

Past Tense Exercise

Instructions → Fill in the blank with the correct tenses!

James Cook

1. The British explorer James Cook was born in the village of Marton, Yorkshire, on 27 October, 1728. But his family soon (move) _____ to another village, called Great Ayton, where Cook (spend) _____ most of his childhood.
2. As a teenager James Cook (develop) _____ a fascination for the sea and (travel) _____ to Whitby where he (find) _____ employment on a coal ship.
3. While he (serve) _____ in the Royal Navy during the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), Cook (have) _____ the command of a ship.
4. After the war (end) _____, Cook (take) _____ command of the vessel Grenville and (go) _____ to Newfoundland to survey the coasts there.
5. While he (map) _____ the coasts of Newfoundland, he (observe) _____ a solar eclipse off the North American coast.
6. Cook (send) _____ the details to the Royal Society, England's leading scientific organization, and (win) _____ their attention.
7. After Cook (publish) _____ his observations of the solar eclipse, the Royal Society (ask) _____ him to lead a scientific expedition to Tahiti and (put) _____ him in command of the HMS Endeavour.
8. From Tahiti Cook then (go on) _____ to explore the South Pacific.
9. He also (reach) New Zealand, which only the Dutchman Abel Tasman (visit) _____ before Cook.
10. After Cook (map) _____ New Zealand's complete coastline, he (sail) _____ to Australia's east coast.
11. Cook (name) _____ the area New South Wales as it (remind) _____ him of the south coast of Wales in Great Britain.
12. In 1772, one year after Cook (return) _____ from his first voyage to the Pacific, the Royal Society (hire) _____ him for another expedition to find the mythical Terra Australis.

13. On his journey, Cook (discover) _____ several islands and almost (go) _____ as far as the continent of Antarctica.
14. He (make) _____ maps of the South Pacific and (prove) _____ that Terra Australis (exist / not) _____.
15. His third and last voyage for the Royal Society (take) _____ him to the west coast of North America where he (try) _____ to find a passage between the Atlantic and Pacific.
16. He (not / can / pass) _____ the Bering Strait, however; the ice (force) _____ him to return to Hawaii, which he (discover) _____ earlier.
17. While he and his crew (rest) _____ in Hawaii, some Hawaiians (steal) _____ one of his boats.
18. When Cook and his men (try) _____ to get the boat back from the natives, a violent fight (break out) _____ in which the natives (stab) _____ James Cook to death.