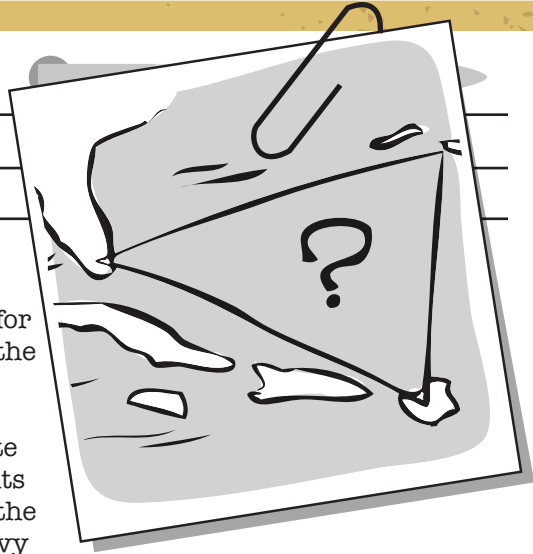


CASE: Bermuda Triangle

LOCATION: Atlantic Ocean



In the Atlantic Ocean lie mysterious waters known as the Bermuda Triangle. Located between Florida, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico, the Bermuda Triangle is said to be responsible for the disappearance of many planes and boats that pass over the area.

Reports of strange occurrences in the Bermuda Triangle date all the way back to Christopher Columbus, whose instruments began giving incorrect readings on his first voyage through the area. The most famous incident happened in 1945, when Navy pilots, after taking off from Florida, began practicing over the triangle's waters. The controls began giving strange readings, and the pilots all became extremely confused and disoriented until they all crashed into the ocean.

Over the years, a number of planes and boats have disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle, even after communicating to people on land that everything was fine. Even those on land aren't safe: Two lighthouse keepers in the Bahamas mysteriously disappeared from their post in 1969, never seen again.

Though it's become legendary for leading sailors and pilots to their doom, nothing proves that the rate of disaster there is higher than anywhere else in the ocean—many boats and planes pass through the area every day just fine.

WITNESS: Ed Bellis, amateur investigator:

Ever heard of Atlantis? The lost civilization is down there, at the bottom of the water. It's their technology interfering with ours.

WITNESS: Jane Leland, pilot:

Well, the Gulf Stream, one of the strongest ocean currents, does flow right through that way. It can create weird, violent weather patterns sometimes, which might explain the damage to so many ships and planes. I mean, it's not as cool as that Atlantis theory, but I still wouldn't fly over!

WITNESS: Brad Helmsley, Navy Captain:

Oh, please. I know the ocean, and there's nothing strange about that part of the sea. We document every ship that passes through those waters, and it has no higher rate of disaster than anywhere else. It's just a bunch of hokey that bored people have made up for their own amusement.

How does Brad Helmsley's view differ from the first two?

Imagine you were about to take a flight that passed over the Bermuda Triangle. How would you feel? Pretend you are writing an email to a friend about your upcoming flight.