

Joseph Banks



Sir Joseph Banks:

Born on 13th February 1743,
His parents were William & Sara Banks,
His family lived in **RIBBLESDALE in YORKSHIRE**,
He went to **HARROW SCHOOL**,
Followed by **ETON COLLEGE**,
Interest in Botany,
His Dad died-Mum and Sister moved to **Chelsea**.

Joseph met someone named John Montague. Montague granted Joseph permission to sail on his vessel, HMS NIGER. Banks and Constantine Philips, later BARON MULGRAVE, planned a journey with Daniel Solander.

By the age of 23, Banks new a great deal of contacts and he had also been exposed to the dangers of being at sea. However, that did not stop him from joining James Cook (Captain Cook) on Cook's first voyage.

There were three main purposes of going:

1. To observe the transit of Venus.
2. To search for a southern continent.
3. To research flora and fauna.

They stopped at *RIO DE JANIEIRO*, unfortunately the residents did not like them (and thought they looked suspicious) and made them leave.

So, they sailed to *Tierra del Fuego*. Leaving there was hard as it had very rough seas. While the journey took place, Banks got scurvy and cured himself with lemon juice.

On the 4th April 1769, they arrived at Tahiti. Though, Banks had to communicate with hand gestures and mimes. Banks wrote more and more about them, including their surfing and tattoos.

From the 6th July 1769, they had to depart. For the next few months they sailed around near islands and discovered one of them. Later they found it was New Zealand.

On 30th March, Cook decided to head for new Holland (Australia).

After two years of sailing at sea, Cook decided to go home.

On his way to London, Banks had love problems. He was engaged to Miss Harriet Blosset; either one of them felt unable to go on. So, Banks had to pay £5,000 to her guardian. Soon after, Banks settled back to his old life in London.

Banks did not forget his Lincolnshire roots. As a kid, he would spend every holiday in Revesby. He loved exploring the fens. Bank often attended the Horncastle Horse fair.

In 1775 Banks built a town house in Horncastle. After he got married in 1779 Banks he visited Revesby every year until 1817 when he became too ill and frail.

On 19th June 1820, Banks died at spring grove (his house in Middlesex).