

# The Bermuda Triangle

Many people believe that the Bermuda Triangle is one of the most supernatural places on earth. Let's explore why this hub of ocean mysteries may have earned such a scary reputation.

## Where Is the Bermuda Triangle?

The Bermuda Triangle is not a set place: it is an area of the Atlantic Ocean between 500,000 – 1,510,000 square miles in size. It can be found between the coasts of Florida, Puerto Rico and the island of Bermuda. This hot spot of activity regularly sees a many ships and aircrafts travelling through it.



## Why Is the Bermuda Triangle so Famous?



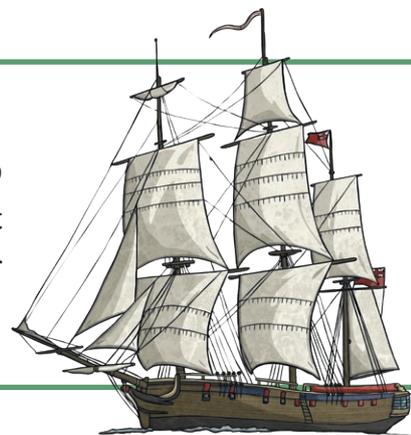
Stories of strange activity within the Bermuda Triangle date back hundreds of years. Some of the earliest are the stories told by Christopher Columbus and his crew.

During his first journey across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, Columbus reported many strange sightings within the Bermuda Triangle. The first of these was that the stars appeared to move around in the sky. Another was that Columbus saw a light (like that of a candle) moving up and down in the distance. When he asked his crew to look at the light, it vanished and reappeared many times.

The most unusual thing that Columbus says that he saw was a glowing object coming out of the water and shooting towards the sky. Many people think that this must have been a light on the shore or from another ship. However, some people believe that Columbus saw a UFO.

## Did You Know...?

Two 14-year-old boys boarded a small boat to go fishing in July 2015. Although their boat was found off the coast of Bermuda one year later, the boys were never seen again.



### What Strange Things Are Said to Have Happened?

Lots of strange events are said to have happened within the Bermuda Triangle, such as:

The Ellen Austin was a large cargo ship. The crew onboard found a small boat drifting along within the Bermuda Triangle. They decided that it had been abandoned. Captain Baker ordered four members of his crew to board the boat and sail it to New York. On the third day of sailing, the crew were said to disappear from the boat. When Captain Baker ordered a new crew to board the small boat, they disappeared too.

A US Navy ship called the USS Cyclops set off on a journey from Brazil to Baltimore, USA. The ship was almost 170 metres long and had a crew of 306 sailors aboard. On the ninth day of the ship's journey, it vanished and it has never been seen or heard from again.



Twelve members of the US Navy boarded a seaplane and left Florida in July of 1945. After sending their radio position at 1:16 a.m., the plane disappeared. Despite a ten-day search, neither the plane nor its crew were ever found.

### Glossary

**cargo:** Goods that are carried on a ship, aircraft or motor vehicle.

**Christopher Columbus:** An Italian explorer and navigator.

**seaplane:** An aircraft with floats or skis instead of wheels. It can land on and take off from water.

**supernatural:** Something that is beyond scientific understanding.

**UFO:** An Unidentified Flying Object. A mysterious object seen in the sky that there is no known explanation for.

# Questions

1. What was the Ellen Austin? Tick one.

- a US Navy ship  
 a US Navy seaplane  
 a small fishing boat  
 a large cargo ship

2. Join the boxes to complete the sentences which show what Columbus reported seeing.

The stars...
A light...
A glowing object...

moved up and down.
appeared to move around.
came from the water.

3. Look at the section called **Why Is the Bermuda Triangle so Famous?**

Find and copy one word from the first paragraph of this section which shows that the activities seen were not normal.

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4. Fill in the missing words.

\_\_\_\_\_ members of the US Navy boarded a \_\_\_\_\_ and left  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in July of 1945.

5. How many crew members were on board the USS Cyclops?

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6. Explain why people may think that the Bermuda Triangle is a supernatural area.

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7. Do you think that supernatural events happen in the Bermuda Triangle? Explain your answer.

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8. How were the Ellen Austin and USS Cyclops similar?

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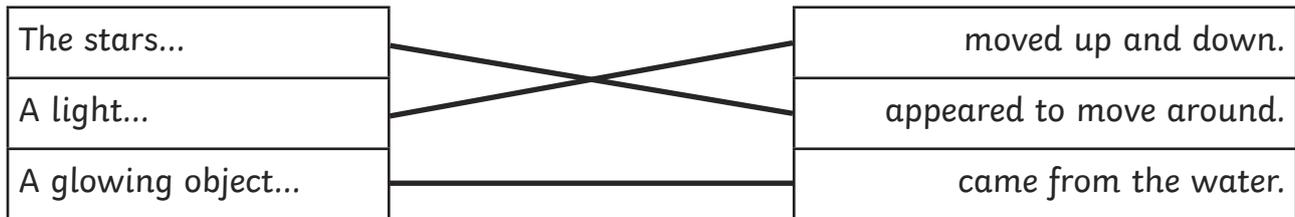
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# Answers

1. What was the Ellen Austin? Tick one.

- a US Navy ship  
 a US Navy seaplane  
 a small fishing boat  
 **a large cargo ship**

2. Join the boxes to complete the sentences which show what Columbus reported seeing.



3. Look at the section called **Why Is the Bermuda Triangle so Famous?**

Find and copy one word from the first paragraph of this section which shows that the activities seen were not normal.

**strange**

4. Fill in the missing words.

**Twelve** members of the US Navy boarded a **seaplane** and left **Florida** in July of 1945.

5. How many crew members were on board the USS Cyclops?

**306**

6. Explain why people may think that the Bermuda Triangle is a supernatural area.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People may think that the Bermuda Triangle is a supernatural area because lots of unexplained things have happened there that are beyond our scientific understanding.**

7. Do you think that supernatural events happen in the Bermuda Triangle? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think that supernatural events happen in the Bermuda Triangle. I think this because none of the people who have disappeared or their vessels have ever been found and I think they would have been if something natural had happened.**

8. How were the Ellen Austin and USS Cyclops similar?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Ellen Austin and the USS Cyclops were both large ships sailing within the Bermuda Triangle when members of their crew disappeared.**

# The Bermuda Triangle

Surrounded by mystery, many people believe that the Bermuda Triangle is one of the most supernatural places on earth. Let's explore why this centre of oceanic mysteries may have earned such a menacing reputation.

## Where Is the Bermuda Triangle?

The Bermuda Triangle is not a set location: it is a roughly-defined area of the Atlantic Ocean and it is said to cover between 500,000 – 1,510,000 square miles. Located between the coasts of Florida, Puerto Rico and the island of Bermuda, the Bermuda Triangle is home to some of the world's most heavily-travelled shipping lanes; this hot spot regularly sees a host of ships and aircrafts travelling through it.



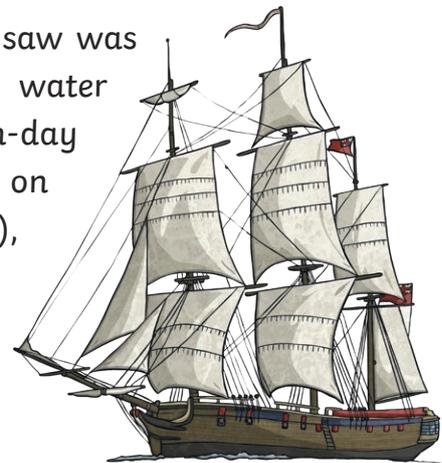
## Why Is the Bermuda Triangle so Famous?



Unusual tales of strange activity within the Bermuda Triangle date back hundreds of years. Some of the earliest are the stories told by Christopher Columbus and his crew.

During their first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, Columbus and members of his fleet reported many strange sightings within the Bermuda Triangle. The first of these, as written in Columbus's logs, was that the stars and other lights in the sky appeared to move around. In another incident, Columbus saw a light (like that of a candle) moving up and down in the distance. When he summoned his crew to look at the light, it vanished and reappeared multiple times.

The most bizarre and famous thing that Columbus saw was a glowing, disc-shaped object coming out of the water and shooting towards the sky. While many modern-day investigators try to explain this away (as lights on distant shores or the distress call of another ship), many others think that the crew encountered UFOs. They continue to use Columbus's story as proof of alien activity within the Bermuda Triangle.



**What Strange Things Are Said to Have Happened?**

Year	Strange Occurrences
1881	The Ellen Austin was a large cargo ship. The crew onboard came across a small, unidentified boat drifting along within the Bermuda Triangle. After watching the ship for two days and deciding that it had been abandoned, Captain Baker ordered four members of his crew to board the boat and sail it to New York. Upon the third day of sailing, the entire crew were said to disappear from the boat with no trace. When Captain Baker ordered a new crew to board the small boat, they disappeared too.
1918	A US Navy ship, the USS Cyclops, was loaded with cargo and set off on its journey from Brazil to Baltimore, USA. The ship was almost 170 metres long and had a crew of 306 sailors aboard. The last-known message from the ship was given as 'weather fair, all well'. However, on the ninth day of the ship's journey, it vanished. It has never been seen or heard from again.
1945	Twelve members of the US Navy left the Naval Air Station in Florida in July of 1945. They were taking part in a radar training flight aboard a seaplane. After sending their radio position at 1:16 a.m., the plane disappeared. Despite a ten-day search, neither the plane nor its crew were ever found.
2003	In June of 2003, Frank and Romina Leone left their home in Florida for a fishing trip aboard their new boat. After failing to return home, the US Coast Guard launched a rescue mission but failed to find Frank, Romina or any trace of their boat.
2015	Two 14-year-old boys (Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen) boarded a small boat and left the coast of Florida to fish in late July of 2015. Although their boat was found off the coast of Bermuda one year later, the boys were never seen again.



With so many unexplained incidents happening within the Bermuda Triangle, many have begun to wonder whether there may be more than meets the eye in this mysterious zone.

# Questions

1. Which of these was the name of the captain of the Ellen Austin? Tick one.

- Captain Baltimore
- Captain Baker
- Captain Stephanos
- Captain Leone

2. Number the events below from 1-5 to show the order they occurred.

- The USS Cyclops disappeared.
- Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen disappeared.
- Columbus passed through the Bermuda Triangle.
- Frank and Romina Leone disappeared.
- Twelve members of the US Navy disappeared.

3. Find and copy the year in which Columbus first crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **...may have earned such a menacing reputation.**

Write the phrase 'menacing reputation' in your own words.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. At what time did the US Navy seaplane send its radio position?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Summarise what Columbus reported during his first journey across the Atlantic in 30 words or less.

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\_\_\_\_\_

7. Explain where the Bermuda Triangle can be found.

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8. Look at the first paragraph of the text. Why do you think that the Bermuda Triangle is described as 'surrounded by mystery'?

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9. How does the disappearance of the crew of the Ellen Austin differ from the disappearance of the crew of the USS Cyclops?

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# Answers

1. Which of these was the name of the captain of the Ellen Austin? Tick one.

- Captain Baltimore  
 **Captain Baker**  
 Captain Stephanos  
 Captain Leone

2. Number the events below from 1-5 to show the order they occurred.

- The USS Cyclops disappeared.  
 Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen disappeared.  
 Columbus passed through the Bermuda Triangle.  
 Frank and Romina Leone disappeared.  
 Twelve members of the US Navy disappeared.

3. Find and copy the year in which Columbus first crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

**1492**

4. **...may have earned such a menacing reputation.**

Write the phrase 'menacing reputation' in your own words.

**Pupils' own responses provided that the same meaning is conveyed, such as: a scary name for itself.**

5. At what time did the US Navy seaplane send its radio position?

**1:16 a.m.**

6. Summarise what Columbus reported during his first journey across the Atlantic in 30 words or less.

**Accept any suitable summary of the journey given in 30 words or less, such as: Columbus saw the stars moving in the sky, a light in the distance moving up and down and a glowing disc coming out of the water.**

7. Explain where the Bermuda Triangle can be found.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Bermuda Triangle can be found between the coasts of Florida, Puerto Rico and Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean.**

8. Look at the first paragraph of the text. Why do you think that the Bermuda Triangle is described as 'surrounded by mystery'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that it is described as 'surrounded by mystery' because lots of unexplained things have happened there throughout history.**

9. How does the disappearance of the crew of the Ellen Austin differ from the disappearance of the crew of the USS Cyclops?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Two different sets of the crew of the Ellen Austin disappeared at different times whilst some crew members remained, whereas the entire crew of the USS Cyclops all disappeared at once.**

# The Bermuda Triangle

Surrounded by mystery and lore, the Bermuda Triangle is often regarded as one of the most infamous and supernatural places on earth. Let's explore why this epicentre of oceanic conundrums may have earned such a sinister reputation.

## Where Is the Bermuda Triangle?

The Bermuda Triangle is not a set geographic location: it is a loosely-defined area of the Atlantic Ocean which is said to cover between 500,000 – 1,510,000 square miles. Situated between the coasts of Florida, Puerto Rico and the island of Bermuda, the Bermuda Triangle encompasses some of the world's most heavily-travelled shipping lanes and regularly sees ships and aircrafts travelling through it for both business and pleasure.



## Why Is the Bermuda Triangle so Famous?



Unusual tales recounting strange activity within the Bermuda Triangle date back hundreds of years, with some of the earliest and most renowned of these being the stories told by Christopher Columbus and his crew.

During their first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, Columbus and members of his fleet reported numerous strange sightings within the Bermuda Triangle. The first of these, as written in Columbus's logs, was that the stars and other strange lights in the sky appeared to move and shift about freely. In another incident, while standing on the deck of the ship, Columbus saw a light (like that of a candle) moving up and down in the distance. When he summoned his crew to look at the light, it vanished and reappeared multiple times before their eyes.

In the most bizarre and famous account of strange activity given by Columbus, he told of how a glowing, disc-shaped object emerged from the water and seemed to shoot towards the sky. While many modern-day investigators try to rationalise Columbus's accounts as merely lights on distant shores or the distress call of another ship, many others speculate that the crew of the Santa Maria encountered UFOs of alien origins and continue to use Columbus's narrative as proof of supernatural activity within the Bermuda Triangle.

## What Strange Things Are Said to Have Happened?

Year	Strange Occurrences
1881	The crew of the <i>Ellen Austin</i> , a large cargo ship, came across a small, unidentified boat drifting along the ocean within the Bermuda Triangle. After observing the ship for two days and concluding that it had been abandoned, Captain Baker ordered four members of his crew to board the seemingly well-maintained boat and sail it to New York. Upon the third day of sailing, the entire crew were said to disappear from the boat with no trace and, when Captain Baker ordered a new crew to board the small boat, they too disappeared without a trace after two days.
1918	In March of 1918, US Navy ship the <i>USS Cyclops</i> was loaded with valuable cargo and embarked upon its journey from Brazil to Baltimore, USA. The ship was almost 170 metres long and had a crew of 306 sailors aboard. The last-known message from the ship was given as 'weather fair, all well' yet, on the ninth day of the ship's voyage, it vanished without a trace, never to be seen or heard from again.
1945	In July of 1945, twelve members of the US Navy left the Naval Air Station in Florida for a radar training flight aboard a seaplane. After sending their radio position at 1:16 a.m., the plane disappeared. Despite an extensive ten-day search, neither the plane nor its crew were ever found.
2003	In June of 2003, newly-married couple Frank and Romina Leone left their home in Florida for a fishing trip aboard their brand-new boat. After failing to return home, the US Coast Guard launched an extensive rescue mission but failed to find Frank, Romina or any trace of their vessel.
2015	Two 14-year-old boys named Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen boarded a small boat and left the coast of Florida to fish in late July of 2015. Although their boat was found off the coast of Bermuda one year later, the boys were never seen again.



With so many unexplained and seemingly-repetitive incidents occurring within the Bermuda Triangle, many have begun to speculate whether there may be more than meets the eye in this enigmatic zone.

# Questions

1. **The Bermuda Triangle is often regarded as...**

Which of the following phrases conveys the same meaning as 'often regarded as' in this sentence? Tick one.

- it is as fact that
- everyone always calls it that
- some people think of it as
- no one ever acknowledges that

2. Join the boxes to show the year in which the disappearance took place.

1881
1918
2003
2015

the USS Cyclops
Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen
Frank and Romina Leone
members of the Ellen Austin's crew

3. What was the name of Christopher Columbus's ship?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Find and copy two different adjectives to describe the object that Columbus reports as having emerged from the water.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Between which locations was the USS Cyclops travelling?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Captain Baker ordered four members of his crew to board the seemingly well-maintained boat...**

Explain why the words 'seemingly well-maintained' are significant in this sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Look at the paragraph beginning: **In the most bizarre and famous account...**  
Which explanation do you agree with? Explain your choice.

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8. **With so many unexplained and seemingly-repetitive incidents...**

Explain why the incidents within the Bermuda Triangle have been described as 'seemingly-repetitive'.

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9. Compare two incidents which took place within the Bermuda Triangle, explaining how they are similar.

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10. Would you choose to visit the Bermuda Triangle?

Yes  No

Fully explain your answer.

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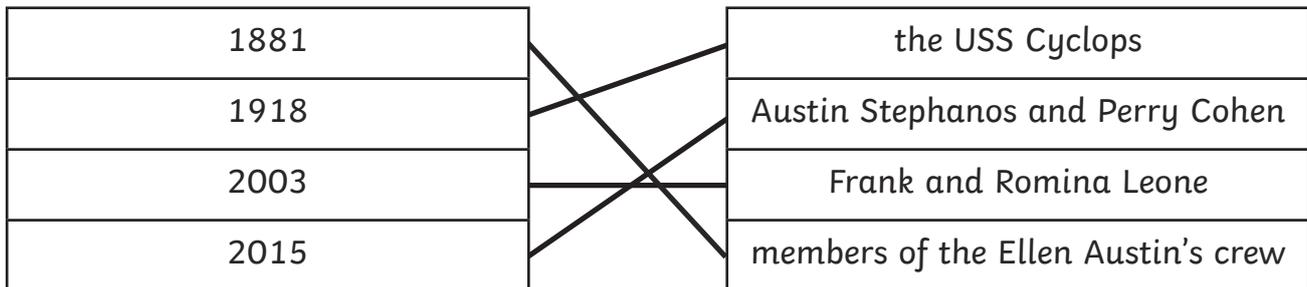
# Answers

1. **The Bermuda Triangle is often regarded as...**

Which of the following phrases conveys the same meaning as 'often regarded as' in this sentence? Tick one.

- it is as fact that
- everyone always calls it that
- some people think of it as**
- no one ever acknowledges that

2. Join the boxes to show the year in which the disappearance took place.



3. What was the name of Christopher Columbus's ship?

**Santa Maria**

4. Find and copy two different adjectives to describe the object that Columbus reports as having emerged from the water.

**glowing**

**disc-shaped**

5. Between which locations was the USS Cyclops travelling?

**The USS Cyclops was travelling between Brazil and Baltimore, USA.**

6. **Captain Baker ordered four members of his crew to board the seemingly well-maintained boat...**

Explain why the words 'seemingly well-maintained' are significant in this sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Seemingly well-maintained' are significant because the boat had been found abandoned but looked to be in good condition. This emphasises how unusual the abandoned boat was, especially since there was no crew on board to keep up the maintenance.**

1. Look at the paragraph beginning: **In the most bizarre and famous account...**

Which explanation do you agree with? Explain your choice.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I agree with the modern-day investigators who think that the lights were from a distant shore or another ship. I think this because I do not believe in UFOs and I think that a realistic explanation is far more likely to be true.**

2. **With so many unexplained and seemingly-repetitive incidents...**

Explain why the incidents within the Bermuda Triangle have been described as 'seemingly-repetitive'.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The incidents have been described as 'seemingly-repetitive' because many of them involve someone setting out on a journey never to be seen from again. It seems as though many of the reported incidents are like a repeat of an incident that has already happened.**

3. Compare two incidents which took place within the Bermuda Triangle, explaining how they are similar.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The disappearance of Frank and Romina Leone is similar to the disappearance of Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen because, in both instances, the parties set out on their boats to go fishing and both trips resulted in the people aboard disappearing.**

4. Would you choose to visit the Bermuda Triangle?

**Accept either yes or no as an answer, providing that a full explanation is also given below.**

Fully explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I would like to visit the Bermuda Triangle because I would like to prove or disprove the existence of UFOs. I would also like to explore and see if I could find any of the ships that have disappeared.**