

The Bermuda Triangle

Choose the best option for each blank.

Even though you won't find it on a **(1)** _____, the Bermuda Triangle is a very real place. In the past there have been many stories of disappearing ships, planes and people. Although there is a

(2) _____ explanation for many incidents, some are still a mystery.

The Bermuda Triangle is **(3)** _____ off the coast of Florida between Miami, Puerto Rico and the Bermudas. It covers about 500 000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean. It is also known as the *Devil's Triangle* because Bermuda was once called *Islands of the Devils*. The coasts around the island are **(4)** _____ by dangerous reefs that ships ran into throughout the centuries.

(5) _____ events around the area go back to the voyages of Christopher Columbus. He sometimes reported that compass readings were wrong. Many journalists have tried to prove that a number of **(6)** _____ and unusual things have happened in the region. Some cases show that there are no explanations for them.

One of the best-known incidents is the disappearance of *Flight 19* during a training exercise of the US Navy. In December 1945 five American bombers left Fort Lauderdale, Florida on a routine mission. 14 crew members **(7)** _____ after sending several radio messages. When a rescue plane went to **(8)** _____ for the Navy bombers it also vanished.

What went wrong during the mission is not fully known. Compasses showed wrong directions and visibility was bad, so the flight leader decided to navigate by landmarks which he saw **(9)** _____. Then there was a **(10)** _____ storm and radio contact broke off. Wrecked parts of *Flight 19* have never been recovered.

Ships have also disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle. Among them is the *Mary Celeste*, an American merchant ship. In 1872 the ship was sailing from New York to Genoa but was later found off the **(11)** _____ of Africa without any crew members on board. Although there is no evidence that the *Mary Celeste* even entered the *Bermuda Triangle* there are many who connect its mysterious disappearance with the area.

There are many theories about why so many airplanes and ships have disappeared in the *Bermuda Triangle*. Some suggest that there are special magnetic fields that cause

(12) _____ physical forces. Others say that the lost continent of Atlantis sank in the region causing mysterious events. There is even a theory about unknown chemicals in the waters of the Atlantic.

Some experts, however, point (13) _____ that the region north of the Caribbean is not as (14) _____ as it may seem. It is one of two places on Earth where the compass points to the geographic North Pole. It is also a region in which the (15) _____ is unpredictable and where storms can emerge quickly. There are strong currents because of shallow places and deep trenches in the ocean. These factors can (16) _____ even experienced sailors.

Over 1,000 people were killed in The Bermuda Triangle during the 20th century. Scientists have concluded that this figure is normal, and most disappearances have a logical explanation. The myth of the Bermuda Triangle, however, remains.

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|----|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | card | map | diagram | plot |
| 2 | reasonable | moderate | cheap | normal |
| 3 | placed | sited | found | located |
| 4 | bordered | surrounded | bounded | limited |
| 5 | frequent | unusual | common | funny |
| 6 | emergencies | mistakes | accidents | troubles |
| 7 | disappeared | withdrew | passed away | faded |
| 8 | search | seek | find | research |
| 9 | under | below | underneath | at the bottom |
| 10 | quick | rapid | instant | sudden |
| 11 | coast | beach | seaside | water |
| 12 | famous | well known | unknown | ordinary |
| 13 | in | up | for | out |
| 14 | protected | safe | harmful | careful |
| 15 | weather | climate | condition | surrounding |
| 16 | complicate | confuse | amaze | combine |