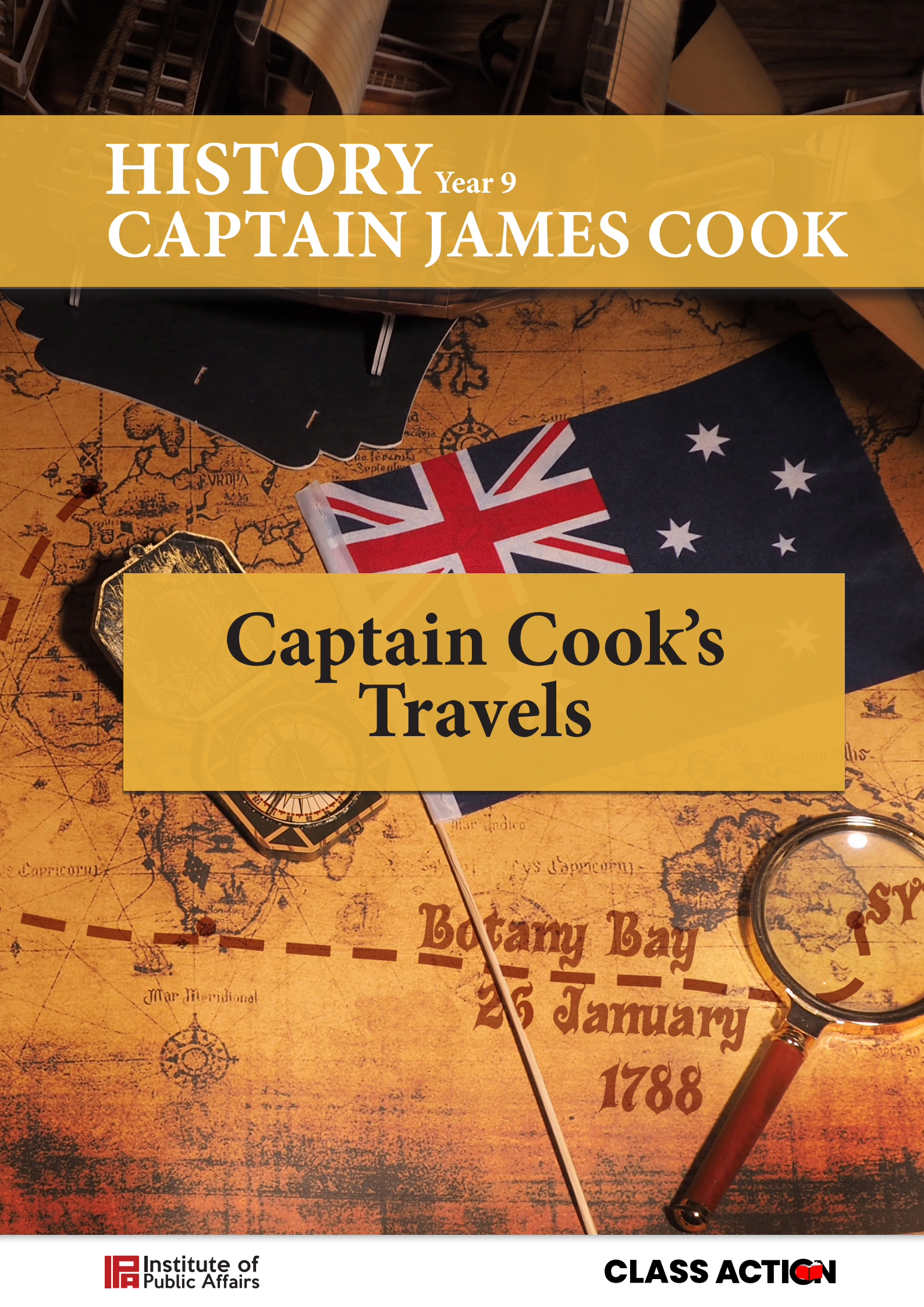




HISTORY Year 9

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Captain Cook's Travels

Botany Bay
26 January
1788

James Cook -(1728- 1779)

Captain James Cook was a brilliant navigator, cartographer and explorer in the British Royal Navy.

The son of a farmhand, as a young child he showed signs of an inquiring mind and so his father's employer paid for him to go to school until he was 12 years old. He spent time working on the farm and then at the age of 18 he worked as a seaman where he developed his navigational skills, and he studied maths at night.

He worked his way up through the ranks and volunteered for the Royal Navy where he learned more about seafaring. He quickly became a 'captains' mate' rank due to his experience and skills and was sent to Canada to fight the 'Seven Years' War'.

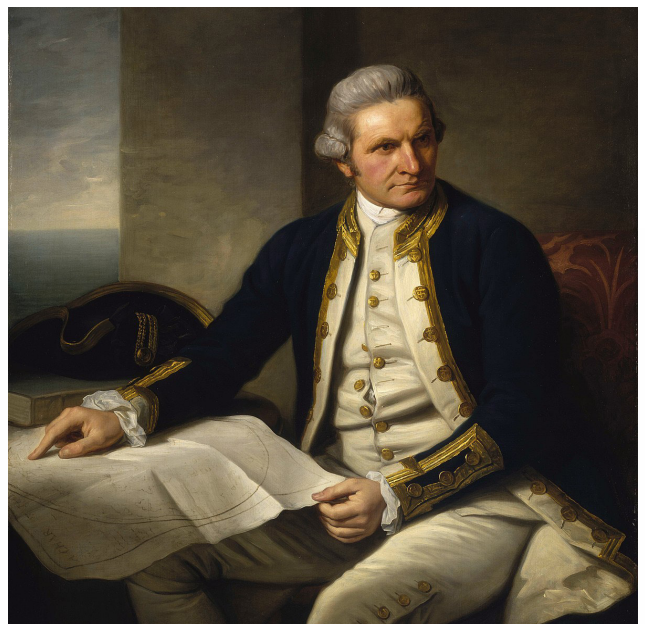
Cook was constantly learning and expanding his maritime knowledge and skills including chart making, and after the war he spent several years mapping areas around Canada. Some of his early works were considered the most detailed and accurate maps of their time.

In 1768, at the age of 40, Cook was promoted to lieutenant and The Royal Society chose him to lead an expedition to what's now known as Tahiti, to observe the transit of Venus. (During a transit of Venus, Venus passes between the Earth and the Sun and appears to be a small black circle traveling in front of the Sun. By observing this event, they believed they could calculate the Earth's distance from the Sun).

After Tahiti, Cook continued his voyage of discovery. Amongst other great feats, his expedition was the first European ship to reach the eastern coast of Australia, Captain James Cook is known for his incredible voyages that took him farther south than any other explorer of his time. He was the first to map the coastlines of New Zealand, the eastern coastline of Australia, several small islands in the Pacific and to encounter the Hawaiian Islands. He helped the south seas go from being a massive unknown and dangerous body of water to being a charted ocean.

Cook's expedition can be likened to a space mission not only on a voyage of discovery but also for testing the latest theories and technologies, a lot like space exploration today.

His voyage of the HMB Endeavour lies at the core of our nation.



James Cook - (1728- 1779)

Sir Joseph Banks (1743 –1820)

In a career spanning more than 50 years, Joseph Banks became one of the most influential figures in European science.

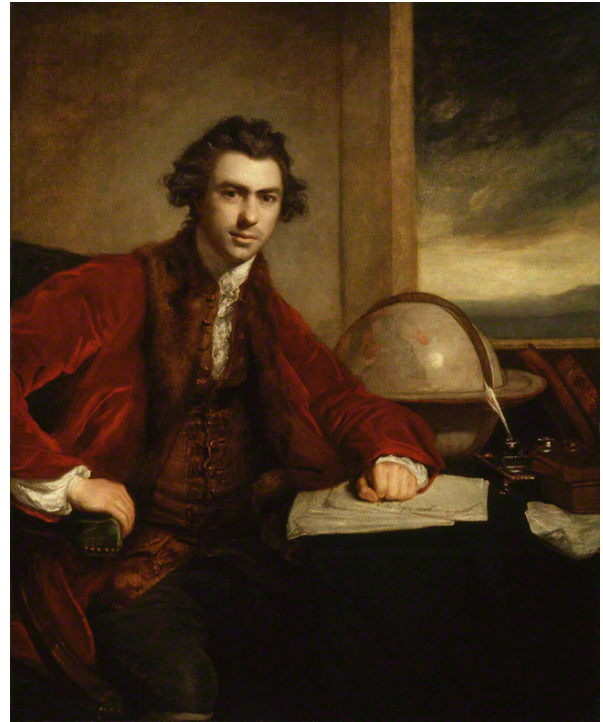
As a child, he enjoyed the outdoors and developed a passion for natural science. He was educated at Eton College and Oxford University, where he gathered extensive knowledge of natural history.

At 21 he inherited an impressive estate and became one of England's wealthiest men. With a passion and the financial means to pursue it, Banks took his first voyage of discovery at the age of 23.

A few years later, he persuaded the British Admiralty to allow him to join an expedition to be led by James Cook to the South Pacific.

Banks funded eight others to join him (two naturalists, two artists and four servants from his estate).

While in Australia, Banks and his team made the first major collection of Australian flora describing many species new to science. He recorded in his diary in July 1770 of his observation of a 'kanguru'.



Sir Joseph Banks - (1743 –1820)

On his return to England, he became immediately famous. Over the years, although not involved in a hands on manner, he was a great proponent of settlement in New South Wales.

He was President of the Royal Society for over 40 years and spent his later life supporting expeditions and forging networks that brought together the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific worlds.