

## Module 2: The History of Oceanography


### Topic 4 Content: Notable Voyages of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Notes

**Notable Voyages of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

**Introduction**

The 18<sup>th</sup> century was an exciting time for European ocean voyages! No longer content with just conquering or military campaigns, explorers sought answers to new scientific questions about their world. Widespread European colonization around the globe provided ports to resupply ships on even longer voyages than ever before.

**\* Click on each circular label to learn more!**



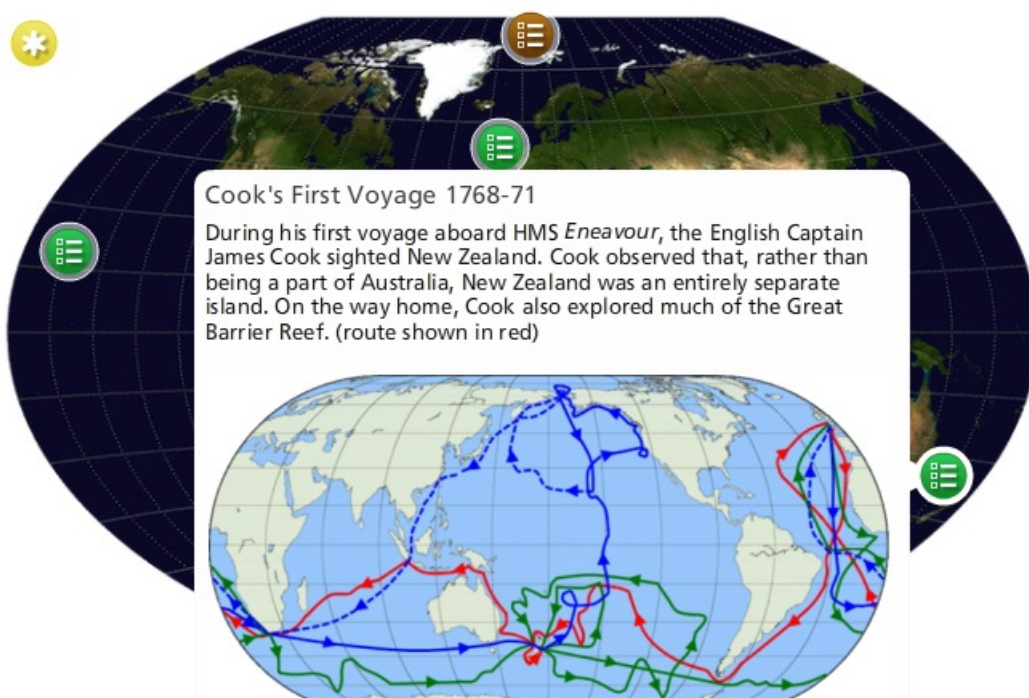
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#### Notable Voyages of the 18th and 19th Centuries



**Cook's First Voyage 1768-71**

During his first voyage aboard HMS *Eneavour*, the English Captain James Cook sighted New Zealand. Cook observed that, rather than being a part of Australia, New Zealand was an entirely separate island. On the way home, Cook also explored much of the Great Barrier Reef. (route shown in red)


Image Credit: Creative Commons

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#### Notable Voyages of the 18th and 19th Centuries



**Cook's Second Voyage 1772-75**

The newly promoted Commander James Cook embarked on his second voyage aboard HMS *Adventure* and HMS *Resolution*. Braving harsh winds and icebergs along the 60 degree south latitude line, Cook eventually rounded the Cape of Good Hope and went on to circumnavigate the globe. (route shown in green)




Image Credit: Creative Commons

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#### Notable Voyages of the 18th and 19th Centuries

**Cook's Third Voyage 1778-79**

Commander James Cook's most famous voyage aboard HMS *Resolution* took him into the Pacific Ocean, where he discovered many islands including the chain of Hawaiian Islands. He continued his travels north until he reached 70 degrees north latitude, where icebergs blocked his path forcing his return to Hawaii. Later, a band of locals killed Cook as he tried to recapture a stolen vessel. (route shown in blue)




Image Credit: Creative Commons

Commander James Cook's most famous voyage aboard HMS *Resolution* took him into the Pacific Ocean, where he discovered many islands including the chain of Hawaiian Islands. He continued his travels north until he reached 70 degrees north latitude, where icebergs blocked his path forcing his return to Hawaii. Later, a band of locals killed Cook as he tried to recapture a stolen vessel. (route shown in blue)

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**Notable Voyages of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Father of Physical Oceanography**

Commander Matthew Fontaine Maury was the Director of the United States Naval Depot of Charts and Measurements. In 1855, he published many scientific writings for sailors, and wrote a book entitled, *The Physical Geography of the Sea*. His book was the first devoted to the new science of oceanography. For his lifelong efforts, Maury earned many accolades and the nickname, "Father of Physical Oceanography."





Image Credit: U.S. Navy



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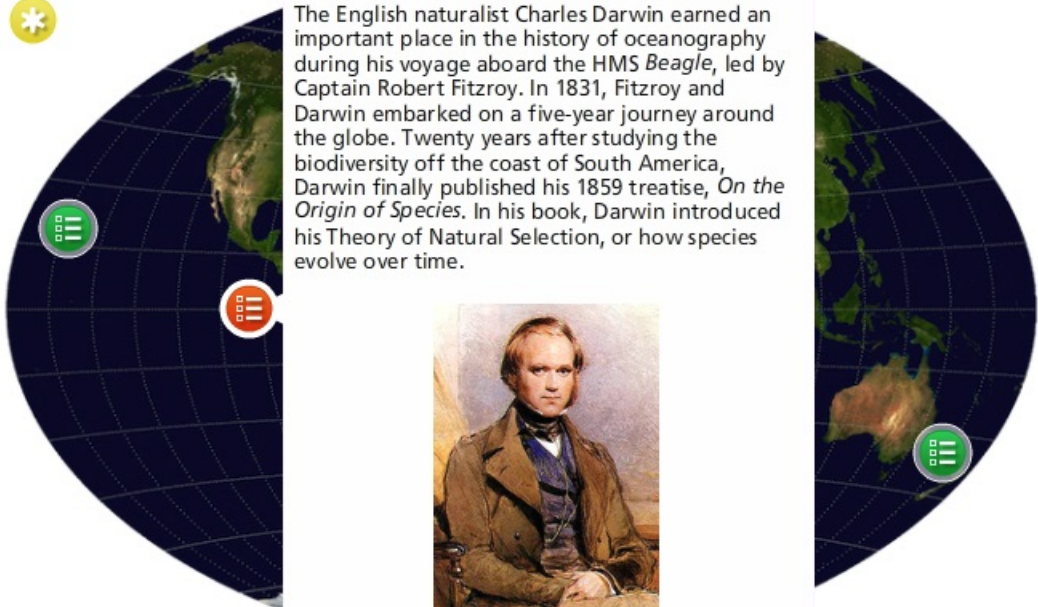

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#### Notable Voyages of the 18th and 19th Centuries

##### On the Origin of Species

The English naturalist Charles Darwin earned an important place in the history of oceanography during his voyage aboard the HMS *Beagle*, led by Captain Robert Fitzroy. In 1831, Fitzroy and Darwin embarked on a five-year journey around the globe. Twenty years after studying the biodiversity off the coast of South America, Darwin finally published his 1859 treatise, *On the Origin of Species*. In his book, Darwin introduced his Theory of Natural Selection, or how species evolve over time.




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**Notable Voyages of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**



**C. Wyville Thomson's 4-year Voyage**  
While aboard HMS *Challenger*, the Scottish naturalist Charles Wyville Thomson and six other scientists spent four years making thousands of oceanographic studies. Their research included 60 depth soundings, the capture and cataloging of 7,000 sea-life species, discovering 5,000 new species, and sketching the first sea bottom topographic map. When it was finally compiled, their work spanned fifty large volumes!




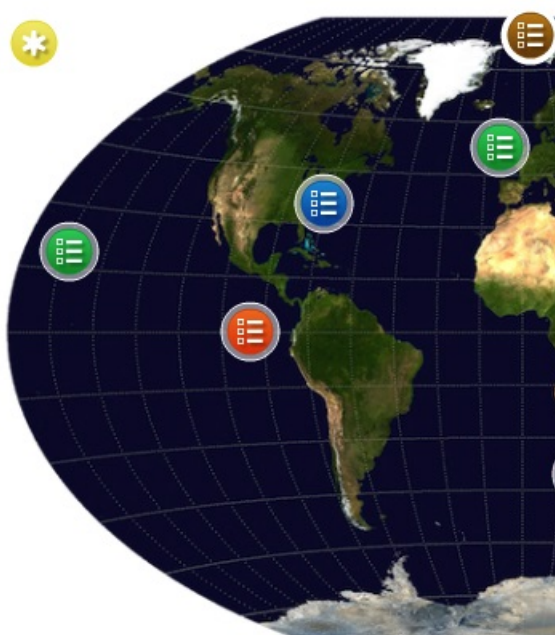
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**Notable Voyages of the 18th and 19th C**



**Fram Stuck in the Ice**

In 1893, the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen set out to reach the North Pole aboard his ship, *Fram*. Unfortunately, the ship got stuck in the ice only 250 miles from pole...for three years! Eventually Fridtjof and his colleague Frederick Johansen left the ship and attempted to reach the North Pole by dog sled. Again they failed, just four degrees away from their goal. Along the way, they gathered valuable data about Arctic sea ice, currents and water chemistry.




Image Credit: NOAA

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