



Joseph Banks

Date made
1788

Object ref.
PAH5497

Credit
National Maritime Museum

Description

This full-length portrait depicts Joseph Banks. Banks was a naturalist who travelled the world studying plants, animals and people of places like Tahiti and Australia. In this portrait the long cape he is wearing is a Maori flax coat from New Zealand. Objects from New Zealand and Polynesia, which he explored with Captain Cook, surround him.

Questions

1. What is Joseph Banks wearing in this portrait?
2. Describe some of the objects around him.
3. Why do you think he is surrounded by such unusual objects?