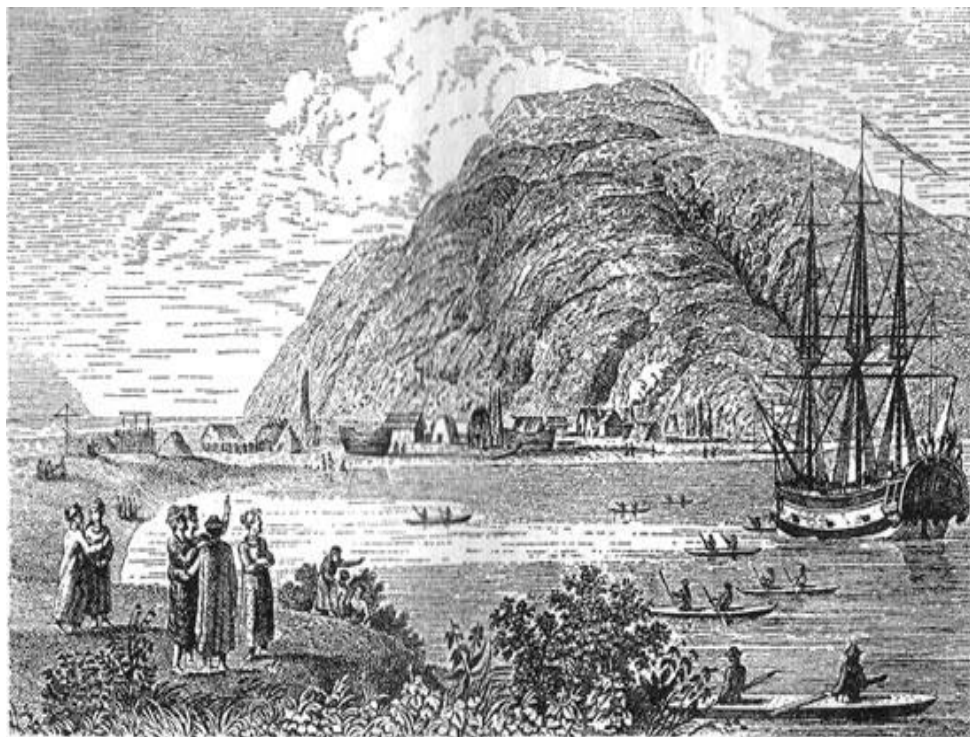


# Vitus Bering and the Idea of History



## Quick Review

- Why did they explore?
- Who were the Explorers?
- What made world wide exploration possible?



Replica of the HMS Bark Endeavor, one of the ships Cook sailed around the world, under full sail. The replica completed its own circumnavigation of the world in 1996.

# Mercantilism

- Information
- What is Mercantilism?
- Mercantilism is an economic theory that defines the wealth and prosperity of a nation by the combination of the resources that nation has available.
- Mercantilism is a very nationalistic based idea; every resource that can be gathered and every product that can be produced adds to the wealth of the Mother Country, the homeland.
- Citizens were expected to work for the good of their country because the higher the country's position in the world the more it supposedly benefited all citizens.



# Competition;

How did nations compete against one another???

- Then

- Now

# Competition

- Knowledge
- Why did nations compete against one another?
- Potential resources drove much of the exploration in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Empty pieces of the world's map were places of myth and wonder that caught the imagination of sailors and kings alike.



A circa 1720 map. *Totius Americae Septentrionalis et Meridionalis Novissima Repraesentatio...*, by Homann, Nuremberg



**Colonialism: Americas.** This map shows European colonies in the Americas around 1763. At that time, European colonies covered extensive areas in North, Central, and South America. France, Portugal, Spain, and Britain controlled the greatest amount of territory. The main era of colonization in America ended in the late 1820's, following a series of armed rebellions.

<http://history.howstuffworks.com/north-american-history/history-of-north-america4.htm>

# Russia Expands

- From the 1500 to the 1700s Russian fur hunters moved further and further east.
- The Russian government encouraged this expansion because it increased their tax revenue and their territorial holdings.
- To help encourage further expansion Russian Tsars sent out expeditions that consisted of limited government agents working with fur traders familiar with the areas and costs were kept low because officials were able to collect furs as part of their salary.



Fur market in Irbit , February, 1903. After centuries the fur trade in Siberia was still a thriving enterprise

# “Soft Gold”



2011 Sable Coat

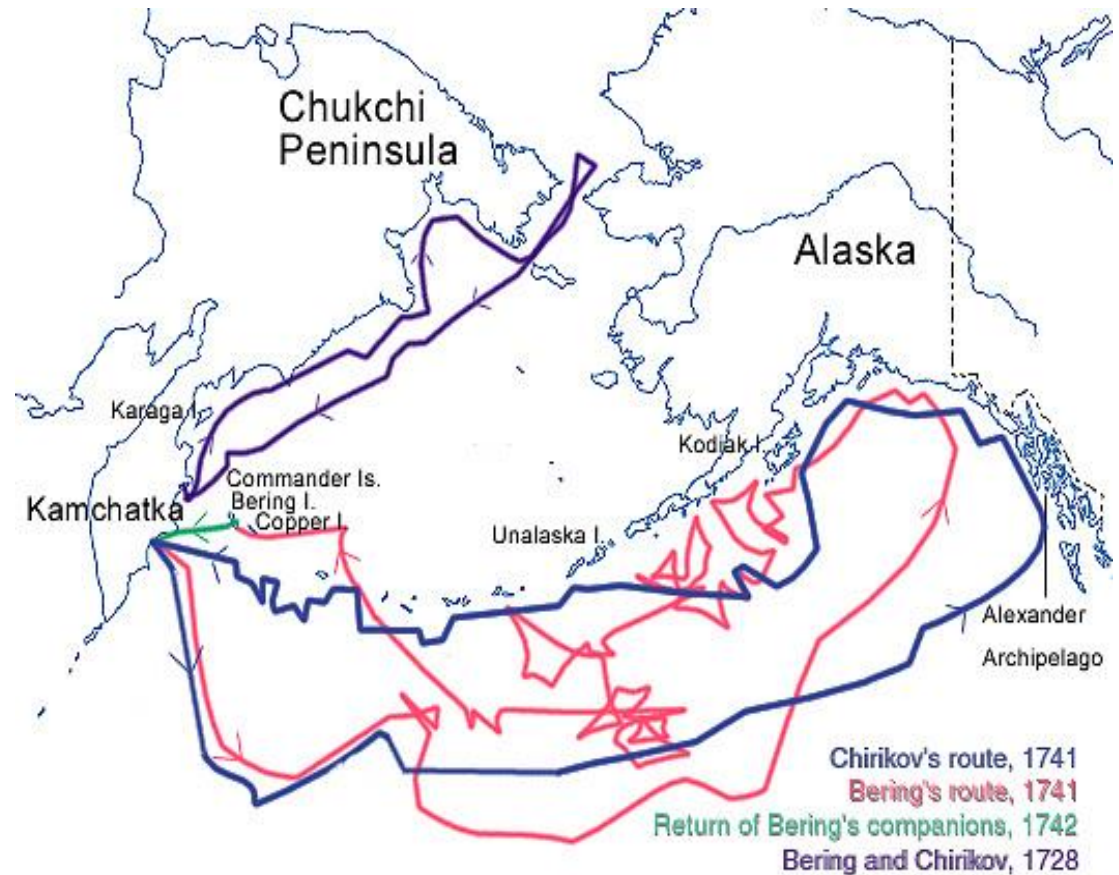


Siberian Sable, one of the main furbearing animals that Russian traders sought and continues to be one of the world's most valuable furs, <http://www.ecotravel.ru/eng/news/1062/>



# Kamchatka Expeditions

- Information
- 1<sup>st</sup> Kamchatka Expeditions; 1725-1730, crossed Siberia and sailed north through the Bering Sea.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kamchatka Expedition; 1733-1742, again crossed Siberia and sailed east the coast of America was sighted



NORTHERN OCEAN

PART OF EURASIA

KINGDOM OF SIBERIA

EMPIRE

DEGEMAR LAND

BLACK SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

INDEPENDENT TARTARY

CHINESE TARTARY

SEA OF KOREA

AFRICA

MOGUL EMPIRE

INDIA

BENGAL

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

LUCON OF MANILLA

BORNEO

MOLU

SUNDA ISLANDS

NEW GUINEA

NEW BRITAIN

THE INDIAN

OR

EASTERN OCEAN



Equinoctial Line



A New Accurate Map of ASIA

Drawn from Actual Surveys, and other recent Discoveries

Assembled by the most approved Modern Maps & Charts

The whole being corrected by a Survey of the Coast By James Bruce

By James Bruce

## Knowledge

Why was Bering sent to eastern Siberia?

There were a number of unanswered geographic questions Bering was asked to answer.

An Eastern Siberia port was seen to be a means to conduct trade with China and Japan.

Just how close was America to Russia?

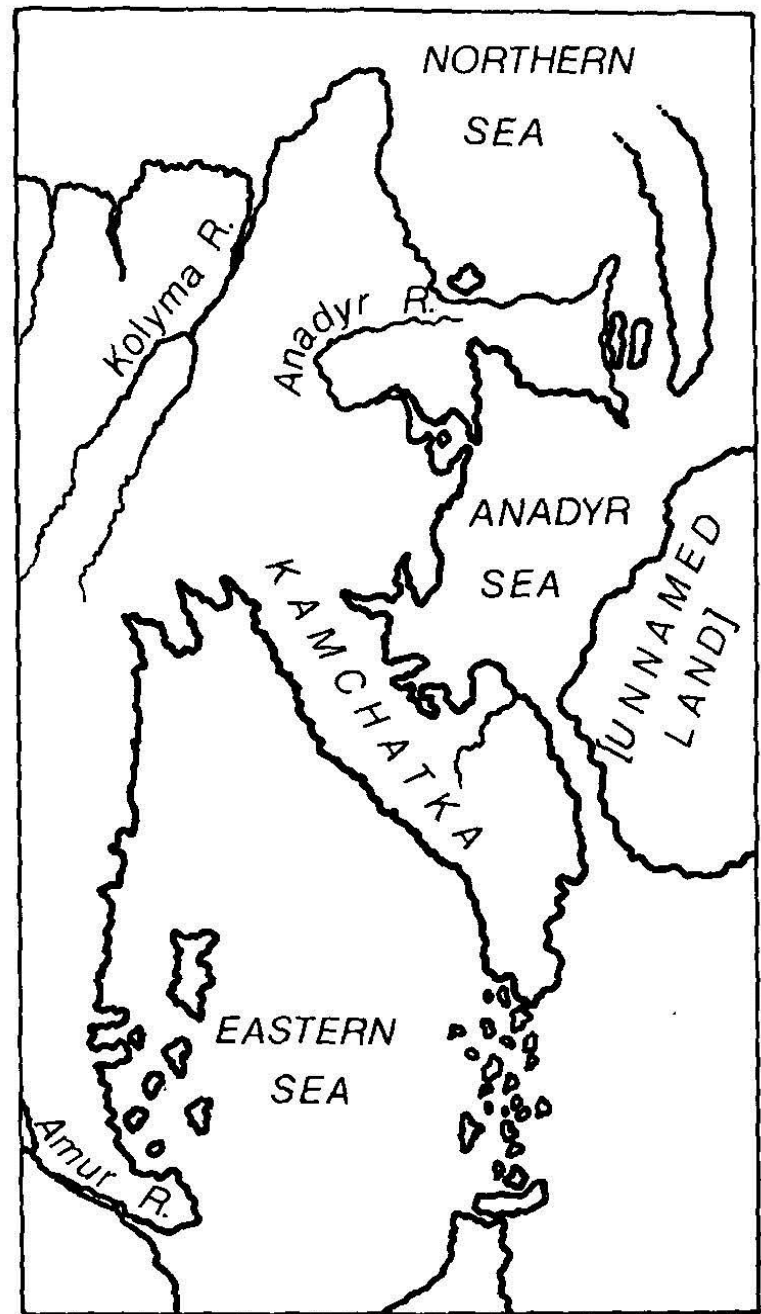


Fig. 25. Homann's Map of Kamchatka, 1725, from *Atlas*, no. 58; Efimov 1950, p. 112; 1971, p. 171; Varep 1959, p. 291

# Who Was Vitus Bering?

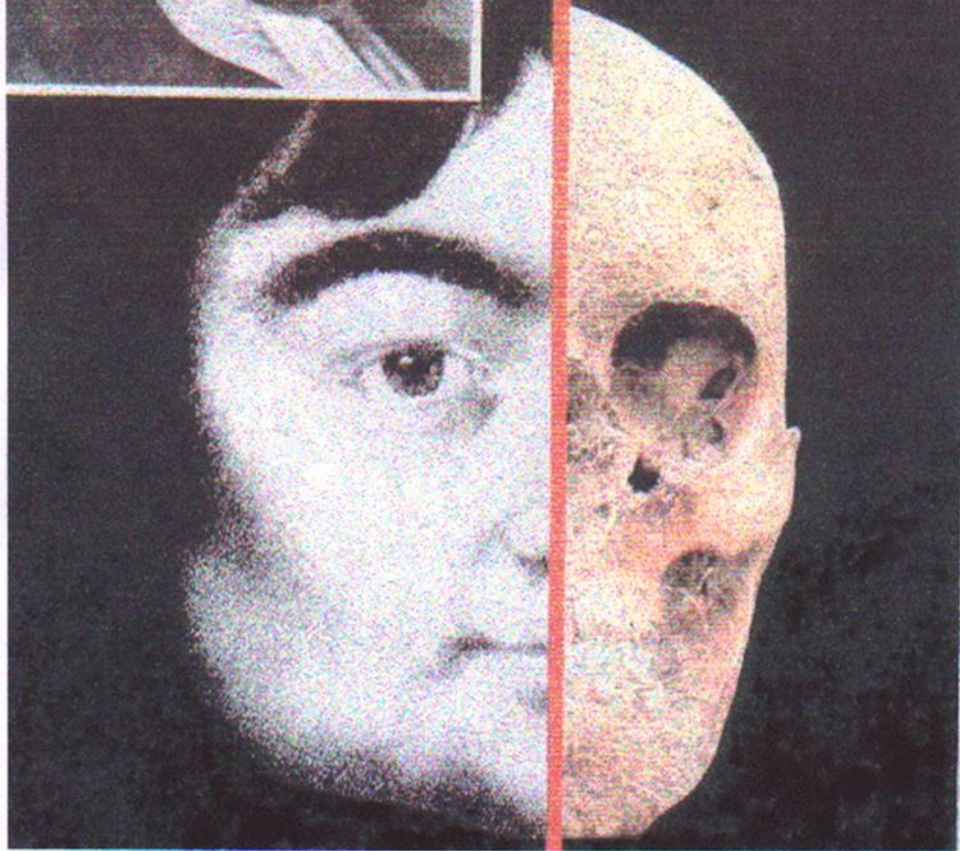
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kamchatka expedition literally placed Alaska on the map.
- Bering's decisions dictated the scope and physical direction of Russian adventures and settlement in Alaska.
- What type of man was Vitus Bering?
- What can we tell about him from his picture?







Долгое время этот портрет придворного датского поэта и историографа Витуса Беринга считался портретом великого мореплавателя.





Dr. Viktor Zviagin, an expert in facial reconstruction at the Russian Center of Forensic Expertise, in his Moscow lab, at the end of 1991.



Dr. Viktor Zviagin presents the state of Alaska with a bust of Danish explorer Vitus Bering on August 22, 2010. The bust will be placed on display at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau.

# The Real Vitus Bering

- 5'8" 160 to 170lbs, broad shouldered and lean.
- Overcame a bout of scurvy while on the second voyage, his eventual cause of death is believed to have been related to a genetic heart issue.
- He was in his 60s during the last voyage.
- Is this the type of man that sailors would have followed and trusted on a potentially perilous sea voyage?

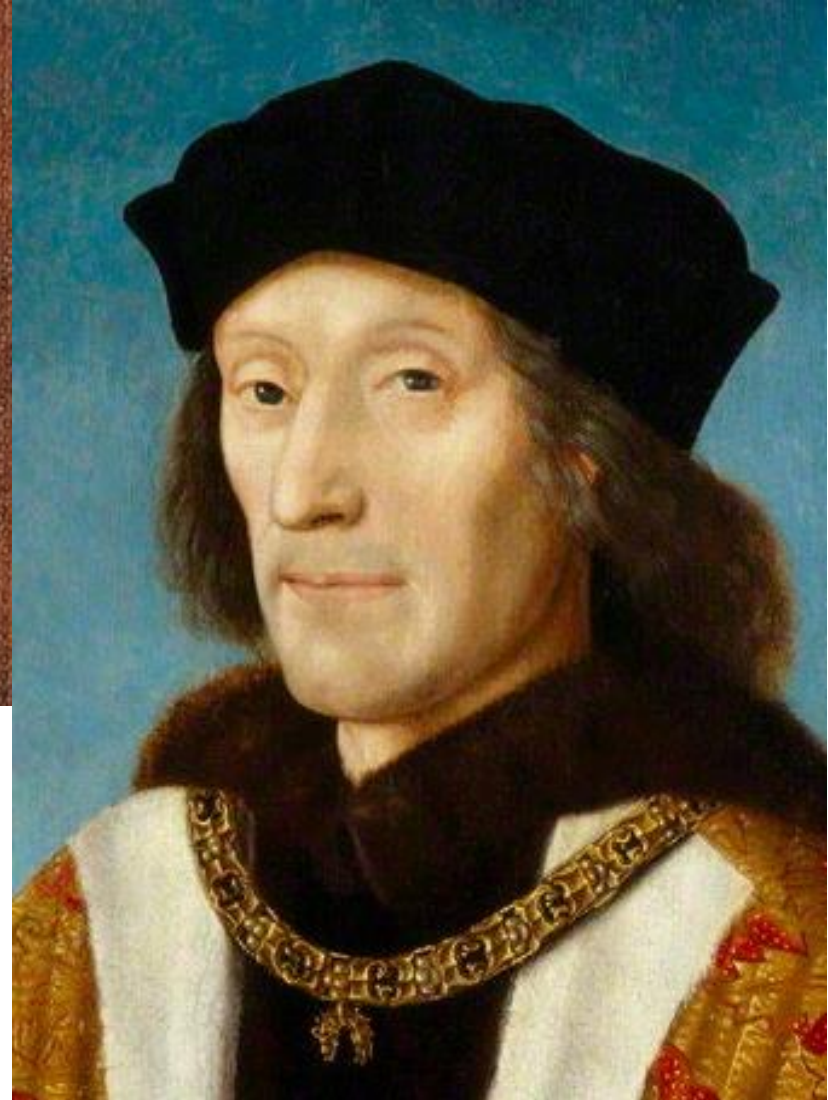




Who is the Bad Guy??



Richard III, said to have killed his two young nephews to have gained the thrown of England in the 15<sup>th</sup> century



Henry VII, united Royal houses of England following the War of the Roses.

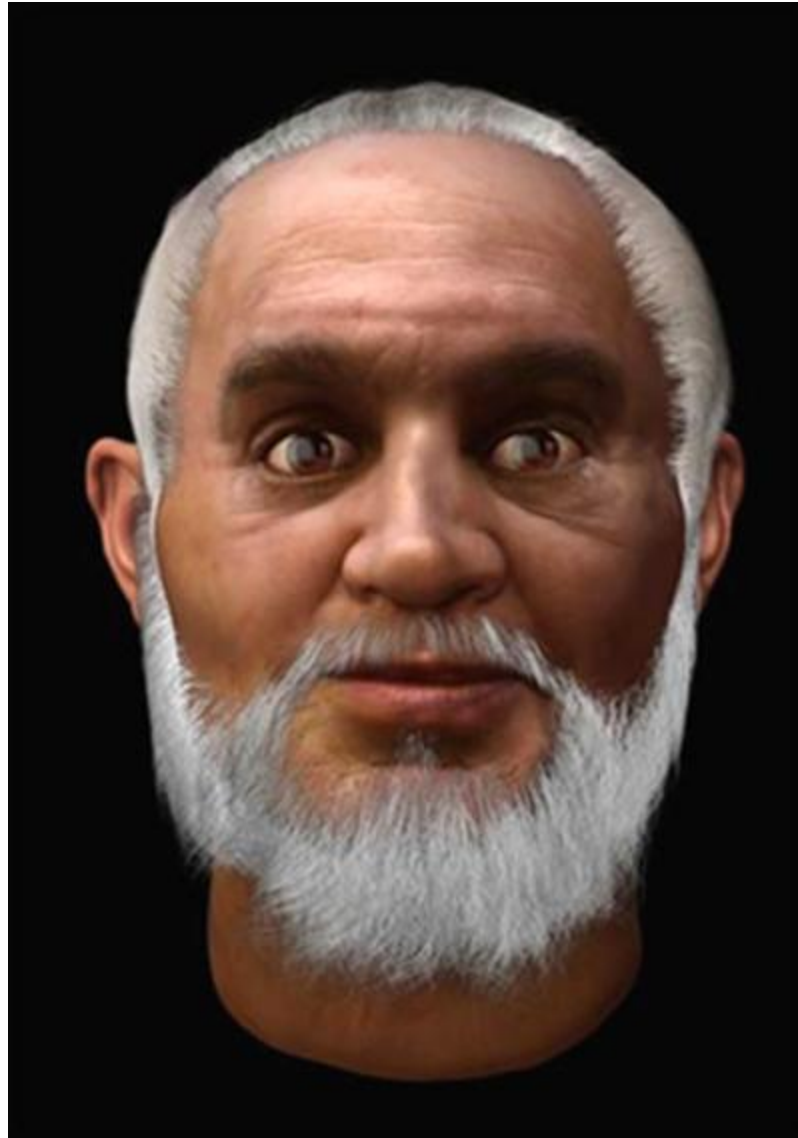


## Good or Bad???



Nicolaus Copernicus, scientist and astronomer of the Late Renaissance and argued that the Earth revolved the Sun.

Good or Bad???



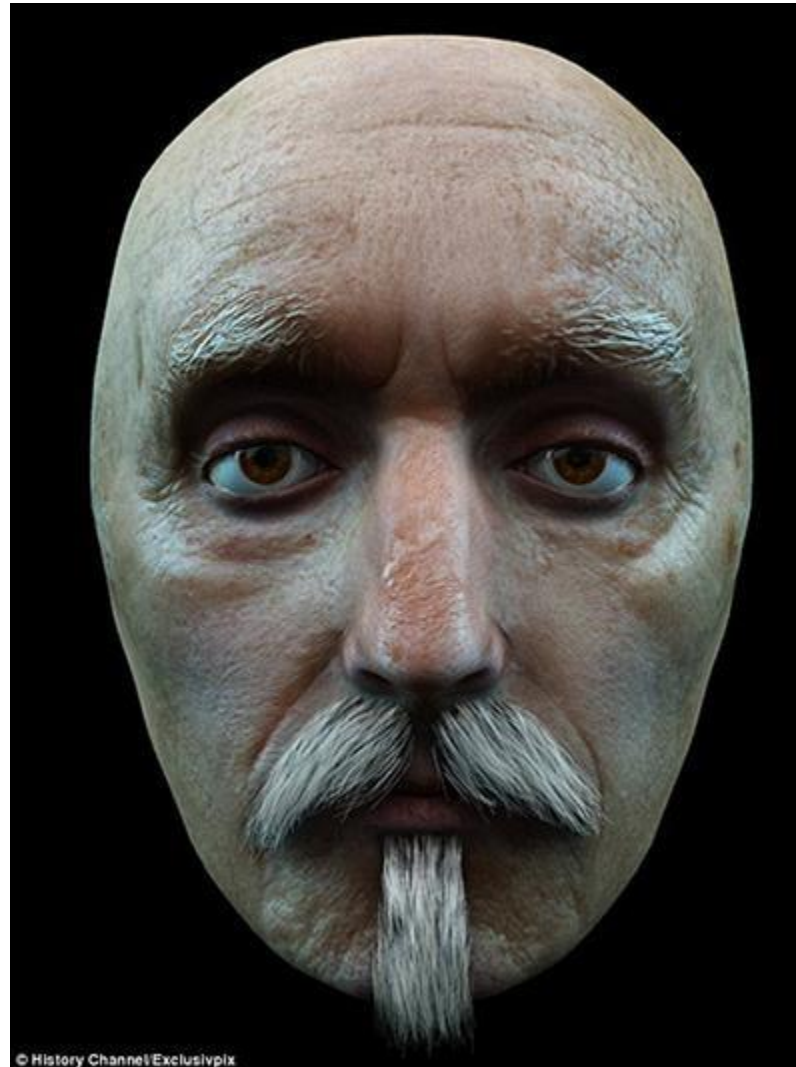
St. Nicholas, the man who became Santa Claus...Yet, look at his nose, anything odd???

## Good or Bad???



Good King Henry IV of France, not considered a good king by all during his reign. He was either loved or hated for his religious tolerance and he was eventually assassinated. Also remembered as Henry the Great and the Green Gallant.

Good or Bad???



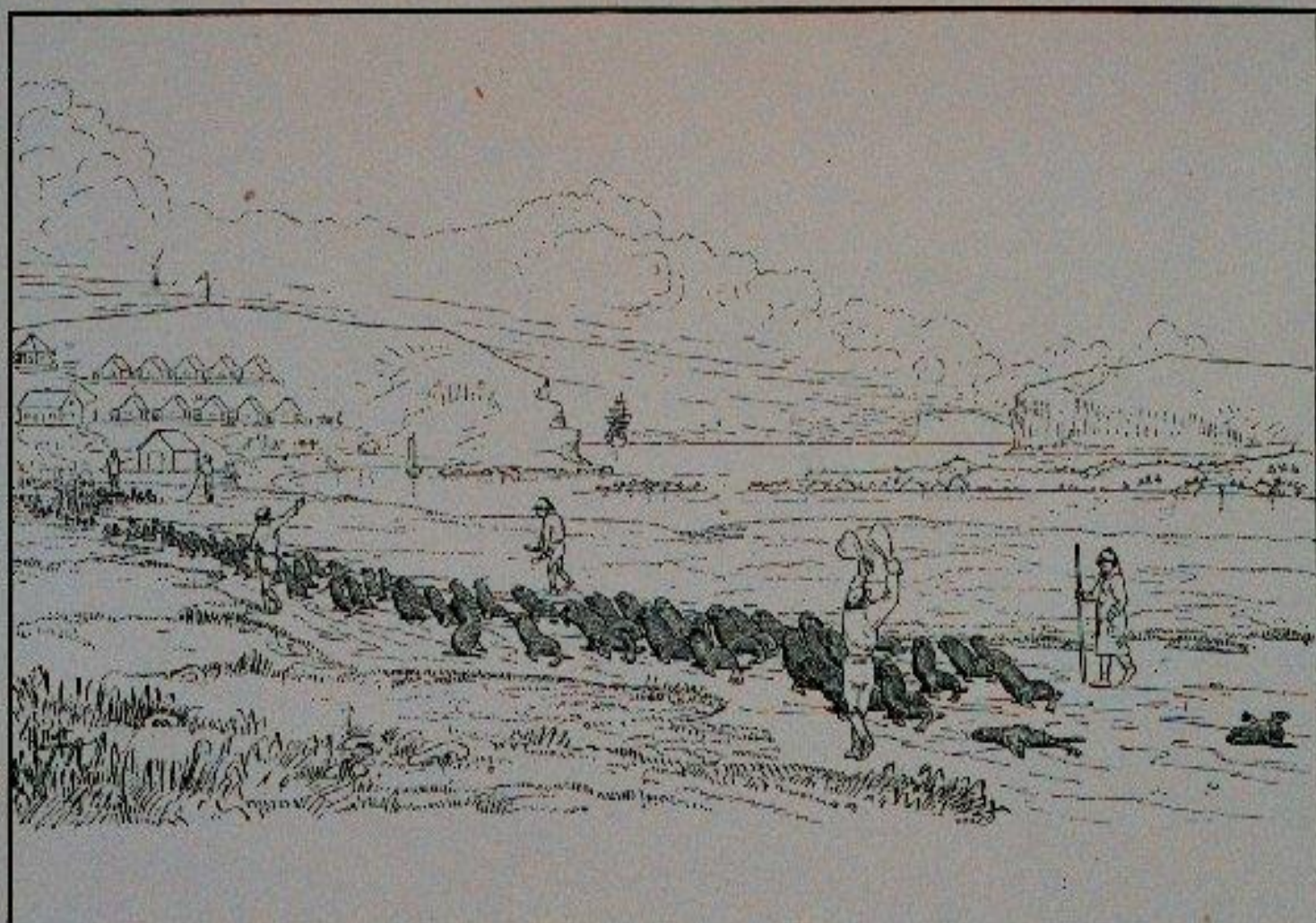
William Shakespeare

# The Sea Otter

- The Survivors of Bering's 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage returned with a large supply of otter pelts that were just as luxurious as sable pelts and quickly became popular and valuable on the Chinese markets.
- Fur hunters quickly began to set sail to Alaska in roughly made boats and those who survived continued to bring back the pelts of the easy to kill otters.



Snoozing Sea Otter, <http://dailyotter.org/2012/06/23/snoozing-sea-otter-vancouver/>



**THE FUR-SEAL INDUSTRY OF THE PRIBYLOV ISLANDS, ALASKA.**

Natives driving the "holluschickie"; the drive passing over the lagoon flats to the killing-ground, under the village hill, St. Paul's Island.

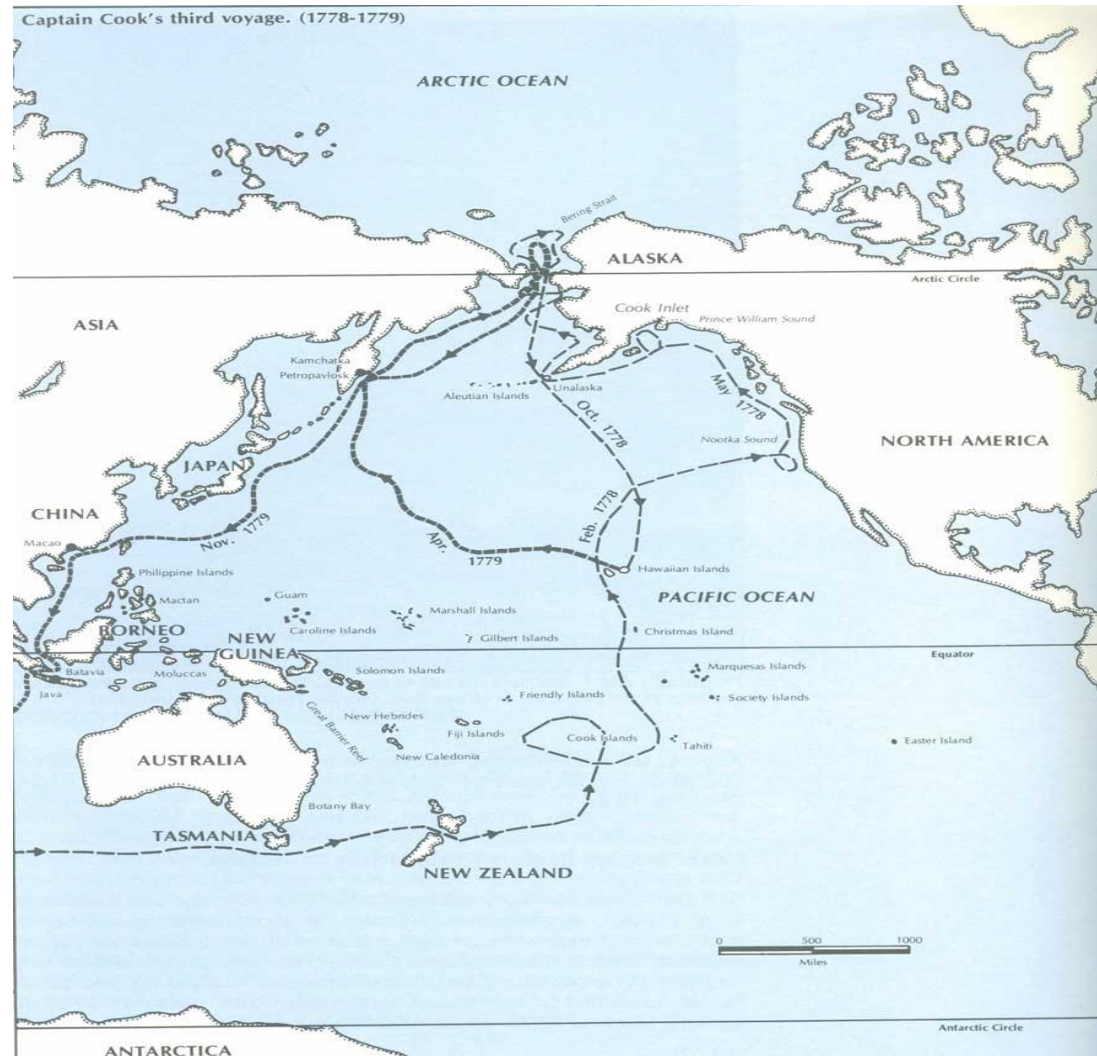
(Sect. v, vol. ii, p. 33.)

Drawing by H. W. Edgett

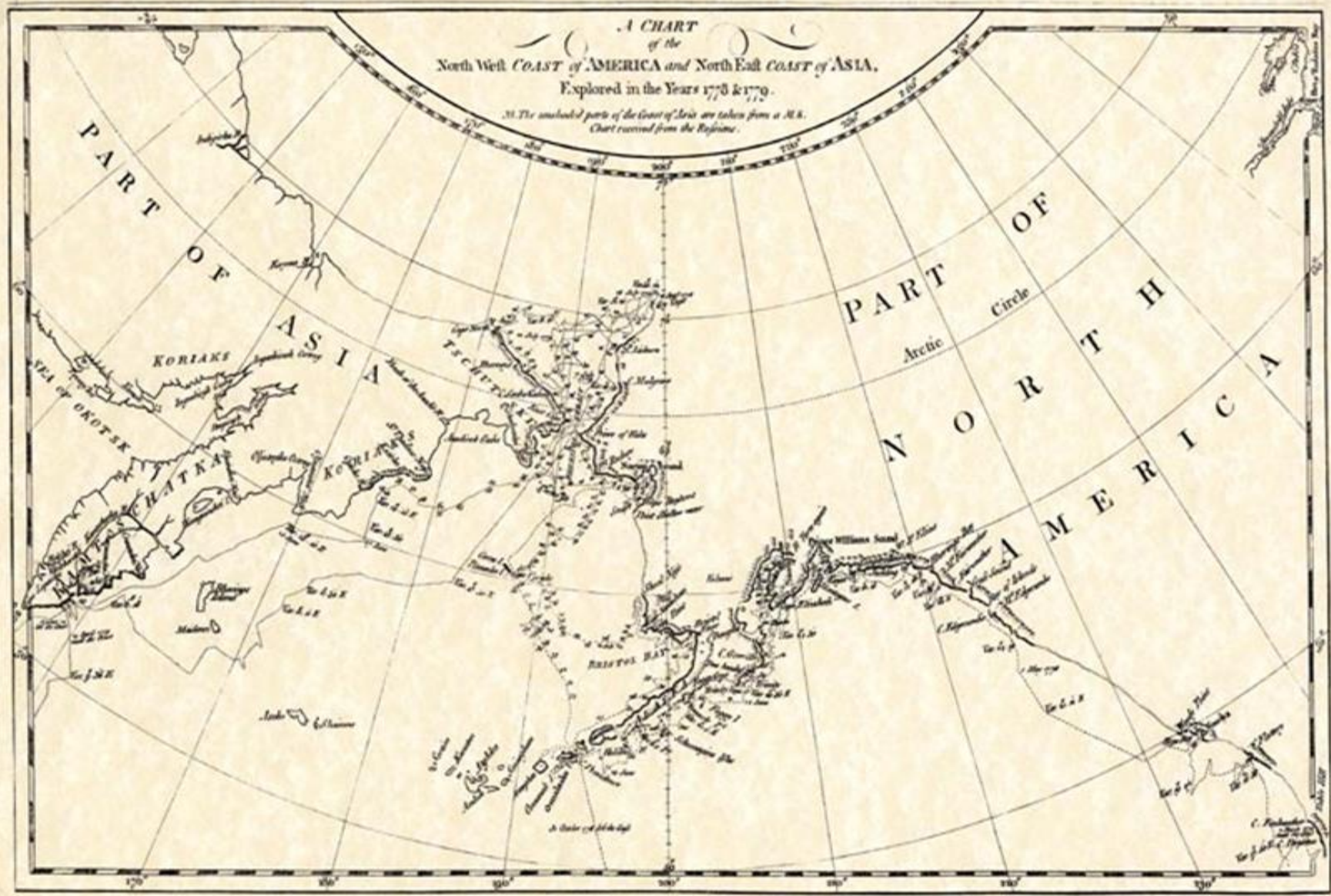


# Captain Cook in Alaska

- Cook set out to find a Northwest Passage but instead his men found the Russian's "soft gold" that was valuable in Canton.
- Cook was famous and that fame only increased on account of his untimely death, his journals were best sellers.
- Cook's journals opened the Pacific Northwest to the world and before long Alaskan Waters were international trade posts.



Captain Cook's third voyage. (1778-1779),  
<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/articles/article.php?artID=163>



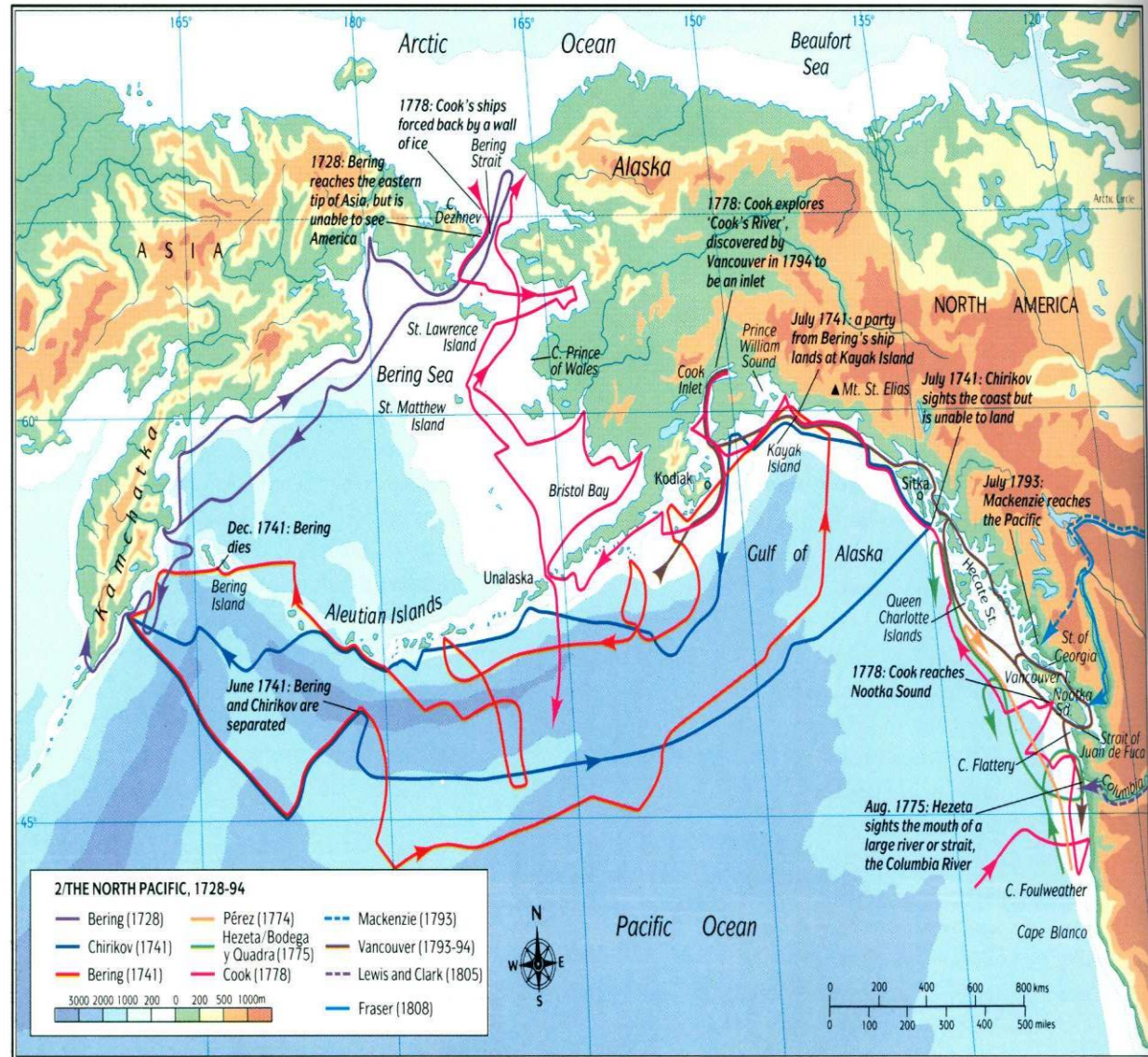
Published by the King at the Request of the Admiralty.

Reproduced from an original engraving of 1781 by the British Admiralty. Digitized by Google.

Cook's chart of Pacific Northwest, 1778-1779, [http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa\\_documents/NOS/ORR/TM\\_NOS\\_ORR/TM\\_NOS-ORR\\_17/HTML/Pribilof\\_html/Images/Gallery/Gallery\\_Regional\\_Maps/Cook\\_Bering\\_Sea.html](http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOS/ORR/TM_NOS_ORR/TM_NOS-ORR_17/HTML/Pribilof_html/Images/Gallery/Gallery_Regional_Maps/Cook_Bering_Sea.html)

# Imperial Competition

- Knowledge
- Why would Capt. Cook's "Scientific" voyage worry Spain and Russia?
- Russia, Spain, Britain, France, and eventually America would all try to gain some control over Alaskan territories and its commercial opportunities
- Each country debated the merits of its claim over these new territories but only Russia and Britain were able to establish successful settlements in Alaska territory.



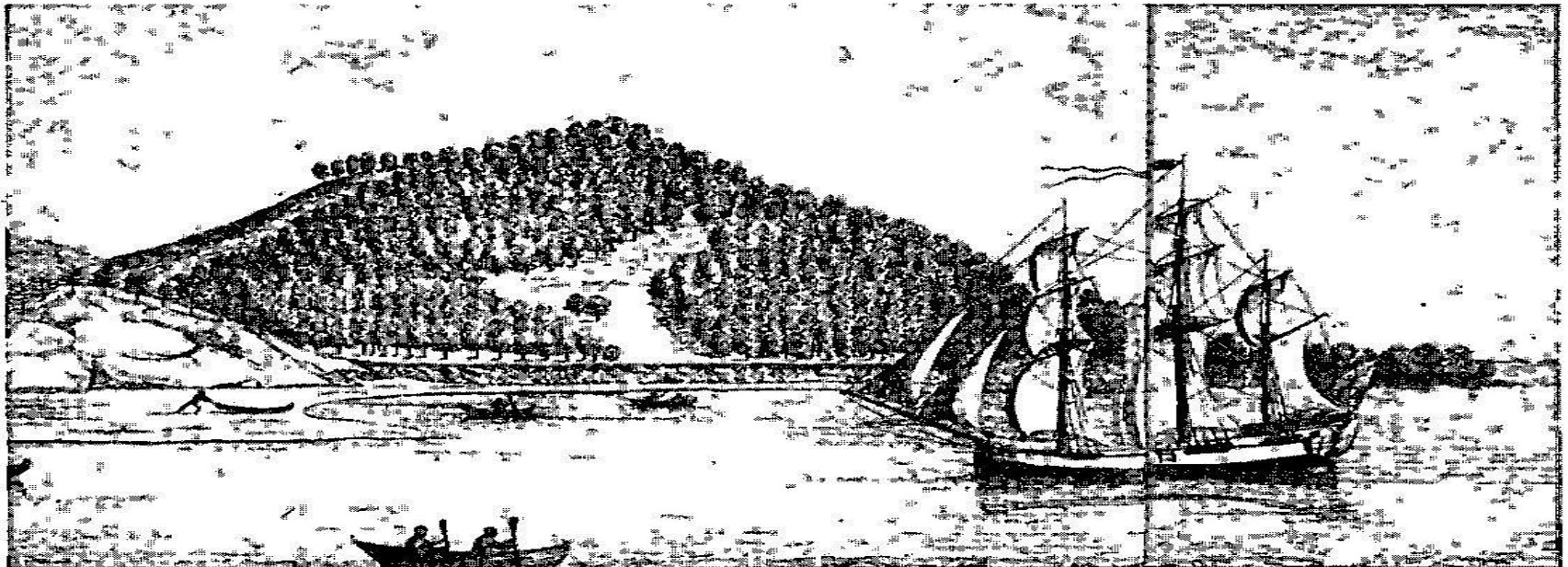
# Fur Trade in Alaska

- The fur trade created international competition for possession of Alaska territories and “control” of the fur market.
- Not all Alaskan Native groups were overcome by foreigners, many tribes gained a significant amount of wealth from the fur trade.



Map of the North West Coast during the [Maritime Fur Trade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Maritime_Fur_Trade-NorthWestCoast.png) era, circa 1790 to 1840, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Maritime\\_Fur\\_Trade-NorthWestCoast.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Maritime_Fur_Trade-NorthWestCoast.png)

- “In another part of your (Shelikhov’s) letter you state that enough goods were shipped on the *Orel* to supply 10 companies. This would be true if the sea otters were hunted on a daily basis and the natives were given whatever we wanted to give them. But we get all our skins here by regular trading... we pay sometimes for food and supplies and give presents to newly pacified natives. You cannot compare this to former times...” when you “did not have to force the hunters to work because all work was done by the natives who were working like asses. Here everything is conducted differently” From Alexander Baranov’s 1795 letter to his boss Grigori Shelikhov



**FIGURE 26. The *King George* at anchor in 1786 at modern English Bay, Kenai Peninsula, where coal was discovered.**

*From Portlock, 1789, facing p. 108. Courtesy University of Alaska Fairbanks, Rasmuson Library, Alaska and Polar Regions Department, Rare Book Collection, no. B0092.*

# Trade Items



# Historical Perception



Left: Trader: Rodriguez negotiates with Native Americans at his small trading post in New York - See more at: <http://www.usaukonline.com/latest-news/12094-finally-recognised-after-400-years-new-york-s-very-first-immigrant-honoured-with-a-three-mile-stretch-of-broadway.html#sthash.KsSdVZbX.dpuf>;





A trading session between a French trader and his Caddo partners and Kichai Indians at the Gilbert site, ca. A.D.1750, as envisioned by artist Charles Shaw. All of the items depicted are based on archeological finds, <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/gilbert/index.html>





### Russia

- International Boundary
  - Road
  - River
  - ★ National Capital
  - City or Town
- 0 200 400 KM  
0 200 400 MI
- © 2007 Geology.com