



March 2015

Picture Story

Teacher Notes and Activities

This Is Captain Cook

By Tania McCartney & Illustrated by Christina Booth

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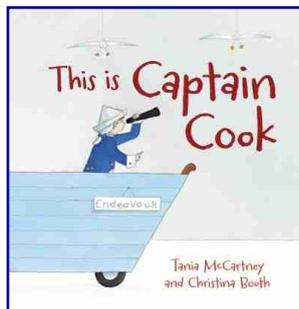
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\$24.99

Captain James Cook loved to sail. He loved making maps (he was very good at it, too) and he particularly loved shiny buttons. In this charming picture book, little ones can celebrate the life of a great mariner and true adventurer.

Join Miss Batts and her class as they tell the story of Captain Cook with a humorous and whimsical school play that's sure to engage the very young. We see the class act out the story of Cook: as a boy watching ships on the horizon, sailing to Canada, then to Tahiti and on to New South Wales and New Zealand (spot the escaping chicken in each of the scenes!). Kids will discover that Captain Cook was the first European to cross the Antarctic Circle and they'll also learn that on his final journey, he never came home again.

Parents, carers and teachers will smile at the familiar set-up of the chaotic school play and the inventive props, and enjoy eavesdropping on the audience as they interact with the performance. At the back of the book, walk through 'Cook's Gallery' and see real life paintings of Cook, his ship and his travels.



These teacher notes are an edited version of those supplied by the publisher, National Library of Australia Publishing.

Discussion Points & Activities

- In researching *This is Captain Cook*, the author used many different sources. Discuss with children ways they could research a biographical history book of this nature. If they were compiling a biography on their own life, who might they approach to research their story? Older children can complete a research project on their own life, complete with pictures.
- Talk with children about the main turning points or events in Captain Cook's life. Which events were the most important and why? Older children can explore more advanced concepts. What if certain events never occurred in Captain Cook's life? What if he had managed to break through the wall of ice and reach Antarctica? Have children imagine what he might have discovered there.
- Have the children re-enact the school play featured in the book. Give each child a role. The children can make their own costumes and props.
- For older children, discuss the following historical facts. Which children have encountered these facts before? Which do they find most fascinating? Children can each pick 2–3 facts to research and report their findings to the class.
 - ◆ Cook's ship, the Endeavour, was a type of ship called a 'collier'. What did colliers typically carry?
 - ◆ Captain Cook was a map-maker. He used what is known as a plain table. What does a plain table do?
 - ◆ Cook's map-making ability helped the British dominate in the Seven Years' War with New France (now Canada). He was so good that he was tasked with charting Northumberland and Nova Scotia. Where are these places found on the globe?
 - ◆ Captain Cook first named Botany Bay 'Stingray Bay'. Can you guess why?

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This Is Captain Cook continued...

- ◆ Upon landing in Botany Bay, and knowing the first man to step ashore would be remembered, Captain Cook turned to his wife's 17-year-old cousin, Isaac Smith, and told him to go first. Why do you think he did this?
- ◆ After anchoring the Endeavour at Botany Bay, Captain Cook found the area unsuitable for settlement and decided to head further north to Port Jackson. Why was Botany Bay such a disappointment?
- ◆ All of Captain Cook's five children died without having children of their own. There are therefore no direct surviving descendants. Can you find out the children's names?
- ◆ On his third and final voyage, Captain Cook intended to find a seafaring route across North America to Asia. This is when he found a set of islands called the Sandwich Islands. We now know them by a much more famous name—what are they called?
- ◆ The captain circumnavigated the globe twice in his lifetime. What does circumnavigate mean?
- ◆ Cook wrote many letters to his wife while he was at sea. Sadly, she buried every single one before she died, and they've never been found. What was her name?
- ◆ There is a mountain named after Cook. Where can it be found and what's special about it?
- ◆ In 1988, a replica of the Endeavour was built. It's said to be the most accurate maritime replica ever built and has made two circumnavigations of the world, just like Cook. Where was it built?
- ◆ What monuments, schools, universities, buildings, suburbs, streets or other things have been named after Captain Cook? How many can you find?