

The Bermuda Triangle

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

- 1 Where is the Bermuda Triangle?
- 2 Why is the Bermuda Triangle mysterious?
- 3 Do you believe in UFOs?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| ___ 1 tip | (a) to disappear |
| ___ 2 vanish | (b) an idea that tries to explain something |
| ___ 3 attack | (c) evidence that shows something is true |
| ___ 4 theory | (d) the pointy end of something |
| ___ 5 proof | (e) to try to hurt someone |

Reading

The Bermuda Triangle

- 1 Did you know that a journalist gave the Bermuda Triangle its name? The Bermuda Triangle is in the Atlantic Ocean. Its **tips** point to Florida, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico.
- 2 Many boats and planes have **vanished** in the Bermuda Triangle over the years. Some people think the disappearances are unusual. Maybe a giant sea creature or UFO **attacked** the crews? Writers love to make up stories like these. Readers enjoy unsolved mysteries.
- 3 Scientists laugh at these **theories**. They don't believe the Bermuda Triangle is a mystery at all. Their explanations are simple. They say nature and human error caused these accidents. Strong ocean currents and hurricanes are common in the Bermuda Triangle. Compasses don't work as well there either. Scientists think that the boats simply sank and the planes ran out of fuel. They say the **proof** is at the bottom of the ocean.



Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

1 Where is the Bermuda Triangle?

2 Why do people think it is a mysterious place?

3 Why does the reading mention UFOs?

4 Who thinks that the disappearances are explainable?

5 What type of weather is typical in the Bermuda Triangle?

Bonus Question

Can you guess what the most famous Bermuda Triangle "mystery" is?

- The disappearance of five US Navy planes in 1945 (Flight 19)
- Strange observations of a bright light by Christopher Columbus
- The vanishing of a British warship in 1780
- The disappearance of a millionaire and his ship in 1958

Practice

A. Odd One Out

Look at the three words in each list. Two words in each list are related. Circle the one that doesn't belong.

- 1 theory
explanation
nature

- 2 hurricane
tip
storm

- 3 error
mistake
mystery

- 4 unsolved
unexplained
underwater

- 5 aircraft
proof
evidence

- 6 vanish
disappear
triangle

B. Crossword

Read the clues and fill in the puzzle with words from the lesson.

Across

- 2 go after someone or something with violence
4 has no explanation
5 trees, water, and air are examples of this
7 a human mistake

Down

- 1 a person who writes stories for newspapers or magazines
3 guesses
6 a point

Listening

Listen to a recording of this reading.

Fill in the gaps. Listen again and check your answers.

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- 3** Scientists laugh at these _____. They don't believe the Bermuda Triangle is a mystery at all. Their explanations are simple. They say nature and human error caused these accidents. Strong ocean currents and hurricanes are common in the Bermuda Triangle. Compasses don't work as well there either. Scientists think that the boats simply sank and the planes ran out of fuel. They say the _____ is at the bottom of the ocean.