

## WRITTEN COMPREHENSION



### **The Bermuda Triangle**

At 2 pm on 5 December 1945, five US bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale in the USA for a training flight in perfect weather. Shortly afterwards, the pilots radioed that their flight instruments were all malfunctioning. Two hours after take-off, all contact with the planes was lost. A reconnaissance plane was immediately dispatched to search for the missing planes. Within 20 minutes, radio contact with it had also been lost. No trace of any of the planes was ever found. In all, six planes and 27 men had vanished into thin air.

The disappearance of the six planes was far from being the first mysterious incident in the area: for years, navigational problems and strange magnetic forces had been reported.

The Cyclops, a 19,000-ton US ship was sailing from Barbados to Norfolk, Virginia in March 1918, it vanished with its crew of 309 from the surface of the ocean without making a distress call and was never seen again.

The losses of boats and planes in that area defy explanation so the Bermuda Triangle has entered legend. The Bermuda Triangle has been called the Devils' Triangle, the Triangle of Death, the Graveyard of the Atlantic. It has swallowed up 140 ships and planes and more than 1,000 people. Today many airmen and sailors are still afraid of that area of the Atlantic Ocean.

Read the text and answer the questions:

1/ This document is:

a press article                  a dialogue                  an extract from a Shakespeare's play

2/ This document is about

geometry                          clothes                          a special place

3/ Where is Fort Lauderdale located?

In the USA                          In Ireland                          In Great Britain

4/ On 5<sup>th</sup> December 1945

It was snowing                  It was raining                  The sun was shining

5/ "five US bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale", in that sentence a "bomber" is:

a plane                          a ship                          a jacket

6/ The bombers disappeared

Right                          Wrong

7/ It was the first incident in this area

Right                          Wrong

8/ What was "the Cyclops"?

an alien                          a dangerous monster                  a big ship

9/ When did it disappear?

In nineteen thirty  
In nineteen eighteen  
In nineteen eighty

10/ How many people were on board ?

\_\_\_\_\_

11/ The ship was never found.

Right                          Wrong

12/ How do people sometimes call the Bermuda Triangle?

The Devil's Triangle  
The triangle of Death  
The Graveyard of the Atlantic

13/ The Bermuda Triangle is located in the Atlantic Ocean.

Right                          Wrong

14/ How many people have disappeared in that Bermuda Triangle?

Approximately one million  
Approximately one thousand  
Approximately one hundred

15/ This legend is over. Nobody believes it anymore.

Right          Wrong

### **To go further**

Watch the video and answer the questions:

Find other names of the Bermuda Triangle:

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What happened in 1941 ?

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Is the Bermuda Triangle really more dangerous than any other place in the sea ?

Yes          No