

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Will anyone ever find Shackleton's lost ship?

By Jonathan Amos
Science correspondent

It's going to take a monumental effort to locate the iconic ship of Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton.

This is the conclusion of scientists who tried and failed last year to find the *Endurance*, which sank in 3,000m of water in the Weddell Sea in 1915. The team says the sea-ice in the area above the wreck site is nearly always thick and extensive. It means most expeditions would struggle even to get close enough to begin a search.

The Weddell Sea Expedition 2019 did amazingly well, reaching the recognised wreck location and launching an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) to survey the ocean floor. But this robot broke communications with the expedition research vessel, SA *Agulhas II*, some 20 hours into its mapping operation and was never seen again.



What it might have detected, we'll never know. Encroaching sea-ice forced the team to abandon its AUV and to vacate the area. The expedition scientists have now written up an assessment of the local conditions in this unforgiving sector of the Antarctic. They've also provided some advice for anyone else who might want to search for Shackleton's polar yacht.

"To finally locate the *Endurance* on the seafloor would require favourable sea-ice conditions in the central western Weddell Sea, including the presence of wide (open water) leads," said Dr Christine Batchelor from the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) in Cambridge, UK. "In addition, a two-ship operation may be needed to break ice and successfully launch and recover an autonomous underwater vehicle," she told BBC News.

Shackleton's story is one of the most extraordinary tales from the "heroic age" of Antarctic exploration. Trapped in sea-ice for over 10 months, his *Endurance* ship drifted around the Weddell Sea until ultimately it was crushed by the floes and dropped to the deep. How Shackleton and his men then made their escape on foot and in lifeboats is the stuff of legend.

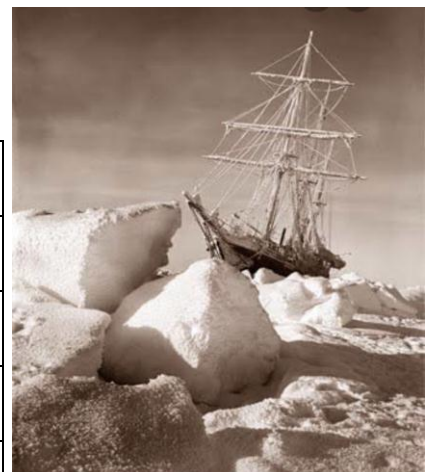
Where the *Endurance* went down is well known; the ship's captain Frank Worsley logged the position using a sextant and a theodolite. But reaching this part of the Weddell Sea, just east of the Larsen ice shelves on the Antarctic Peninsula, is extremely difficult, even for modern ice-breakers. This is one heroic tale that will not find parallel in the history of sea explorers.



Answer the following questions.

1. State TRUE or FALSE

a)	The <i>Endurance</i> sank in the year 1915.	
b)	The area around Weddel sea is never covered with ice.	
c)	The expedition research vessel was called SA <i>Agulhas II</i> .	
d)	It broke communication with the main vessel after 20 hours.	
e)	<i>Endurance</i> was trapped in ice for six months.	

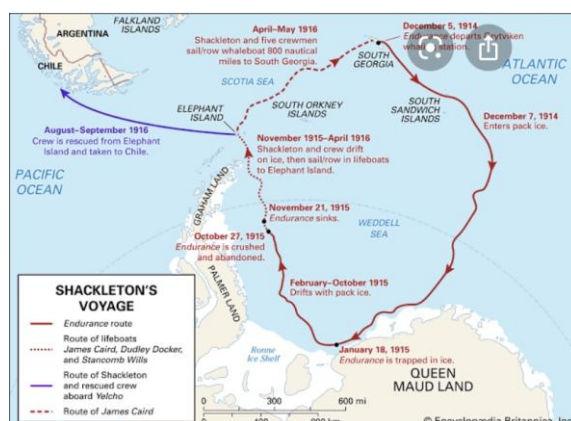


2. Match the columns

Word	Meaning
a) Legend	i) leave (a place or vehicle) empty or uninhabited, without intending to return.
b) Wreck	ii) a device used on a ship or aircraft for measuring angles
c) Sextant	iii) the destruction of a ship at sea
d) Monumental	iv) a nonhistorical or unverifiable story handed down by tradition
e) Abandon	v) great in importance, extent, or size.

3. Close to which continent did Shackleton's ship make its maiden voyage?

- a) Asia
- b) Europe
- c) Antarctica
- d) North America



4. How did Shackleton's men make their journey to safety?

- a) They swam
- b) On foot and lifeboats
- c) Rescued by another ship
- d) Floated on ice sheets

5. According to scientists, what are the preliminary requirements for finding Shackleton's polar yacht?

- (i) Favourable sea ice conditions
- (ii) Modern scientific equipment
- (iii) Mapping technology
- (iv) A two ship operation

- (a) (i) and (ii)
- (b) (ii) and (iii)
- (c) (iii) and (iv)
- (d) (i) and (iv)

Created by:-

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e)	Endurance was trapped in ice for six months.	F

2. a-iv , b-iii , c-ii, d-v , e-i
3. (c) Antarctica
4. (b) On foot and lifeboats
5. (d) (i) and (iv)

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