



[Home](#) > [Gallery](#) > [Case Study](#) > [Source](#)

[Search this exhibition](#)

[Print](#)

SOURCE THREE

[Transcript](#) | [Useful notes](#)

Extract from the log book of Captain Cook in 1770 describing what he saw in Australia
(PRO ref: ADM 55/40 f165)

.. Dog	Cotta or Mota
.. Monkey	Papere or Mier-pier
.. Boocaroo	Wanda
A Male Turtle	Poony or Poinga
.. Female	Warringo

From what I have said of the Natives of New Holland they may appear to some to be the most wretched People upon Earth but in reality they are far more happy than we Europeans, being wholly unacquainted not only with the Superfluous but the necessary Conveniences so much sought after in Europe they are happy in not knowing the use of them. They live in a tranquillity which is not disturbed by the inequality of Condition. The Earth & Sea of their own accord furnishes them with all things necessary for life.

How to use this source

Study this source carefully. Different parts of the source will contain clues about why the British became empire builders in Australia. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What information does Cook provide about the people living in Australia (New Holland)?
- How does Cook think they are different from Europeans?
- How would you describe Cook's attitude towards them?
- How reliable do you think this is as a source of information about these people?
- What does this source suggest about Cook's reasons for travelling to Australia?
- What clues does this source provide about why the British became empire builders in Australia?

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