Video title: 19th Century Views on Race in Australia

Support this video lesson with this carefully selected resource from our colleagues at Blake Education. This downloadable PDF consolidates and extends the Australian curriculum content detailed below and covered in the video.

Year 4

ACHASSK086 The nature of contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and others, for example, the Macassans and the Europeans, and the effects of these interactions on, for example, people and environments

The attached resources are from Australian History Centres: Middle Primary. Answers are below.

ACTIVITY CARD 37
Answers will vary.

WORKSHEET 67
1. Answers will vary. Example answers are provided below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Europeans</th>
<th>Aboriginal people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Hunted with guns, dogs, and bows and arrows; fenced in their land for farming; raised livestock for food; planted crops and vegetables in gardens. | Fished and hunted for food, using spears, boomerangs, and axes; collected plants for food (e.g., roots, berries). 

2. On Possession Island near Cape York on August 1770
Aboriginal peoples did not have fences or markers to show land boundaries. They also did not farm the land in a way that was recognisable to Europeans.

The British Government believed they could colonise Australia and claim it as their own. They treated Aboriginal peoples who lived there as if they had no rights.

WORKSHEET 68
Answers will vary. Example answers are provided below.

Captain Cook and his crew: Thirteen; In the boats; Most wear naval uniforms and crewmen have more simple clothing; Muskets (long guns); Captain Cook has his arms spread and the crew are sitting in the boats or holding weapons.

Aboriginal people of Botany Bay: Two; On the beach; No clothing; Long spears; Defensive and ready to throw spears.

They may have been angry or afraid to see strangers wearing clothing and carrying weapons they had never seen before.

They would not have known whether Captain Cook and his men were there to cause them harm.

He may be trying to show them that he means no harm to them.

He may have had some type of item (e.g., tool, ornament) that he thought he could offer to the Aboriginal people as a gift.

The Aboriginal people could have run away or tried to attack Cook and his crew.
In 1768, Captain James Cook (1728–1779) was given command of the ship the HMS *Endeavour* to take scientists to Tahiti to observe the planet Venus passing in front of the Sun. However, he also had secret instructions to search for *terra australis incognita*, the ‘unknown southern land’.

On 29 April 1770, Captain James Cook landed at Botany Bay in New South Wales. The crew stayed there for eight days. They collected food and scientific samples, and made observations. They encountered Aboriginal peoples after coming ashore, but were not able to successfully communicate with them.

The HMS *Endeavour* continued north along the eastern coast of Australia. It struck the Great Barrier Reef in June 1770 and was beached in Northern Queensland for seven weeks while repairs were made. During that time, Cook interacted with the Guugu Yimithirr people, who lived in the Hope Vale region on the Cape York Peninsula. These were Cook’s first meetings with Aboriginal peoples.

After the repairs were completed, the HMS *Endeavour* made its way to Possession Island near Cape York. It was here, on 22 August 1770, that Cook claimed possession of the whole eastern coast of Australia in the name of His Majesty King George III. Cook decided that the land was *terra nullius*, which is Latin for ‘nobody’s land’.

Even though Cook knew that Aboriginal peoples lived on the land, he did not recognise them as its owners. This was because Aboriginal peoples did not have fences or other markers to show land boundaries. Aboriginal peoples also did not farm the land in a way that was recognisable to the Europeans. They hunted animals, caught fish or collected plants to eat. They also practised fire-stick farming, which involved using fire to encourage seasonal plant growth.

The declaration of *terra nullius* meant that the British Government believed they could colonise Australia and claim it as their own. They considered the continent an empty land and treated Aboriginal peoples who lived there as if they had no rights.
Inquiry question: What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

**RESEARCHING**

Use the worksheet to complete the Venn diagram that shows the differences and similarities between the way Europeans and Indigenous peoples farmed land and sourced their food in the past.

**QUESTIONING**

Answer the questions on the worksheet about Captain James Cook.

**ANALYSING**

Use the worksheet to write two different points of view about Captain Cook’s landing at Botany Bay. Try to imagine the thoughts and feelings of Captain Cook and Aboriginal people he encountered there. Think about how their points of view would differ from each other.

**EVALUATING AND REFLECTING**

Look at the illustration on the source card of Captain Cook’s landing. Use the table on the worksheet to describe the differences between the people in the image. Then answer the questions underneath the table.

**COMMUNICATING**

Create a short play about Captain Cook claiming the eastern coast of Australia for Britain on Possession Island. Act out your play to your friends or classmates.
Complete the Venn diagram below that shows the differences and similarities between the way Europeans and Aboriginal peoples farmed land and sourced their food in the past.

2. Answer the questions below about Captain James Cook.

When and where did Captain James Cook claim the east coast of Australia for Britain?

Why did Cook think that Aboriginal peoples did not own the land?

What was the consequence of Cook’s decision to claim the land for Britain?
Write two different points of view about Captain Cook's landing at Botany Bay. Try to imagine the thoughts and feelings of Captain Cook and Aboriginal people he encountered there. Think about how their points of view would differ from each other.

Captain James Cook

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__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

Aboriginal person of Botany Bay

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__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
Look at the illustration on the source card of Captain Cook’s landing. Use the table below to describe the differences between the people in the image. Then answer the questions below the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Captain Cook and his crew</th>
<th>Aboriginal people of Botany Bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you think the Aboriginal people in the image might have thought when they saw the boats arriving?

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Why do you think they had their spears raised?

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Why do you think Captain Cook is holding out his hand towards the Aboriginal people?

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What might Captain Cook have had in his hand?

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What do you think might have happened next?

______________________________________________________________