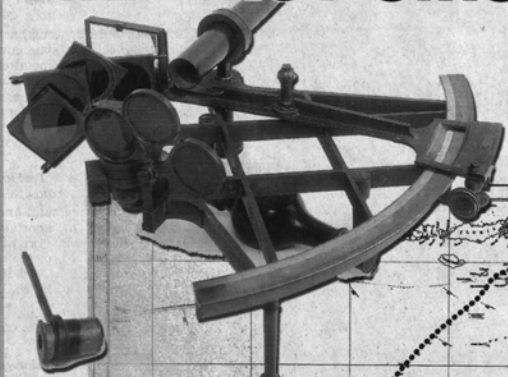


THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION

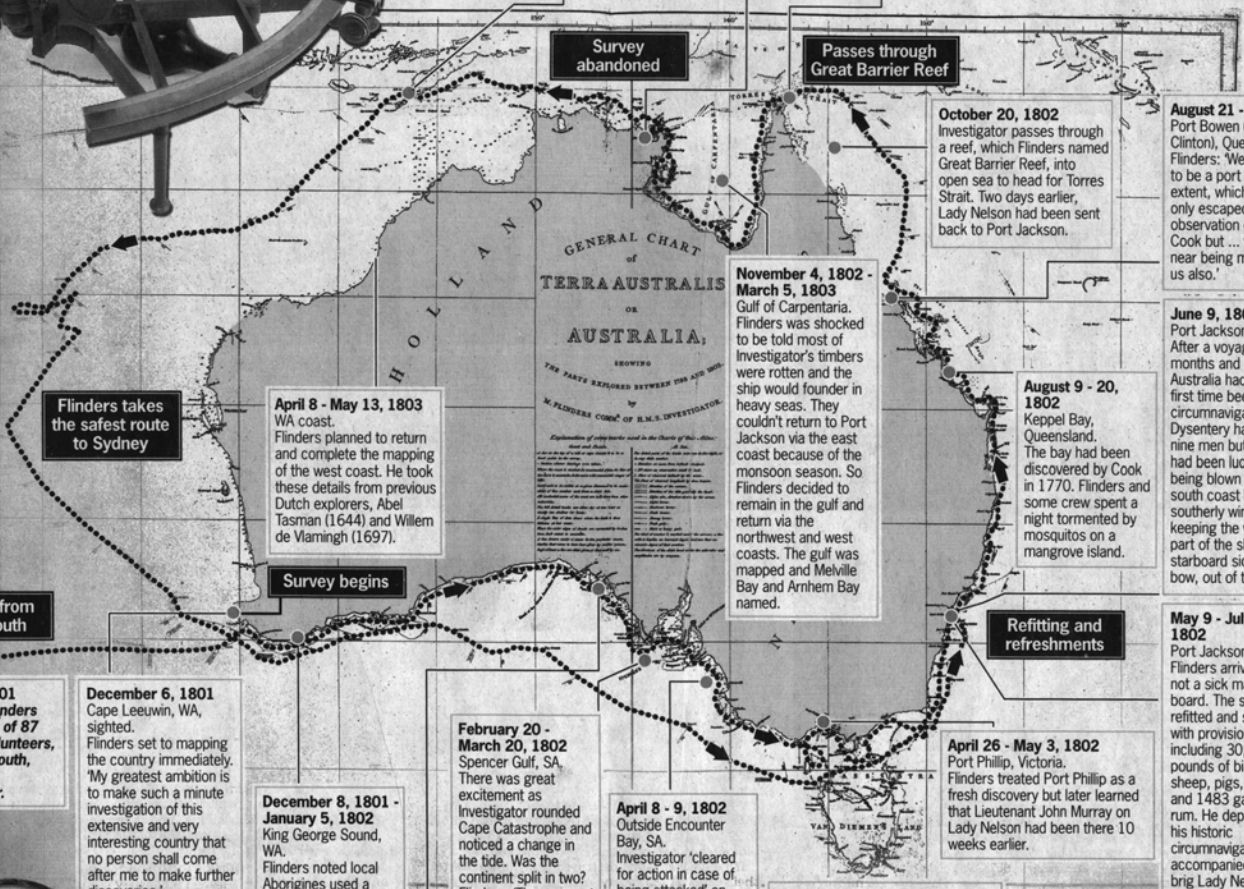
INSIDE REVIEW
GLOSSY
FIRST MAP OF
AUSTRALIA



March 21 - April 8, 1803
 Kupang, Timor.
 Flinders had missed a ship bound for England by 10 days. Investigator was restocked and set sail around the northwest coast of Australia.

March 6, 1803
 Flinders sailed for Timor, planning to send a lieutenant in a ship to Europe to bring back a ship fit for the task. They would meet up in Port Jackson.

October 29 - November 2, 1802
 Torres Strait.
 Investigator passed reasonably quickly through the strait.



October 20, 1802
 Investigator passes through a reef, which Flinders named Great Barrier Reef, into open sea to head for Torres Strait. Two days earlier, Lady Nelson had been sent back to Port Jackson.

August 21 - 24, 1802
 Port Bowen (now Port Clinton), Queensland.
 Flinders: 'We found this to be a port of some extent, which had not only escaped the observation of Captain Cook but ... was very near being missed by us also.'

November 4, 1802 - March 5, 1803
 Gulf of Carpentaria.
 Flinders was shocked to be told most of Investigator's timbers were rotten and the ship would founder in heavy seas. They couldn't return to Port Jackson via the east coast because of the monsoon season. So Flinders decided to remain in the gulf and return via the northwest and west coasts. The gulf was mapped and Melville Bay and Arnhem Bay named.

August 9 - 20, 1802
 Keppel Bay, Queensland.
 The bay had been discovered by Cook in 1770. Flinders and some crew spent a night tormented by mosquitoes on a mangrove island.

June 9, 1803
 Port Jackson.
 After a voyage of 10 months and 19 days, Australia had for the first time been circumnavigated. Dysentery had killed nine men but the ship had been lucky in being blown along the south coast by southerly winds, keeping the weakest part of the ship, the starboard side of the bow, out of the water.

En route from Portsmouth

July 18, 1801
 Matthew Flinders with a crew of 87 men, all volunteers, left Portsmouth, England, in Investigator.

December 6, 1801
 Cape Leeuwin, WA, sighted.
 Flinders set to mapping the country immediately. 'My greatest ambition is to make such a minute investigation of this extensive and very interesting country that no person shall come after me to make further discoveries.'

December 8, 1801 - January 5, 1802
 King George Sound, WA.
 Flinders noted local Aborigines used a word for calling into the distance: 'cau-way'.

February 20 - March 20, 1802
 Spencer Gulf, SA.
 There was great excitement as Investigator rounded Cape Catastrophe and noticed a change in the tide. Was the continent split in two? Flinders: 'The prospect of making an interesting discovery seemed to have infused new life and vigour into every man in the ship.'

April 8 - 9, 1802
 Outside Encounter Bay, SA.
 Investigator 'cleared for action in case of being attacked' on spotting another ship. It turned out to be the friendly Le Geographe under command of Nicolas Baudin with scurvy-stricken crew.

April 26 - May 3, 1802
 Port Phillip, Victoria.
 Flinders treated Port Phillip as a fresh discovery but later learned that Lieutenant John Murray on Lady Nelson had been there 10 weeks earlier.

Refitting and refreshments

May 9 - July 22, 1802
 Port Jackson, NSW.
 Flinders arrived with not a sick man on board. The ship was refitted and stocked with provisions including 30,000 pounds of biscuit, sheep, pigs, geese and 1483 gallons of rum. He departed on his historic circumnavigation accompanied by the brig Lady Nelson.



Matthew Flinders

