**FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH AUSTRALIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abel Tasman</td>
<td>First European exploration of east coast of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Phillip</td>
<td>First physical record of a European visit to Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willem de Vlamingh</td>
<td>First European to explore Rottnest Island and Swan River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cook</td>
<td>First Englishman to visit the Australian coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Australians</td>
<td>Sea cucumber (trepang) harvesting and trade with Aboriginal people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirk Hartog</td>
<td>First European landfall in Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Flinders</td>
<td>First European to sight Tasmania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macassans</td>
<td>Peopling of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willem Janszoon</td>
<td>First Fleet arrives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Dampier</td>
<td>First circumnavigation of Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YEAR**

- At least 52,000 years ago
- 1606
- 1616
- 1642
- 1688
- 1696
- About 1700
- 1770
- 1788
- 1801–03

**WEBSITE**

www.nma.gov.au/kspace
Abel Tasman
*Portrait of Abel Tasman, His Wife and Daughter* (detail) about 1637, attributed to Jacob Gerritsz Cuyp
National Library of Australia, an2282370

Arthur Philip
Captain Arthur Phillip, 1786, by Francis Wheatley.
Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, ML 124

Willem de Vlamingh
Statue of de Vlamingh.
Photograph by Moondyne, Wikimedia Commons

James Cook
Captain James Cook, RN.
Photograph by George Serras, National Museum of Australia

First Australians
Open hand stencil on cave ceiling.
Australian Rock Art, Griffith University

Dirk Hartog
*Ships off IJsselmonde*, 1618, by Aert Anthonisz.
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

Matthew Flinders
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

Macassans
Bark painting depicting Macassans boiling down trepang, 1964, by Mathaman Marika, Yirrkala.
© estate of the artist licensed by Aboriginal Artists Agency Ltd

Willem Janssen
Janssen’s ship, the *Duyfken*, in the Gulf of Carpentaria.
State Library of Queensland negative 113000

William Dampier
*William Dampier, 1697–1698*, by Thomas Murray.
National Portrait Gallery, London
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**People**

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2. Arthur Phillip  
3. Willem de Vlamingh  
4. James Cook  
5. First Australians  
6. Dirk Hartog  
7. Matthew Flinders  
8. Macassans  
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- **2** 1788  
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**Events**

1. First European to sight Tasmania  
2. First Fleet arrives  
3. First European to explore Rottnest Island and Swan River  
4. First European exploration of east coast of Australia  
5. Peopling of Australia  
6. First physical record of a European visit to Australia  
7. First circumnavigation of Australia  
8. Sea cucumber (trepang) harvesting and trade with Aboriginal people  
9. First European landfall in Australia

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**Background**

Kspace takes visitors to the Endeavour River in 1770, where Captain James Cook and his crew met the local Aboriginal people, the Guugu Yimidhirr. Initial conflict led to what is now recognised as one of the first acts of reconciliation between the two peoples.

Cook was the first European to map the east coast of Australia, but he did not ‘discover’ Australia as was once commonly thought.

**Instructions for teachers**

This exercise sheet encourages children to think about when different groups of people first came into contact with the Australian continent.

Students match the explorer or people to the year and event by writing the appropriate number in the circles provided.