

Questioning Explorers Week 1/2

Before viewing

Cook's ship, HMS 'Endeavour', was badly damaged on the Great Barrier Reef off Cape York's east coast. The crew spent seven weeks ashore on the banks of the Endeavour River, making repairs. Cook's botanist Joseph Banks spent this time exploring the area. The clip below is a reading from the written journals the explorers kept.

As you view answer these questions:

Which native animals do you think Banks greyhound chased? Which words make you think this?

Why might Banks have wanted to make contact with the Aboriginal people living in the area?

Why might the Guugu Yimithirr women and children (who were cooking and playing around their homes) have hidden from the British visitors?

Click this link, or copy and paste in URL

<https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1454382/newcomers-explore-an-ancient-land>

After viewing

This journal was written more than 240 years ago. At that time, the British government sent soldiers to colonise (claim possession of) already-inhabited places like India and America. Why might Banks use the term 'Indians' to refer to the Guugu Yimithirr people he saw? Suggest why 'Indians' is not an appropriate term for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Extension

Can you guess how the Endeavour River was named? What about Cape York? Find these places on a map. Investigate other places named during Cook's exploration.

Long before Europeans visited Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples used place names in their own languages: The Guugu Yimithirr people call the Endeavour River 'Wahalumbaal Birri'. Investigate some place names in your local area.