# WELCOME TO THE PACIFIC NW

#### History

For centuries Spain claimed the west coast of North and South America based on a 1493 Pope Alexander VI ruling dividing the Western Hemisphere into Spanish and Portuguese zones. In 1513 the Spanish explorer Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean from the Americas, formally laying claim to all the shores washed by the Pacific. As the years went by new criteria for determining sovereignty evolved under European international law, including "prior discovery" and "effective occupation." In 1774 a Spanish expedition sailed north to assert Spain's discoveries. A minor issue existed - the land was occupied.

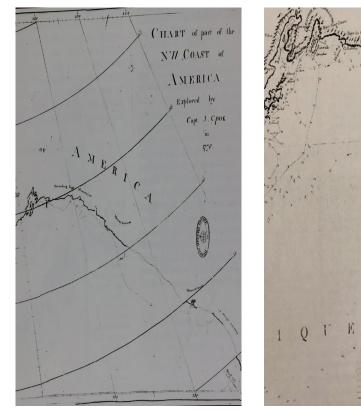
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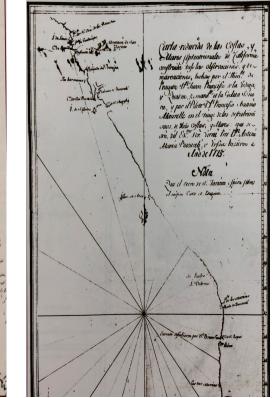
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### What the English, Russians & Spanish Knew of the Pacific NW (i.e., nothing)

James Cook Hand-Drawn Map 1778 Wilbrecht's Bering, Chirikov & Cook



Boedega y Quadra's 1775 MAP



### Legends & Lessons

In 1775, a 2nd expedition sailed north from Mexico to Nueva Galicia (Pacific Northwest). The ships included: a ship of war, a supply ship, and a smaller craft that could get close enough to the coast to allow a crew to take formal possession of territory. The packet boat carried provisions for the mission outpost at Monterey and was to map San Francisco Bay. Officers were sent from Spain and the crew was selected from the physically fittest local ranch hands. All went well until they visited the coast of what is now Washington.

Two ships anchored several miles from the mouth of the Quinault River. These larger ships kept their distance from the rocks and used launches to reach shore. At 1st all went well. Gifts were exchanged and the crew became the first non-Indians to set foot in the NW. The land was now to be considered part of Mexico and the Kingdom of Spain. In the next landing, whitecap waves almost swamped the small launch. The Indians were waiting. In the ensuing battle, the Quinaults massacred all the crew and hacked the small landing boat apart for its metal. (Salvaging demasted Japanese and Chinese ships was a reoccurring event for centuries; iron tools were prized by the Natives on the current-swept coast.) The Spanish left.

That's how the NW starts: a European who thinks he owns the place, American Natives who disagree, and Mexican Americans doing all the work and paying the price. Nothing changes, especially for those who walk into a place uninvited believing others will think as they do.

## **Ethnobotanical Gardens**

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain: