THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD

Miami, Florida

CLASS:B2

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THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

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Miami, Florida

The Devil's triangle

San Juan, Puerto Rico

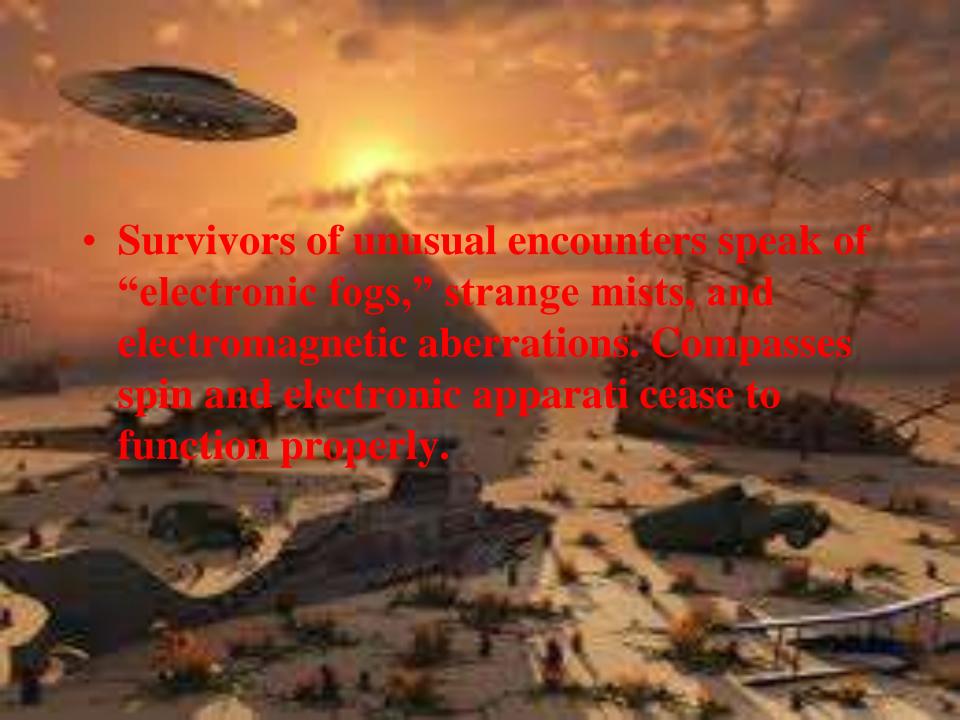
What is the Bermuda triangle?

The Bermuda Triangle is actually two things. First off, it is a geographic area of the North **Atlantic Ocean located** off the SouthEast coast of the United States. It generally lies in and around three nodal points: the island of Bermuda, Miami, Florida, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

when most refer to the **Bermuda Triangle they** really mean the enigma of the Bermuda Triangle. This is the area's great controversy. The enigma is that more ships and planes disappear in this area, in fair weather, more than in any other place in the world, for no readily explainable reason.

The term"Bermuda triangle"

- George X. Sand introduced the Triangle to his readers in October 1952 in a short article for *Fate* magazine, entitled "Sea Mystery at our Back Door."
- The Triangle remained a colloquial expression throughout the 1950s, employed by locals when another disappearance or unexplained crash happened.



Lawrence David Kusche, a research librarian from Arizona State University and author of *The Bermuda Triangle Mystery: Solved* (1975) argued that many claims of and subsequent writers were often exaggerated, dubious or unverifiable. Kusche's research revealed a number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies.

- The number of ships and aircraft reported missing in the area was not significantly greater, proportionally speaking, than in any other part of the ocean.
- In an area frequented by tropical storms, the number of disappearances that did occur were, for the most part, neither disproportionate, unlikely, nor mysterious;
- The numbers themselves had been exaggerated by sloppy research. A boat's disappearance, for example, would be reported, but its eventual (if belates) return to port may not have been.
- Some disappearances had, in fact, never happened. One plane crash was said to have taken place in 1937 off Daytona Beach, Florida, in front of hundreds of witnesses; a check of the local papers revealed nothing.
- The legend of the Bermuda Triangle is a manufactured mystery, perpetuated by writers who either purposely or unknowingly made use of misconceptions, faulty reasoning, and sensationalism.

Supernatural explanations

Triangle writers have used a number of supernatural concepts to explain the events

One explanation pins the blame on leftover technology from the mythical lost continent of Atlantis. Sometimes connected to the Atlantis story is the submerged rock formation known as the Bimini Road off the island of Bimini in the Bahamas, which is in the Triangle by some definitions.

Other writers attribute the events to UFOs. A retired US Marine major, Donald E. Keyhoe, was the first to speculate that Flight 19 could have been caused by UFO abduction

Natural explanations

Compass variations

Compass problems are one of the cited phrases in many Triangle incidents. **Compasses have natural**

magnetic variations in relation to the magnetic poles, a fact which navigators have known for centuries. Magnetic (compass) north and true (geographic) north are only exactly the same for a small number of places But the public may not be as informed, and think there is something mysterious about a compass 'changing' across an area as large as the Triangle, which it naturally will.





Gulf Stream

The Gulf Stream is a deep ocean current that originates in the Gulf of Mexico and then flows through the Straits of Florida into the North Atlantic. In essence, it is a river within an ocean, and, like a river, it can and does carry floating objects. It has a surface velocity of up to about 2.5 metres per second (5.6 mi/h). A small plane making a water landing or a boat having engine trouble can be carried away from its reported position by the current

Human error

Whether deliberate or accidental, humans have been known to make mistakes resulting in catastrophe, and losses within the **Bermuda Triangle** are no exception. For example, the **Coast Guard cited** a lack of proper training for the cleaning of volatile benzene residue as a reason for the loss of the tanker SS V.A. Fogg in **1972**[]

Rogue waves

In various oceans around the world, rogue waves have caused ships to sink and oil platforms to topple. These waves, until 1995, were considered to be a mystery and/or a myth

Hurricanes



Hurricanes are powerful storms, which form in tropical waters and have historically cost thousands of lives lost and caused billions of dollars in damage. The sinking of Francisco de Bobadilla's Spanish fleet in 1502 was the first recorded instance of a destructive hurricane. These storms have in the past caused a number of incidents related to the Triangle.

Methane hydrates

An explanation for some of the disappearances has focused on the presence of vast fields of methane hydrates (a form of natural gas) on the continental shelves Laboratory experiments carried out in Australia have proven that bubbles can, indeed, sink a scale model ship by decreasing the density of the water; any wreckage consequently rising to the surface would be rapidly dispersed by the Gulf Stream

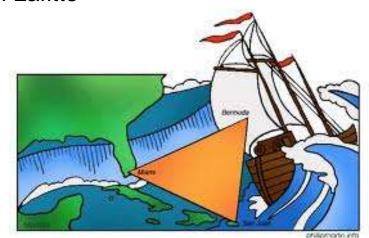


Deliberate acts of destruction

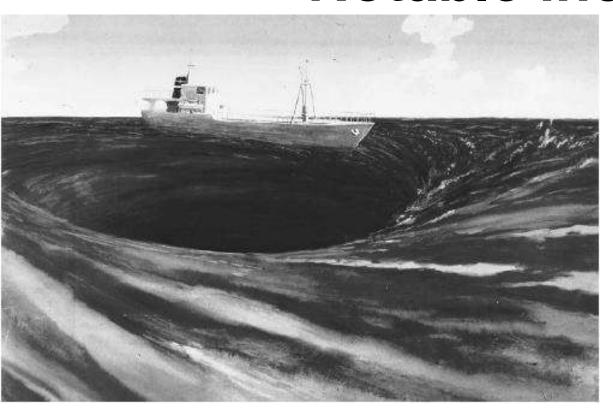


Deliberate acts of destruction can fall into two categories: acts of war, and acts of piracy. Records in enemy files have been checked for numerous losses. While many sinkings have been attributed to surface raiders or submarines during the World Wars and documented in various command log books, many others suspected as falling in that category have not been proven. It is suspected that the loss of USS Cyclops in 1918, as well as her sister ships *Proteus* and *Nereus* in World War II, were attributed to submarines, but no such link has been found in the German records.

Piracy—the illegal capture of a craft on the high seas— continues to this day. While piracy for cargo theft is more common in the western Pacific and Indian oceans, drug smugglers do steal pleasure boats for smuggling operations, and may have been involved in crew and yacht disappearances in the Caribbean. Piracy in the Caribbean was common from about 1560 to the 1760s, and famous pirates included Edward Teach (Blackbeard) and Jean Lafitte



Notable incidents



Many Bermuda Triangle Web sites include long lists of missing ships and planes.

The U.S.S. Cyclops, 1918

During World War I, the U.S.S. Cyclops served along the eastern coast of the United States, all 306 passengers and crew were gone without a trace.

U.S. Navy Avengers Flight 19, 1945

The most famous Bermuda Triangle story is the mystery surrounding five missing Navy Avengers in 1945, a routine patrol set out on a sunny day with five highly experienced student pilots. Suddenly, the tower began receiving transmissions from the flight leader that they were lost, compasses were not working, and "everything looked wrong." They were never seen again



How the Bermuda Triangle Works Location

