



1827

### Captain Cook's Monument

If you live in North Yorkshire you have probably seen Captain Cook's Monument, which stands on Easby Moor, near Great Ayton. It was erected in 1827. Robert Campion, a Whitby businessman and Lord of the Manor of Easby, had tried to raise funds to pay for the monument but was unsuccessful, so he paid for the monument himself.



The monument was built in memory of Captain James Cook (1728-1779). Captain Cook was an explorer, navigator, cartographer and Captain of the Royal Navy. He was born and brought up in North Yorkshire. His birthplace was Marton, about 6 miles from the monument. James Cook lived at Great Ayton as a child, moving to Staithes as a grocer's apprentice and then to Whitby as a Merchant Navy Apprentice. Later on he became a Captain with the Royal Navy and explored the world. He was killed at at Kealakekua Bay in Hawaii.

It was intended that the monument would be 3.6 metres square at the base and 12 metres high. Building started on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1827, which was Campion's birthday, and completed on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1827, which was Captain Cook's birthday. When it was completed it actually measured 15.5 metres high. On the monument was an inscription saying that it had been erected as a token of respect for Captain Cook, who was admired for the work he had done. Both at the start and end of the build there were celebrations by Campion, his family, workers, and Captain Cook's nephew Mr. Fleck, who would also become a Master Mariner.

The monument originally had a doorway and no railings around it. Over the following years it fell into disrepair, which resulted in it needing to be restored in 1895. This time the doorway was covered, a lightning conductor was added and railings were put around it.

Over the years the lightning conductor corroded and in 1960 the monument was split virtually from top to bottom by a lightning strike. It was restored once again and today it looks much as it did in 1895.



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Where does Captain Cook's Monument stand?

**Easby Moor in North Yorkshire**

2. When was it first erected?

**1827**

3. Who paid for it?

**Robert Campion**

4. What was he Lord of?

**Lord of the Manor of Easby**

5. What were the jobs that Captain Cook did?

**Explorer, navigator, cartographer and Captain of the Royal Navy.**

6. Where was Captain Cook killed and how old was he when he died?

a. **Kealakekua Bay in Hawaii.**

b. **51**

7. How long did it take to build the monument originally?

**3 months**

8. Why was the monument erected?

**As a token of respect for Captain Cook for the work he had done.**

9. Why did the monument need to be restored in 1895 and how was it restored?

**It fell into disrepair and it was restored by covering the doorway, putting railings round it and adding a lightening conductor.**

10. What happened to the monument in 1960?

**It was struck by lightning, which split it from top to bottom.**

11. What is the purpose of a lightening conductor?

**The lightning is attracted to the conductor and is conducted to the ground rather than the structure it is protecting.**

12. Why do you think Robert Campion admired Captain Cook so much?

**Group discussion on exploration, mapping the seas etc. Further research where needed.**

**Find out more:**

- Roseberry Topping and Captain Cook's Monument Walking Trail, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/roseberry-topping/trails/roseberry-topping-and-captain-cooks-monument>
- Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, Stewart Park, Marton-in-Cleveland, Middlesbrough TS7 8AT, <http://www.captcook-ne.co.uk/ccbm/>
- Captain Cook Memorial Museum, Grape Lane, Whitby YO22 4BA, <http://www.cookmuseumwhitby.co.uk>
- Captain Cook Schoolroom Museum, 101 High Street, Great Ayton, Middlesbrough TS9 6NB, <http://www.captaincookschoollroommuseum.co.uk>
- Captain Cook & Staithes Heritage Centre, High Street, Staithes, Saltburn-by-the-Sea TS13 5BQ
- Captain James Cook collection at the Whitby Museum, Pannett Park, Whitby YO21 3AG, <https://whitbymuseum.org.uk/>