

The mystery of the Bermuda Triangle

Bermuda triangle is one of the greatest mysteries and it's still unsolved.

The Bermuda triangle is not an official geographic name, but an area in the Atlantic Ocean that lies between the island of Bermuda, the state of Florida and Puerto Rico.

A lot of ships, planes, and people have mysteriously disappeared in that area. The triangle is not small: it covers around 450,000 [four hundred and fifty thousand] miles in the sea.

Ghost ships

In the past, some boats have vanished without a trace. These boats are known as *ghost ships*.

In 1872, for example, the boat known as Mary Celeste never arrived at its destination. No boat or humans were found.

One of the most famous ghost ship was the Carrol A. Deering. The boat was sailing from Brazil to Maine (North America). Later it was found, but there was no people any more.

The Flight 19

The first missing planes were the five planes of the Flight 19 of the American military forces. The planes departed from Florida for a training session on December 5, 1945, but they've never returned. The remains of the planes have never been found.

Since then, other aircraft have mysteriously disappeared. For example a passenger air-plane flying to Miami in 1948.

Theories

Some people think that it is an extraterrestrials phenomenon, but many scientists have tried to explain those events with scientific theories. For example:

- One theory is that there is methane gas under the sea floor in the Bermuda that can erupt: the water would become less dense so the ships would sink and the plans would catch fire.
- Some people says that the cause of the disappearances is the electronic fog: a strange cloud appears and inundates a ship or a plane.
- The disappearances can be explained by environmental phenomenon: tropical storms and hurricanes were probably the reason for many lost ships.

Nowadays the majority of people don't believe in the supernatural explanations. There is also some evidence that the area is a place where “magnetic” **compass** sometimes points towards “true” north, instead of “magnetic” north, so someone can get lost.

DISAPPEAR (v.): sparire

SINK (v.): affondare

ENVIRONMENTAL (adj.): ambientale

COMPASS: bussola

Choose the correct option.

1. Where is the Bermuda Triangle?

- a. Atlantic Ocean
- b. Pacific Ocean
- c. Arctic Ocean
- d. Indian Ocean

2. What are ghost ships?

- a. Ships with ghosts
- b. Ships that disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle
- c. Old ships
- d. Haunted ships

3. What does *paranormal* mean?

- a. An occurrence that cannot be explained by science
- b. A normal occurrence
- c. A normal person
- d. A scientific hypothesis

4. Which verb means the same as “to disappear”?

- a. to swim
- b. to vanish
- c. to sail
- d. to enter

Questions

1. What is the Bermuda Triangle?

.....

2. Is the Bermuda Triangle an official geographic name?

.....

3. What happened to flight 19?

.....

.....

Vocabulary: translate into English

ITALIAN	ENGLISH	ITALIAN	ENGLISH
1. bussola		5. navigare	
2. fantasma		6. affondare	
3. nebbia		7. spiegare	
4. ipotesi		8. accadere	

Grammar revision: complete the table of the irregular verbs

BASE FORM	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE	ITALIAN MEANING
	came		
		broken	
			cantare
	became		
buy			

Choose the correct option: 1. a; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b.
 Questions: 1) The Bermuda Triangle is an area of the Atlantic Ocean where strange things have happened. 2) No, it isn't. 3) The Flight 19 of the American military forces has disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle. It departed from Florida in 1945 but has never come back.
 Vocabulary: compass, ghost, fog, hypothesis, sail, sink, explain, happen.
 Grammar revision: COME-CAME-COME = venire; BREAK-BROKE-BROKEN = rompere; SING-SANG-SUNG = cantare; BECOME-BECAME-BECOME = diventare; BUY-BOUGHT-BOUGHT = comprare.