

Practice Exercise 19

In the early twentieth century, a Glasgow ship called the *Marlborough* left New Zealand for England and was last reported near the Strait of Magellan, where she vanished. Almost a quarter of a century later, in 1925, the captain of a ship sailing off Tierra del Fuego, at the very tip of South America, stared hard at the green sea. It appeared to him that a solid green filigree of great size released itself from the calm surface, rose rapidly upright, and came slowly toward him. Through his binoculars the startled skipper saw a three-masted ship, the *Marlborough*. What was left of the sails was a brilliant green. The shrouds, the rigging, the decks—the superstructure—were all the same bright green.

1. It can be inferred that the *Marlborough* was
 - a. plundered by pirates.
 - b. sturdily built.
 - c. a hallucination.
 - d. rebuilt to its original design.
2. The paragraph suggests that
 - a. the Strait of Magellan is stormy.
 - b. the area around Tierra del Fuego is a busy shipping lane.
 - c. calm seas deceive the eyes.
 - d. lost ships may be found years later.
3. Which of the following is the most likely inference about the cause of the brilliant green color on the *Marlborough*?
 - a. Seaweed was hanging from the rigging and covered the decks and superstructure.
 - b. Alien beings had covered the ship with a protective coating before taking it to their world.
 - c. Workers in a shipyard had painted the hulk.
 - d. In the region near Tierra del Fuego, everything appears to be green.
4. Underline the sentence that supports the inference that the *Marlborough* was on its way home when it vanished.