



Captain Cook and the Cosmic Yardstick

By Dr Martin Hendry

In June 2004 there will be a transit of Venus - only the 6th to be observed by human eyes. Dr Martin Hendry tells the story of the 1769 Venus transit, when astronomers joined Captain Cook's second great voyage of exploration and measured reliably for the first time the distance from the Earth to the Sun.

This exciting lecture is full of animations - including simulations of how the transit would have appeared to the astronomers on Cook's voyage, who observed the 1769 transit from Tahiti - and historical details. This talk is suitable for pupils of 11+.

Dr Martin Hendry is Senior Lecturer in Astronomy in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Glasgow. He is leader of a small research group working in cosmology, the branch of astrophysics concerned with the large-scale properties of the Universe as a whole: its origin, evolution and eventual fate. He is also committed to promoting a greater public awareness and understanding of astronomy and science and participates in many outreach activities for schools and the general public.

Curriculum Links

- Standard Grade Physics: Space Physics
- Martin Hendry has a variety of talks on offer which have links to Standard Grade and Higher Physics, please browse his lecture list for more information.