

Endeavour's Reading Room

Interesting books
to read, enjoy,
study and discuss

You wouldn't want to travel with Captain Cook!

a voyage you'd rather not make

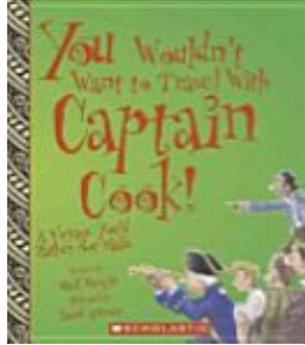


Image courtesy
Salariya book company

You wouldn't want to travel with Captain Cook! a voyage you'd rather not make

Mark Bergin (text)
David Antram (illustration)
Series creator David Salariya

Scholastic, 2006, 32 pp ISBN 9780531124468

It is not always easy to present historical facts in a way which makes children want to engage in the events of the past, but this and the other books in The Danger Zone Series do a good job of it! Seen through the eyes of a young midshipman, Isaac Smith, the reader learns about life on an 18th century tall ship, Captain James Cook's HMB *Endeavour*, warts and all: the discipline, the science, the rations and the deaths. Based on historical fact and presented in a matter-of-fact but condensed way it certainly provides a good motivational starting point from which students can conduct further research (hopefully they will be asking lots of questions!). The humorous, caricature-style illustrations, and the 'handy hint' in each chapter, enhance the light-hearted mood of the book, whilst still giving a good summary of many aspects of the voyage. It comes complete with a glossary and index, and some explanations of nautical terms.

Recommended for primary students, and anyone with a sense of fun who wants to make history live on!



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Other reviews :

http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/bergin_you.htm

Author / illustrator biographies (taken from the book) :

Mark Bergin studied at Eastbourne College of Art and has specialized in historical reconstructions, aviation, and maritime subjects for over twenty years. He lives in Bexhill-on-Sea with his wife and three children.

David Antram was born in Brighton, England, in 1958. He studied at Eastbourne College of Art and then worked in advertising for fifteen years before becoming a full time artist. He has illustrated many children's non-fiction books.

David Salariya was born in Dundee, Scotland. He has illustrated a wide range of books and has created and designed many new series for publishers both in the UK and overseas. In 1989 he established the Salariya Book Company. He lives in Brighton with his wife, illustrator Shirley Willis, and their son Jonathan.

Rationale / Introduction / Links to areas of study:

This information gives an overview of the book which could be used to

- foster discussion
- inspire detailed research
- stimulate creative writing and creative representations (eg drama, art)
- serve as a supplementary text
- present a new point of view
- spark debate

Depending on the desired perspective, the abilities and composition of the class, and the time available, teachers may choose to engage with one small part of the book, a separate section or perspective from the book, or the book as a whole. The following is intended to signpost the content as a guide only.

Links to areas of study in the current NSW syllabus include:

English, History and Visual Arts

There are similar links in the syllabi of other states, including SOSE in Queensland, S&E in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia, S&H in Tasmania

Chapter outlines :

Introduction – background and setting

Pressed into service! – how the crew was ‘found’

Cook’s Mission – Transit of Venus in Tahiti and secret orders afterwards

Cast off! – about the ship

Keeping a tight ship – discipline and jobs on board

Watch out – Officers! – who’s who and what they do

Accidents will happen ... - dangers on board

Rations: food and drink – staying healthy

Landfall! – ports of call

Tattoos and canoes – New Zealand

Great Barrier of Grief! – Terra Australis

Disease, done for and death! – The long journey home

Land ahoy! – England at last

Quotes for discussion:

“Other captains rule by the lash and are feared by all their crews. But Cook is respected for his even-handed approach to running the ship” (p.14)

With further research find some examples to support this statement.

“The friendly people of Tahiti (in 1769) don’t understand private property. They’ll take anything that’s left lying around!” (p.21)

What are some possible explanations for this?

Suggested activities:

Depending on your class and the time available, and what aspects of the book you are focussing on, you may wish to try one or more of the following :

- Debating on issues raised in the book, and European exploration and colonisation in general
- Creative writing exercises, including from different perspectives
- Discussing and creating artwork depicting actions and emotions
- Performing dramatic role plays and interpretations
- Researching particular issues raised in the book
- Interviewing members of local Indigenous communities

Technology :

Include one or more of the following components to satisfy requirements for the integration of technology into the unit :

- Make a book trailer or promotional flyer for an author talk
- Make a vodcast or podcast of an interview with other students about their opinions of the book
- Create a simple computer game or animation related to the story
- Word process various styles of writing
- Format text in a variety of styles
- Experiment with design and layout options
- Create PowerPoint presentations
- Evaluate a range of multimedia texts eg websites
- Conduct an online interactive session or email conversations with the author

Further references:

http://southseas.nla.gov.au/index_voyaging.html

www.captaincooksociety.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ligoJcwF9BY> an example of a book trailer, 1.16 minutes

Evaluation :

Assessment could be through a series of informal activities and observations, plus a formal assessment task which outlines the outcomes, task requirements, assessment criteria and marking guidelines. This may be a piece of creative writing, the presentation of some research, a response to a given question or a group activity.

We want to hear from you!

Let us know how the book and activities worked with your students.

Encourage your students to write and send in their own book reviews or comments to us.

We welcome any constructive feedback. Email education@anmm.gov.au