



Captain James Cook: The Life and Legacy of the Legendary British Explorer Who Discovered Hawaii

Charles River Editors

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*Includes pictures *Includes Cook's accounts of his historic voyages *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents "Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again." – James Cook "To boldly go where no man has gone before" was a phrase made popular by Gene Roddenberry in a science fiction setting, but it was certainly the creed of countless explorers during the Age of Discovery and afterwards. In fact, as recently as the mid-18th century, a young sailor named James Cook determined to go "farther than any man has been before me, but as far as I think it is possible for a man to go." And unlike so many others who tried, he did just that. Cook was a war veteran who participated in the French & Indian War, but he remains best known over 250 years later for sailing thousands of miles across much of the Pacific, mapping regions, naming new places, and making scientific discoveries. Indeed, there are plenty of similarities between Cook's three voyages and the famed "five year mission" of the Enterprise. Like Captain Picard, Cook's missions were supposed to be peaceful and focused primarily on scientific research. His first voyage, which took him to New Zealand, was meant to transport astronomers to study Venus, and his second voyage also carried several scientists tasked with "exploring strange new worlds" that Cook and his crew encountered. At the same time, Cook also seemed to run across many of the same problems faced by explorers across all centuries, even the fabled 23rd century. He found himself making first contact with native peoples who had never met Europeans, and though Cook's intentions were supposedly peaceful, the men and women he encountered were justifiably concerned enough that they decided to attack rather than wait to be attacked. Cook himself often made bad decisions, especially when it came to interacting with aboriginal peoples, and these decisions cost a number of his crew their lives, as well as his own eventually. Perhaps fittingly, he was killed along the coast of Hawaii, one of his most important discoveries, and while that may have brought his discoveries to an end, his legacy is a mix of adventure and cautionary tale that can continue to inspire to this day. Captain James Cook: The Life and Legacy of the Legendary British Explorer Who Discovered Hawaii chronicles the historic expeditions that Cook made across the Pacific, and his climactic discoveries and death. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about Captain Cook like never before.

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