



# A visit from Captain Cook



National  
Film Board  
of Canada

Office  
national du film  
du Canada



# A visit from Captain Cook

Produced by  
National Film Board of Canada  
Pacific Regional Production Center

16 mm 35 mm Color  
Screening Time:  
15 minutes 22 seconds

16 mm: 106C 0180 028  
35 mm: 105C 0180 028  
Videocassette: 116C 0180 028

Distributed by  
National Film Board of Canada

**Director and Editor:**

Colin Browne

**Photography:**

David Geddes, Jack Long,  
Robert Rodvik

**Graphic Animation:**

Svend-Erik Eriksen

**Sound Editor:**

John Knight

**Sound Re-recording:**

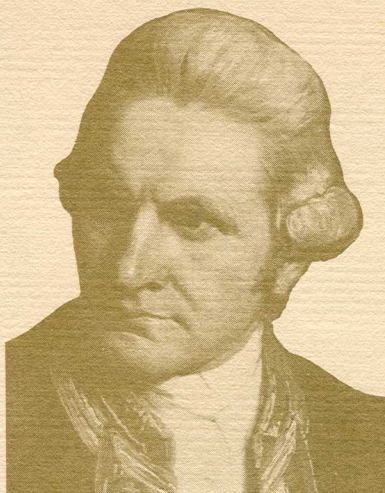
Barry P. Jones

**Producer:**

Peter Jones

**Executive Producer:**

John Taylor



## Synopsis

Much of the world in the 1700s was still unknown to Europeans. When Captain Cook took to the high seas, he not only drew meticulous charts and wrote detailed journals of his voyages, he did what few explorers thought of: he took artists with him to record firsthand the people and events in the faraway lands he visited.

The paintings from these trips are featured in the beautifully illustrated short film **A Visit from Captain Cook**, which re-enacts Cook's stopovers on the west coast of Vancouver Island during his search for a "Northwest Passage" to the Orient. There are pictures of

his first encounter with the natives of the Island, the Nootka Indians; the setting up of a campsite there; and the lucrative sea otter trade between whites and natives. There are also brief descriptions of voyages that took him into the South Pacific.

The pictures provide a wealth of information about Cook and his adventures. Certainly his maps and journals were instrumental in opening up the seas to those who followed. But the paintings are significant for their visual account of the native people and their mode of life. Had it not been for Cook's artists, this part of the world may have remained a mystery to Europeans for much longer.

Viewers of all ages will enjoy **A Visit from Captain Cook**, and teachers will find the film relevant to a variety of subject areas.

## Before screening

1. Ask the students to describe how they might produce a film about an explorer who lived in the 18th century. Where could you get information from? Have them produce storyboards of their ideas.
2. Discuss with the class what "exploration" means. Compare and contrast the experience of explorers in the past, present and future.



## Art

- role of artists in recording history (e.g., John Webber, Captain Cook's official artist)
- sketches, watercolors, engravings
- West Coast Indian art

## Geography

- latitude, longitude
- use of sextant, chronometer, quadrants
- maps and their history
- fishing, then and now

## Math

- distance
- nautical and land time-zones

## English

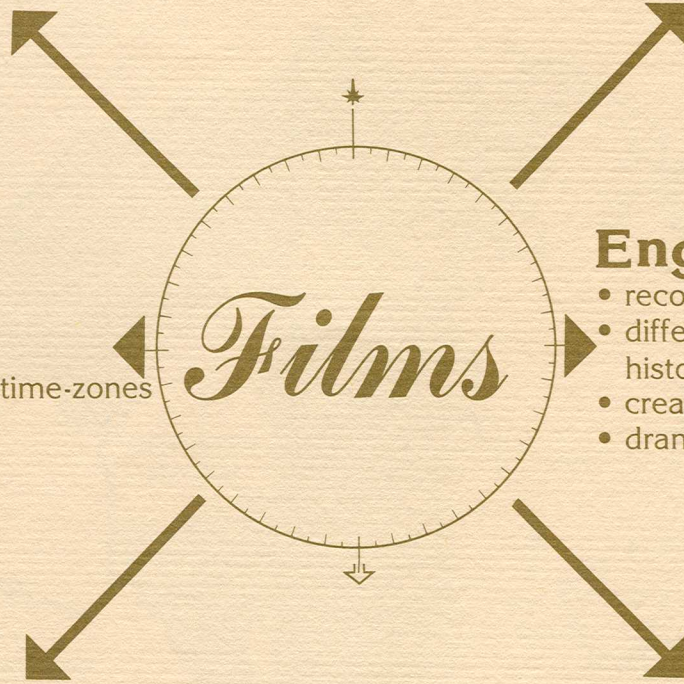
- record keeping, journals, logs
- different interpretations of history
- creative writing, poetry
- drama

## Science

- environmental issues, e.g., the hunting of sea otter
- early technologies; sextants, chronometers, sailing, etc.

## History

- impact of Europeans on native cultures
- study of West Coast Indian culture
- "Northwest Passage"
- transportation





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## After screening

1. Plan an activity where students role-play a meeting between Captain Cook and his party and a high-ranking Nootka Chief with his people. Remind them that spoken language would be a problem.
2. Discuss the work of the artist, Webber, in the film. Ask students to imagine they are artists from another planet. Have them sketch their impressions of the classroom. Suggest that it is important to include details which would inspire discussion on their return home.
3. Discuss the issues surrounding the hunting of sea otter. Set up the class for a debate between a group of people interested in selling furs for clothing and a group who are concerned about the extinction of certain fur-bearing animals.

### Related NFB Productions:

**Filmstrips and slides**  
**Captain Cook: A Scientific Adventure (1728-1779)**  
205C 0180 037C (sound filmstrip)

**History of Canada in Maps**  
525C 0379 005C  
— set of 50 slides and notes.

**Pacific Canada Series**  
525C 0379 004C — set of 80 slides and notes. Includes Captain Cook at Nootka.

**Indians of Canada**  
709C 0170 001C — Multi-media kit, slides, filmstrips, booklets, charts. Includes People of the North Pacific Coast.

**Captain Cook's Last Voyage (1776-1780)** 505C 0377 004C  
— set of 20 slides and booklet.  
Available from your library or from McIntyre Educational Media, 30 Kelfield St., Rexdale, Ontario M9W 5A2  
For ordering, call COLLECT: (416) 245-7800

### Films

**Salmon People**  
24 minutes 43 seconds  
106C 0177 016 Color

**What on Earth?**  
9 minutes 35 seconds  
106C 0166 033 Color

**Boomsville**  
10 minutes 12 seconds  
106C 0167 064 Color

**Paul Kane Goes West**  
14 minutes 28 seconds  
106C 0172 095 Color  
Available from your Media Center or from the NFB.

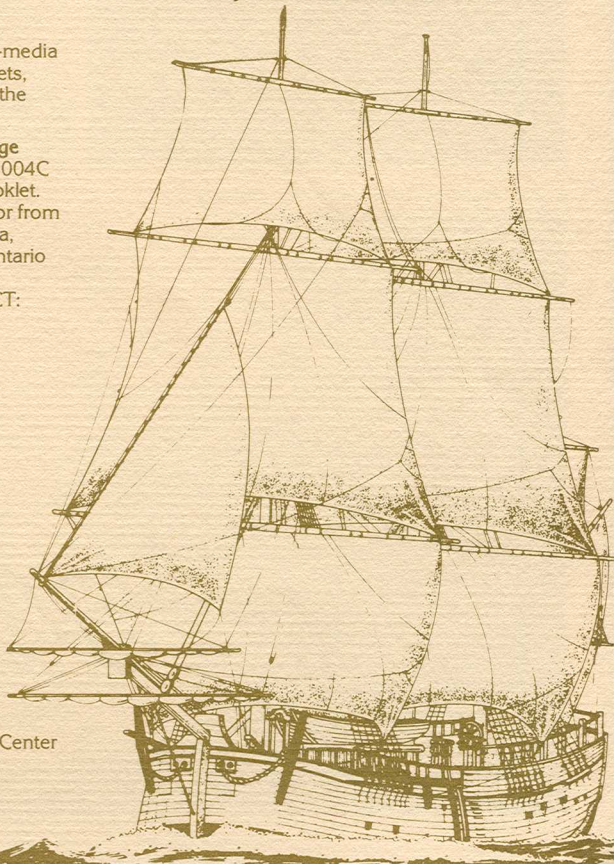
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## Bibliography

**Captain Cook and the Nootka.** Lyall Campbell, Editor, CommCept Publishing Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., 1978.

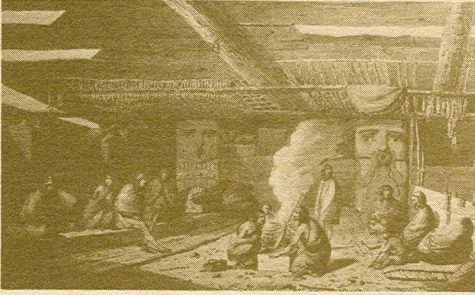
**Captain Cook.** Historical Characters Series. H. Bellis, McGraw-Hill Far Eastern Publishers (S) Ltd., Singapore, 1970.

**Master Mariner, Capt. James Cook and the Peoples of the Pacific.** Daniel Conner and Lorraine Miller, Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, B.C., 1978.



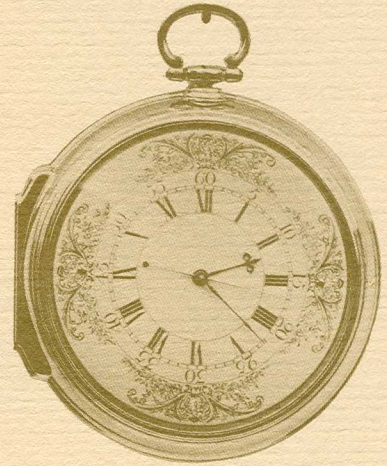


Inside a Nootka house.



Nootka man (with arrows).

Chronometer.



Cook's arrival at Vancouver Island (Nootka Sound).





# Cook's third voyage.

