



## History Detectives

Explore the history of taken Rapanui heritage

### *9. Captain James Cook's HMS Resolution expedition, 1774*

*Requirements: internet access; writing materials*

*Working style: individually, in pairs, as a class*

*Curriculum: Geography (islands; maps; exploration); History (world civilisations; British empire; research; source materials); English (oracy and literacy); Citizenship (thinking about cultural perspectives)*

*Time: 20 minutes*

*Captain James Cook led a famous British expedition in search of the Australian continent (Terra Australis) in the late C18th, and spent several days on Rapa Nui in March 1774. This was one of the first visits by foreign European explorers to the Island and they wrote down what they saw and did in 'log books', as well as drawing maps and sketchbooks, and collecting artefacts.*

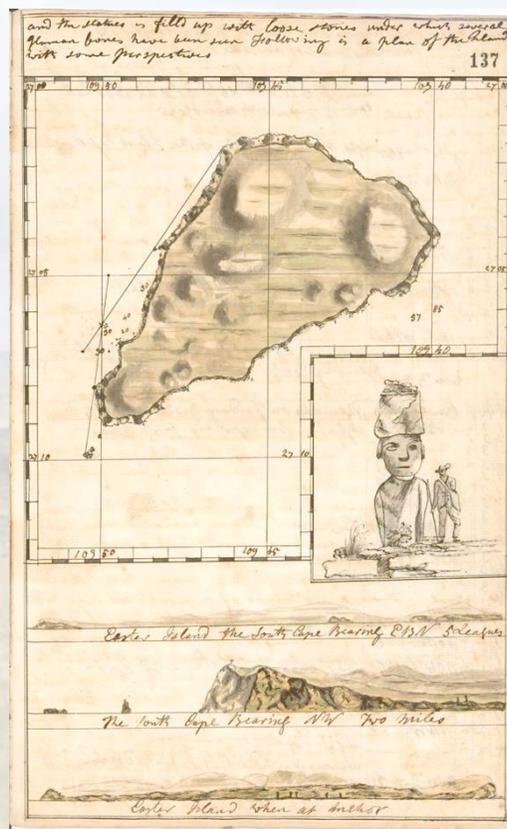
*In this activity, you will research some of the observations they made and reflect on their visit from a Rapanui point of view as well.*



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*Study these 4 pieces of evidence collected by crew of the HMS Resolution in 1774. Write down what you think they were interested in documenting during their visit?*



1. Log book written by J. Gilbert, 1774



2. Sketch by ship's surgeon & artist, John Linton Palmer, 1774



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3. **Artefact** collected during the voyage now at the British Museum, London

4. **Extract from the Log Book of Captain James Cook**  
*“I went ashore, accompanied by some of the gentlemen, to see what the island was likely to afford us. We landed at the sandy beach, where some hundreds of the natives were assembled, and who were so impatient to see us, that many of them swam off to meet the boats. Not one of them had so much as a stick or weapon of any sort in their hands. After distributing a few trinkets amongst them, we made signs for something to eat, on which they brought down a few potatoes, plantains, and sugar canes, and exchanged them for nails, looking-glasses, and pieces of cloth.”*

*Write a couple of sentences about how the local Rapanui people (who Cook called ‘natives’) might have felt about this visit by strange people to their home island.*