

Practice Exercise **12**

Jamestown, Virginia, grew out of the dreams of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, although he never saw it. On June 11, 1578, Gilbert obtained from Queen Elizabeth a charter to discover and colonize "remote heathen and barbarous lands." In 1583 he ventured almost his entire fortune and that of his wife in an attempt to explore the northern part of North America. The queen herself gave Gilbert a good-luck token. Gilbert landed at St. John's, Newfoundland, and claimed it for England. But on coasting southward, he met with repeated misfortunes, turned back, and was drowned on the return voyage to England. He had insisted on sailing in one of his smaller ships, saying, "I will not forsake my company." Among his last recorded words was the famous cry to his men in the larger ship, "We are as near to heaven by sea as by land!"

- From information in the paragraph, you can infer that
  - a. Sir Humphrey Gilbert colonized Jamestown.
  - b. storms in the Atlantic are frequent and severe.
  - c. Newfoundland was considered valuable territory.
  - d. Queen Elizabeth considered expansion of her empire important.
- The paragraph suggests that Gilbert was
  - a. an incompetent captain.
  - b. haunted by marital problems.
  - c. a wealthy man.
  - d. a noted mapmaker.
- "The queen herself gave Gilbert a good-luck token" suggests that Elizabeth
  - a. expected failure.
  - b. had little confidence in Gilbert.
  - c. took personal interest in the venture.
  - d. did not believe in superstitions and omens.
- Underline the sentence that supports the inference that Gilbert was confident of success at the start of his journey.