

## Reading Comprehension / Bac Training

### **DOCUMENT 1 - Extract from Chapter 2 'Narrative of Captain Cook's first voyage round the world.'**

First published in 1788 by A. Kippis.

Source : <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/c/cook/james/c77n/contents.html>

*This extract relates one of the first encounters of James Cook's crew with native inhabitants on the coasts of what would become New Zealand.*

While, upon account of a dangerous surf\* which every where beat upon the shore, the boats were prevented from landing, our commander saw two canoes coming in from the sea, one under sail\*, and the other worked with paddles\*. This he thought to be a favourable opportunity for executing his purpose\*. Accordingly, the boats were disposed in such a manner as appeared most  
5 likely to be successful in intercepting the canoes.

Indians in the canoe which was paddled exerted themselves with so much vigour, at the first apprehension of danger, that they escaped to the nearest land. The other canoe sailed on without discerning the English boat, till she was in the midst of them; but no sooner had she  
10 noticed them, than the people on board struck their sail, and plied\* their paddles so briskly, as to outrun the boat by which they were pursued. Being within hearing, Tupia called to them to come alongside, with assurances that they should not in any degree be hurt or injured. They trusted, however, more to their own paddles than to Tupia's promises, and continued to flee from our navigators with all their power.

Mr. Cook ordered a musket to be fired over their heads. This, he hoped, would either make  
15 them surrender or leap into the water, but it produced a contrary effect. The Indians, who were seven in number, immediately formed a resolution not to flee, but to fight. When, therefore, the boat came up, they began to attack with their paddles, and with stones and other offensive weapons; and they carried it on with so much vigour and violence, that the English thought themselves obliged to fire upon them in their own defence; the consequence of which was, that four were  
20 unhappily killed. The other three, who were boys, the eldest about nineteen, and the youngest about eleven, instantly leaped into the water, and endeavoured to make their escape; but being with some difficulty overpowered by our people, they were brought into the boat.

Mr Cook later on confided to me : "These people certainly did not deserve death for not  
25 choosing to trust my promises, or not consenting to come on board my boat. But the nature of my service required me to obtain a knowledge of their country, which I could no otherwise get than by forcing my way into it in a hostile manner. I had already tried the power of presents without effect; and I was now prompted\*, by my desire to avoid further hostilities, to get some of them on board, as the only method left of convincing them, that we intended them no harm. Thus far my intentions certainly were not criminal. and though in the context our victory might have been complete without  
30 so great an expense\* of life; in such situations, when the command to fire has been given, no man can restrain its excess, or stop its effect."

- \* sail: voile
- \* surf: vague
- \* paddles: rame
- \* purpose: but
- \* plied: utilisaient
- \* prompted: encouragé
- \* expense: perte.

**DOCUMENT 2 - *The Death of Captain James Cook, 14 February 1779* by Johann Zoffany, 1795.**



**Step 1 – Key facts.**

Read the caption and reflect on the sources. **Take notes of:**

	Text	Painting
A. Who by?		
B. When?		
C. Who for?		

**Step 2 – Zoom in !**

1. **Highlight** in your text. Use different colours.
2. **Answer** each questions. **Reformulate** from the text.

A. What were **Cook's intentions**?

.....  
 .....

B. How did **the Indians** react?

.....  
 .....

C. Did they use the same **weapons**?

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 .....

D. What was the **result / outcome**?

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 .....

**Step 3 – Language**

**1. Find the corresponding nouns:**

- A. the midst of **them** (l. 8) .....
- B. but no sooner had **she** noticed them (l. 9.) .....
- C. in **their** own defence(l. 19) .....
- D. or stop **its** effect.(l. 32) .....

**Step 4 – Right or Wrong? Justify with a quote from the text.**

	RIGHT	WRONG
Captain Cook didn't chose the right disposition of canoes.	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
Paddled canoes are faster than sailing canoes.	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
Cook had expected them to fight.	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
Three boys were taken on board.	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....

**Step 4 – Points of view.**

Tick the correct column.

	Captain Cook's crew	The Indians
A. Who was ambushed?		
B. Who felt attacked?		
C. Who was taken prisoner?		
D. Who is telling the story?		

E. Does the narrator give a neutral or biased account of the event? Justify with examples from the text.

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F- Does the painter share the narrator's view? Justify with key visual details.

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**Step 5 – Focus on the last paragraph.**

1- How is the narrator related to Cook?

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.....  
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2- Does Cook sound hesitant, convincing, guilty? Justify with the text.

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**Final step – Written production**

**LV1 - B1 + B2**

**LV2 – B1 only.**

B1 – You're relating the death of James Cook. Adopt a neutral point of view and use the painting to relate the facts. Conclude on difficulties faced by explorers. 80 - 100 words

B2 – As an historian you reflect on colonization. Write an essay showing the pros and cons of colonization. 130 – 150 words.

