The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

In 1798, the English poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote about a voyage to the South Pole and back in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner". Read through the verses that describe how they were driven by a storm towards Antarctica. Choose one of the pictures taken from early voyages to illustrate the different verses.



The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

And now the storm-blast came, and he Was tyrannous and strong: He struck with his o'ertaking wings, And chased us south along.

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And now there came both mist and snow, And it grew wondrous cold: And ice, mast-high, came floating by, As green as emerald.

And through the drifts the snowy clifts Did send a dismal sheen: Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken -The ice was all between. The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around: It cracked and growled, and roared and howled, Like noises in a swound!

In mist or cloud, on mast or shroud, It perched for vespers nine; Whiles all the night, through fog-smoke white, Glimmered the white moonshine.

The Sun now rose upon the right: Out of the sea came he, Still hid in mist, and on the left Went down into the sea.

The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, The furrow followed free; We were the first that ever burst Into that silent sea.