

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 1

**Text Structure - Historical Recount
Title**

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK – A NEW ARRIVAL

**Orientation - provides background
information**

In 1769 King George III of England told Captain James Cook, an explorer, to go to Tahiti to measure the transit of Venus, one of the planets, but also to secretly look for the Great Southern Land. This was the name that the English gave to the land which they believed was on the other side of the world from England and Europe.

Record of events

After leaving Tahiti, Cook tried to find the Great Southern Land but at first he couldn't. Later, on the way back to England, he sailed west because he wanted to go to van Diemen's Land (now called Tasmania) but a gale blew his ship, Endeavour, north. His second-in-command, Lieutenant Hicks, was the first to see the Australian mainland on 19 April 1770.

After sailing up the South Australian coast for nine days, Cook and his crew needed fresh water so they anchored in a bay.

They saw two Aboriginal men who resisted their landing. The Aboriginal men shouted loudly and shook their spears. However, Cook took no notice and landed.

The Aboriginal men again threatened Cook who fired a musket and hit one of them. Then the Aboriginal men ran into the bush.

Reorientation

Cook then named the bay Stingray Harbour. Today this bay is called Botany Bay.

Language Features

Use of word families to build topic information, e.g. voyage, ship, sailing, anchored

Use of complex clauses to relate meanings causally, (reason/result) e.g. The Aboriginal men threatened them so Cook fired a musket and hit one of them.

Use of action verbs, e.g. fired, ran

Use of thematised main participants, (i.e. as the first element of the sentence because the identity of the human participants in the text are very important facts) e.g. the Aboriginal men or they, Cook or he

Use of technical terms, e.g. musket, anchored, transit

Use of conjunctions, of addition e.g. and, but also, reason/result e.g. so, and time, e.g. after

Use of noun groups to build up description, e.g. the Aboriginal men

Use of connectives to sequence events, e.g. then