

The Bermuda Triangle

Reading and Discussion

The **Bermuda Triangle**, an area of the Atlantic Ocean, is a legend of its own. The ways that the boundaries of the Bermuda Triangle are defined vary with different writers. Some authors allege that the Bermuda Triangle is shaped like a trapezoid and includes the Straits of Florida, the Bahamas, the Caribbean islands, and the waters to the east of the Azores. Others include the Gulf of Mexico as being part of the Bermuda Triangle.

The area included in the Bermuda Triangle has ships crossing through it daily. It is one of the most heavily used shipping lanes in the world. Many cruise ships and pleasure ships regularly sail in this area. Many airplanes also fly over it because it is a heavily traveled route for commercial and private flights. The Bermuda Triangle is sometimes called the **Devil's Triangle**, because many planes and ships have disappeared there. While some attribute these disappearances to human error, natural disasters, and equipment failure, others attribute them to the paranormal. **Paranormal** is a term that describes unusual experiences that lack a scientific explanation.

The first mention of the Bermuda Triangle is in an article written by **E.V.W. Jones** on September 16, 1950, published through the Associated Press. Two years later, an article by **George X. Sand** detailed the loss of several planes and ships within the Bermuda Triangle. Sand's article was the first to describe the triangular area in which these losses took place. Other authors wrote on the paranormal nature of the area. Some of these were: **John Wallace Spencer**, **Charles Berlitz**, and **Richard Winer**.

Lawrence David Kusche, a research librarian from Arizona State University, challenged those who wrote about the Bermuda Triangle as if it had some sort of paranormal explanation or power. Kusche wrote a book called "The Bermuda Triangle Mystery: Solved". His book detailed inaccuracies in the previous accounts and attempted to explain the disappearances rationally. His book was an attempt to prove that there was nothing paranormal about the Bermuda Triangle.

Kusche's book explained that the number of ships and planes reported missing in the Bermuda Triangle was not proportionally greater than any other part of the ocean. He also said that the area was frequented by tropical storms, which could easily explain many of the disappearances. He concluded that the legend of the Bermuda Triangle was a mystery manufactured by writers using faulty reasoning. But some still believe the Bermuda Triangle is filled with paranormal activity, and supernatural concepts have been used to explain different events that have occurred in the area. One explanation argues that the Bermuda Triangle is affected by the technology of the lost continent of **Atlantis**, and others even attribute the disappearances to **UFOs**.

Despite the many paranormal explanations for disappearances within the Bermuda Triangle, there are many natural explanations as well, including deliberate acts of destruction such as piracy, human error, and the effects of the **Gulf Stream**.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Multiple Choice:

1. The Bermuda Triangle is an area of the:
 - a. Arctic Ocean
 - b. Atlantic Ocean
 - c. Pacific Ocean
 - d. Indian Ocean

2. The Bermuda Triangle is also known as:
 - a. Gulf Stream
 - b. Atlantis
 - c. Devil's Triangle
 - d. Gulf of Mexico

3. Paranormal describes:
 - a. unusual experiences that lack a scientific explanation
 - b. a typical waterway in the Caribbean
 - c. strange planes that fly underwater
 - d. Arizona State University

Activity B: Fill in the blanks:

1. Lawrence David Kusche's book was entitled _____.
2. The first mention of the Bermuda Triangle in any article was in the year _____.
3. John Wallace Spencer, Charles Berlitz, and Richard Winer wrote about the paranormal nature of the _____.
4. Disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle are sometimes seen _____ occurrences.

Activity C: True or False:

1. ____ The Bermuda Triangle is one of the heaviest used shipping lanes in the world.
2. ____ Atlantis is the name of a ship that was lost in the Bermuda Triangle.
3. ____ There are many natural explanations for the loss of ships and plans in the Bermuda Triangle.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. The Bermuda Triangle is an area of the:

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

2. The Bermuda Triangle is also known as:

- a. Gulf Stream
- b. Atlantis
- c. **Devil's Triangle**
- d. Gulf of Mexico

3. Paranormal describes:

- a. **unusual experiences that lack a scientific explanation**
- b. a typical waterway in the Caribbean
- c. strange planes that fly underwater
- d. Arizona State University

Activity B

1. Lawrence David Kusche's book was entitled The Bermuda Triangle Mystery: Solved.

2. The first mention of the Bermuda Triangle in any article was in the year 1950.

3. John Wallace Spencer, Charles Berlitz, and Richard Winer wrote about the paranormal nature of the Bermuda Triangle.

4. Disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle are sometimes seen as paranormal occurrences.

Activity C

I 1. The Bermuda Triangle is one of the heaviest used shipping lanes in the world.

F 2. Atlantis is the name of a ship that was lost in the Bermuda Triangle.

I 3. There are many natural explanations for the loss of ships and plans in the Bermuda Triangle.