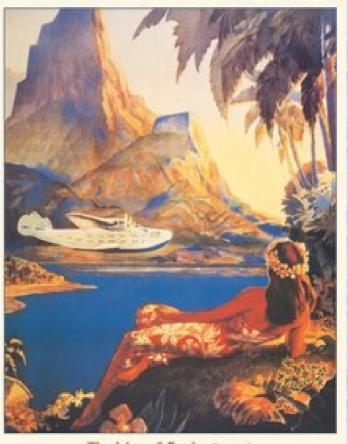
# Captain James Cook and the Opening of the Pacific 1760-1800

## SOUTH PACIFIC



The Isles of Enchantment



#### **Themes**

- Introduction: Cook's voyages
- Europeans and the Pacific
- Politics, Discovery and Science
- Cook's voyages and cultural contact
- Cultural misreadings and the construction of knowledge

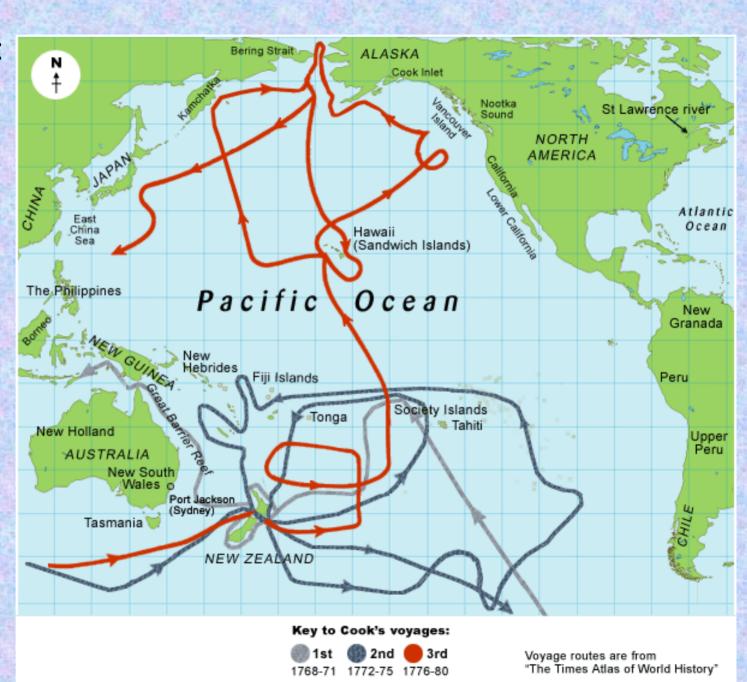
### Introduction

Who was Captain James Cook?



## Introduction: The voyages

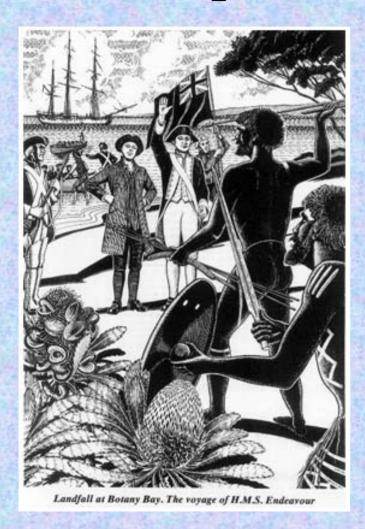
1768-71 1772-75 1776-80

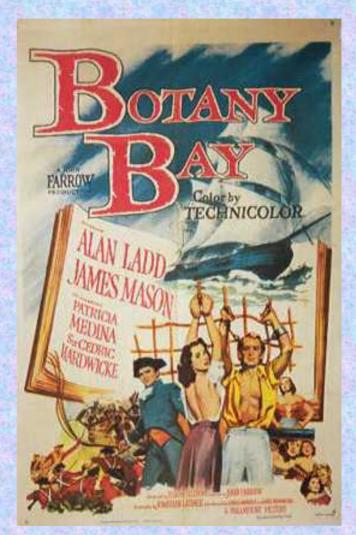


#### Introduction

- Voyages and the collection of Knowledge
- Geographical knowledge
- Scientific knowledge
- Cultural knowledge

## Europeans and the Pacific





## Politics, Discovery and Science

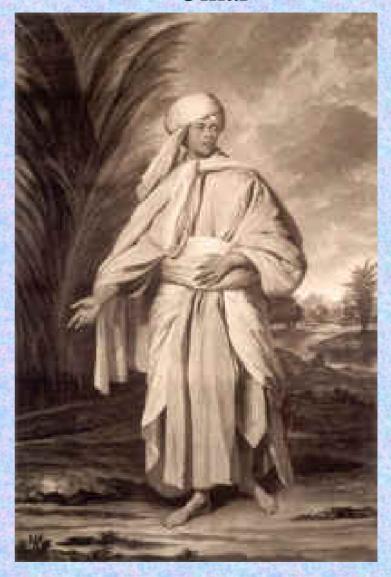
- Political objectives
- Scientific objectives
  - Joseph Banks
- Discovery
  - Of geography
  - And of . . .



#### Poedua



#### Omai



### Cook's Voyages and Cultural Contact

- Intent of the contact between Cook and native peoples
- Reality of the contact
- The case of sexual contact

## Cultural Misreadings

- How were they to understand each other?
- No common language
- The class of cultures, eg. Cannibalism
- The best example of cultural misunderstanding:

# The Death of Captain Cook, 14 February 1779



## Creation of Knowledge about South Pacific

- Cultural knowledge was perhaps the most important kind of knowledge that Cook brought back
- What kind of knowledge was it though?
  - A paradise?
  - A home of savagry?
  - In need of civilising?