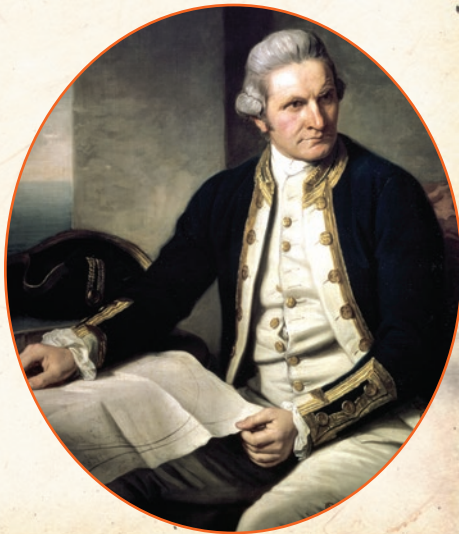


To the South Seas

by Margaret Maugenest

In the late 1700s, there were few maps of the South Seas. Scientists in England wanted to know about the land in the South Pacific. Was there a huge continent there? Some people thought there was. They asked Captain James Cook to go find out.



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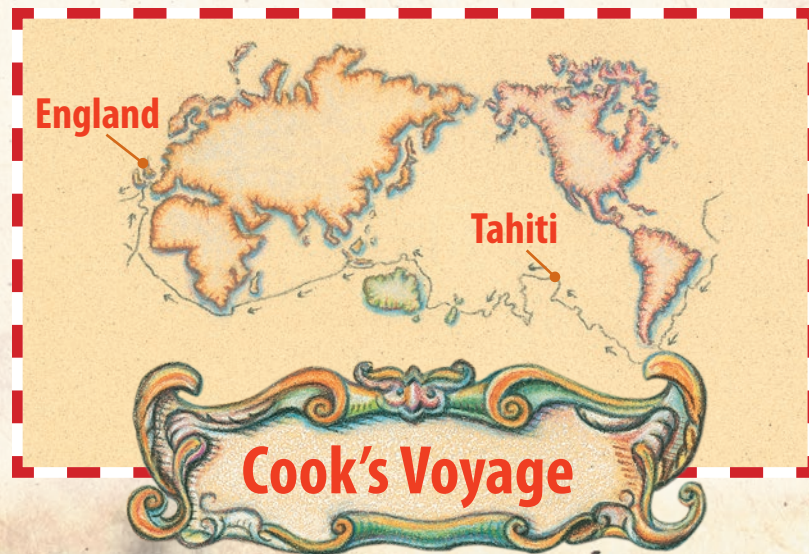
READ & RESPOND

Ideas and Support

What clues on this page tell you that this story contains facts?

An ocean trip was long. It was hard. There were many dangers. The seas could get stormy. Pirates could attack. A fire could break out. There was no way to get help.

Cook and his crew got ready for the voyage. They filled the ship with supplies. They took fresh water. They took food. They had a goat for milk.



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READ & RESPOND

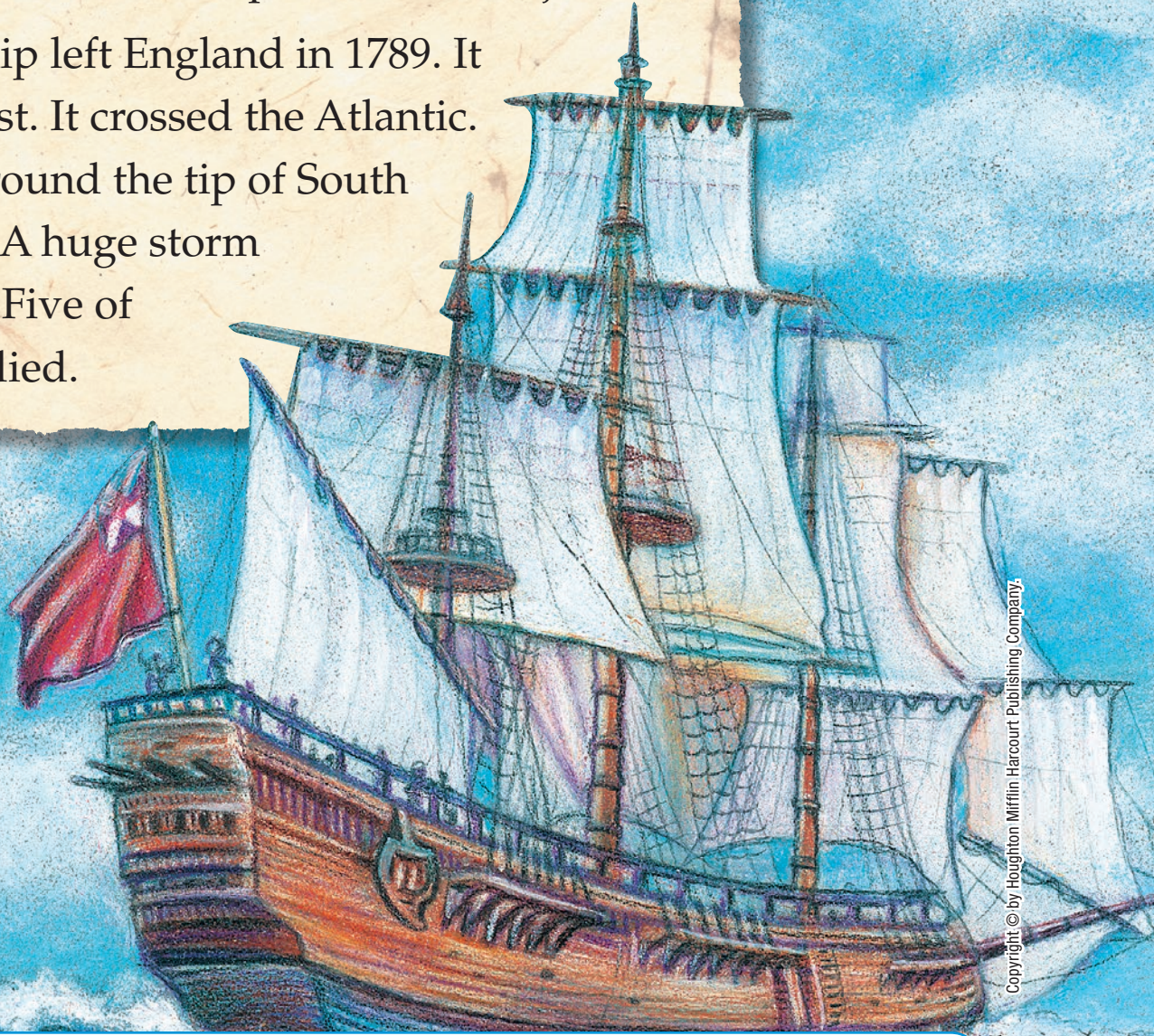
Ideas and Support

How does the author support her idea that a trip across the ocean was long and hard?

Setting Sail

Ninety-five crew members were aboard.
Each person on the ship had a certain job.

The ship left England in 1789. It sailed west. It crossed the Atlantic. It went around the tip of South America. A huge storm came up! Five of the men died.



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READ & RESPOND

Ideas and Support

Does the author use any numbers on this page? What do you learn from the numbers?

The ship sailed for ten more weeks. The men started to run out of food. They did not want to starve. They caught fish to stay alive.

They went through the South Pacific. The men finally spotted Tahiti. The men were happy. They could not wait to reach the island. They had been at sea for eight months.



READ & RESPOND

Ideas and Support

The author says the men were happy. How does she support this idea? Explain.

Land, Ho!

The ship sailed into a bay. The crew dropped the anchor. This held the ship in place. Then the crew got into a smaller boat. They rowed to land.

At first, the people who lived there were uneasy. They did not know Captain Cook. They wanted to know what Cook wanted. Soon they became friendly.

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READ & RESPOND

Ideas and Support

What evidence does the author give to support the idea that the people on land were uneasy?

Cook stayed in Tahiti for three months. He made a map of the island. His scientists studied the plants there.

Then Cook sailed on. He explored the South Seas more. He looked for a huge continent. He did not find one. Cook did see a smaller continent. It was Australia. Mapmakers now had to make new maps.



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READ & RESPOND

Ideas and Support

List three facts you read on this page.

Cook's Maps

Cook made two more sea trips. He changed old maps. He showed places where he had been. He made many new maps. He made a map of the west coast of North America. It went all the way up to Alaska.

Other explorers used his maps. There used to be many different maps of the same land. Cook's maps made travel less confusing. They also made travel safer.



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READ & RESPOND

Ideas and Support

What do you think is the author's opinion of Captain Cook? Explain how you know.

Reread and Respond



1 Why did Cook set sail in 1789?

Hint

For clues, see pages 74 and 76.

2 How did the people of Tahiti act towards Captain Cook and his crew?

Hint

For clues, see page 78.

3 What did Captain Cook find out about the continent in the South Seas?

Hint

For a clue, see page 79.