

## **CO – Video transcript – New Zealand – Premières**

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The Dutch explorer Abel Tasman had been sent on an expedition by the Dutch East India Company to search for new indigenous peoples to trade with in the as-yet unexplored sector south and east of the partially discovered continent of New Holland, which would later be named Australia.

On his voyage, Tasman was the first European to see the Australian island of Tasmania, after which he was named, and continuing across the unchartered... Tasman... Sea, he sighted the west coast of South Island. During his journey north up the coast, his fleet was attacked by Maoris who paddled out on their waka canoes, and four of his crew were clubbed to death.

Perhaps it was this violent encounter which dissuaded further efforts to seek trade with the Maoris, as another century or more would pass before the islands were explored further, this time by the English Captain James Cook...

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