

from Lake Okeechobee, which is fed by the Kissimmee River, to Florida Bay in the Gulf of Mexico. Originally, the Everglades ecosystem was a wide, slow-moving river of marsh and sawgrass covering over 7200 km².

Indigenous people have lived in the Everglades since 10,000 BC. and called it Pahayokee (the 'grassy waters'); English settlers named it 'Everglades', since it stretched as far as one could see.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman formally dedicated Everglades **National Park** in a ceremony held at Everglades City. The Everglades NP has over 518,600 ha and over 1 million visitors per year. It was also designated as a **World Heritage Site** in 1979.

Currently, 50% of South Florida's original **wetlands** no longer exist. The populations of native **waders** – such as egrets, herons and ibises – have declined by 93%. Other animal populations, including the **manatee**, the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, the Miami blackheaded snake, the wood stork and the Florida panther, are endangered. Human development introduced exotic pest plants including melaleuca, Brazilian pepper and Australian pine, which have invaded natural areas, choking out native plants and altering habitats. The loss of habitat has resulted in massive die-offs of **seagrass** beds in Florida Bay, followed by extensive losses of wading birds, fish, shrimp, sponges and **mangroves**. Residential and agricultural run-off has polluted the lakes, rivers and **estuaries** within the Everglades ecosystem.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton announced the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which is the largest environmental project in American history.

Charles Hammersley

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Under international maritime law, an Exclusive Economic Zone is an area of sea extending out from its coastal waters over which a state has special rights regarding the use of natural **resources**, including exploration rights. Under the provisions of modern international maritime law that have been codified within the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** of 10 December 1982, countries are able to adopt exclusive economic zones or fisheries zones (EFZ) of up to 200

nautical miles (370 km) from their coastline, except where resulting points would be closer to another state. Technically, the EEZ does not include a state's territorial waters, therefore the EEZ's inner boundary is determined by the borders of such territorial waters which, under maritime law, are usually 12 nautical miles from the coast. Part V, Article 55 of the UNCLOS states: 'The Exclusive Economic Zone is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime established in this Part, under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal State and the rights and freedoms of other States are governed by the relevant provisions of this Convention'.

The EEZ was introduced in an effort to prevent state conflict over the exploitation of marine resources, particularly fish stocks, but also, with regard to increasing improvements in technology, oil, gas and other mineral resources. However, increased competition for scarce natural resources, internationalization of environmental issues, disputes over interpretation of international maritime resource law and non-ratification or recognition of UNCLOS means that conflict over EEZs continues.

Related internet sources

United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los>

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Excursion: see **Land-based Excursion**

Exploitation of Workers: see **Recruiting Agent**

Explorers

Columbus, Christopher

The place and date of birth of Columbus is still a matter of conjecture, but he might have been born in Genoa, Italy, around 1451 and died at Valladolid, Spain, on 20 May 1506. Most of Columbus's life prior to acquiring fame is shrouded in mystery, many times by Columbus himself. We do know when he started **sailing** – probably in his teens – and his voyages ranged from **Iceland** to the western coasts of Africa. He was probably mostly self-educated, reading as much as he could on **cosmography** and travels, including those of **Marco Polo**.

He probably developed early on the idea of sailing to the Far East by going westward. He tried to gain support for that endeavour first in Portugal, but to no avail. He then moved to Spain and, after several years of seeking support, he secured it from the Spanish monarchs. He made four voyages to the American continent. On the first journey (1492–1493) he visited what is known today as the **Bahamas**, Cuba and **Hispaniola**. On his second voyage (1493–1496) he visited Dominica, Marie Galante, Jamaica, Cuba and Hispaniola. On his third voyage (1498–1500) he visited Trinidad, the northern coasts of South America and Hispaniola.

Columbus was unquestionably a man of genius. He was a bold, skilful navigator, better acquainted with the principles of cosmography and astronomy than the average skipper of his time, a man of original ideas, fertile in his plans and persistent in carrying them to execution. The impression he made on those with whom he came in contact, even in the days of his poverty, such as Fray Juan Perez, the treasurer Luis de Santangel, the Duke of Medina Sidonia and Queen Isabella herself, shows that he had great powers of persuasion and was possessed of personal magnetism. His success in overcoming the obstacles to his expeditions and surmounting the difficulties of his voyages exhibit him as a man of unusual resources and of unflinching determination.

Aldemaro Romero
Shelly Kannada

Cook, James

James Cook was born in the village of Marton (Yorkshire, UK) on 27 October 1728. In the Royal Navy he rapidly ascended the ranks and within 2 years was the master of the *Pembroke*, in which he charted the waters of the St Lawrence River in Canada. Following this, Cook commanded three voyages of discovery to the **Pacific Ocean** in the 1760s and 1770s. In 1768, Cook led a scientific expedition to Tahiti to observe the Transit of Venus. He also sought to discover a southern continent, which geographers believed must give the world balance. Cook made landfalls in Aotearoa (New Zealand), where he charted the entire New Zealand coastline with stunning accuracy.

With a Tahitian interpreter Cook was also able to achieve great insights into the lifeways of the indigenous Maori. On Cook's second journey he sailed further south than any other European at that point in time. He circled **Antarctica**, but ice conditions prevented the sighting of land. The existence of Antarctica remained unproved until 1840.

On 14 February 1779 Cook was stabbed to death by Hawaiian natives. Cook was described by his patron Sir Hugh Palliser as: 'the ablest and most renowned navigator that this or any country has ever produced'. Cook was the first European to discover the east coasts of Australia, **Hawaii** and South Georgia, the first to cross the Antarctic circle and the first to complete the circumnavigation and mapping of New Zealand. Cook also succeeded where none had previously in countering scurvy (caused by a lack of vitamin C) on long sea journeys by including fresh fruits in the diets of sailors.

A statue in memory of Captain James Cook may be found in Victoria, BC, Canada (see Fig. E7).



Fig. E7. Statue commemorating Captain James Cook in Victoria, Vancouver Island, Canada (photograph courtesy of M. Lück).