

THE WAGER

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QUESTIONS FOR JOHNS HOPKINS BOOK CLUB BOOK CIRCLE

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1. What was the War of Jenkins's Ear? How did that "war" relate to the expedition of the *Wager*? What was the mission?
2. What were Britain and Spain ultimately fighting about?
3. Why did the *Wager* crash? How did the fact that the *Wager* had been built as a merchant ship contribute to its failure? Disease? Lack of an accurate watch?
4. Was the expedition destined to fail? What were the odds of such an expedition being successful? How did Spain avoid some of the most dangerous aspects of reaching the Pacific?
5. What would motivate someone to join the British Navy in the 18th century? How would this decision be affected by one's social class or place in the birth order within a family?
6. How do you view the debates that the crew engaged in before deciding to leave their comrades and, in effect, commit mutiny?
7. How did race affect the position of a sailor on the *Wager*?
8. How did the crew view the indigenous people who passed by in their boats?
9. Do you think that the author's trip to Wager Island (except for the Strait of Magellan) affected the authenticity of the book?