



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



'KONGOUROO' AND DINGO

Date made

1772

Object ref.

ZBA5754, ZBA5755

Credit

National Maritime
Museum, Greenwich,
London

Artist / maker

George Stubbs

Description

These kangaroo and dingo paintings were commissioned by Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820) following his voyage with Captain James Cook's first expedition to the Pacific (1768–71). This was the first British voyage solely for scientific discovery. These are the earliest painted representations of a kangaroo and a dingo in Western art. Stubbs never saw either of them but painted them from preserved skins and descriptions. Cook's ships carried astronomers, artists, and natural scientists, as well as sailors, who collected, sketched, painted, measured and recorded what they saw. All three of Cook's voyages produced very important scientific

results. However, it was the dramatic discoveries of new lands, species and peoples from the first voyage that caught the imagination of both the public and scientists in Britain and Europe. For the late 18th century, Australia was a distant, unknown world, and Stubbs's 'Kongouroo' and 'Dingo' represented exotic and marvellous new species.

Questions

How is this picture different to a photograph of a kangaroo?

What expression does 'Kangouroo' have?



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

