

Informative Speech Outline

Attention Getter is italicized.

Transitions are bolded.

Topic: The Mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle.

Specific Purpose: To explain the past events of the Bermuda Triangle, its main conspiracy theories, and where scientists are today on solving the mystery.

1. Introduction: I would like to start with a quote from Herman Melville, an American novelist from the 1800s - *“There is one knows not what sweet mystery about this sea, whose gently awful stirrings seem to speak of some hidden soul beneath.”* Now, imagine a place that has caused several unexplained disappearances of people, ships, planes, and more. ***Well, such a place exists, and that place is the Bermuda Triangle, a.k.a. the Devil’s Triangle.***
2. This triangle is said to be between Miami, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda and covers about 500,000 miles of the ocean, **but how did this phenomenon start?**
3. The mystery began with Christopher Columbus, the main discoverer of America.
 - a. According to the History Channel’s *Legend of the Bermuda Triangle*, published in 2010, Columbus claimed that his compass was malfunctioning, and later on that night saw a “great flame of fire” crash into that portion of the sea and a few weeks later, a strange light appeared in the distance.
 - b. Several disappearances have occurred since then, but most of them have one thing in common- the vessels, if found, all seemed like they were abandoned and no bodies were discovered.
 - c. **One particular phenomenal event happened in December 1945.**
 - i. Five Navy bomber planes with 14 men total left Fort Lauderdale, Florida to do some airfield training. Flight 19, the leader of the troop, began to claim that his compasses were malfunctioning and got very lost. The planes flew around for hours trying to find some type of land, until they ultimately ran out of fuel and crash landed into the ocean.
 - ii. That same day, in an effort to find the missing crew, a rescue plane with 13 people on it was sent out into the triangle, but it also disappeared.
 - iii. The official Navy report stated “it was as if they had flown to Mars.”
 - d. **However, the mystery that really caught people’s attention was about the USS Cyclops.**
 - i. In an article by *The Sun* written in September 2017, the author Holly Christodoulou, states that the USS Cyclops was a 542 foot long Navy cargo ship with over 300 people on it. It disappeared somewhere in the triangle without a trace.

- ii. The triangle has taken at least 1000 lives in the last 100 years. There is one survivor who lives to explain his near death Bermuda Triangle experience in a recent video interview with the History Channel.
- iii. Bruce Gernon says, "I looked at the compass, and it was slowly rotating counterclockwise all by itself...everything turns this strange grey, there's no horizon, and I can't see the sky. It was weird, kind of fuzzy mixed with all this electricity. That was when I thought of the word, *electronic fog*."
 - 1. Electronic Fog is bizarre storm clouds caused by thunderclouds and high level solar winds.

4. More recently...

- a. In an article by Paul Ratner for bigthink.com, a cargo ship called El Faro vanished in the triangle in 2015. The ship had 33 people on board. It was said to have had some flooding due to a nearby Tropical Storm, but in the last message received from the captain, he claimed that the flooding had been contained. Soon after, El Faro ceased all communication, disappeared from the radar, and no bodies were found.

5. Even though several of these mysteries have not been solved, many conspiracy theories have been brought up.

- a. In the same *The Sun* article from 2017, the author lists five popular theories.
 - i. Number 1, the paranormal theory. Many writers believe that this triangle is a place used by UFOs and aliens to capture unsuspecting humans in order to conduct research and analysis on our species, especially since no bodies can ever really be discovered after any type of Bermuda Triangle tragedy.
 - ii. Number 2, Atlantis. Some theorists think that the lost city of Atlantis is located directly at the bottom of the triangle and its mystical crystals are transmitting energy that destroy anything that crosses its path.
 - iii. Number 3, gigantic structures. Paranormal explorers claim that they found a massive crystal pyramid hiding beneath the triangle and could be the cause of the common crashes.
 - iv. Number 4, souls of African slaves. It is said that the ocean in that area could be haunted by the souls of overthrown slaves on their way to America. Some people claim to hear a haunting sound when sailing through the triangle.
 - v. Lastly, number 5, government testing. There are claims that the US Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center is using the Bermuda Triangle as a testing mechanism. They claim that the government could be testing reverse-engineered alien technology in particular, causing the disappearances.

6. So, what could be the real cause you may ask...

- a. From the same article by Paul Ratner, meteorologists have found hexagonal clouds over the Bermuda Triangle area which could be causing 170 mph air bombs filled with wind, with some being between 20 to 55 miles long, and causing waves up to 45 feet tall. Scientists are continuing to do research here, but this could be the solution to the great Bermuda Triangle mystery.

7. In conclusion, the Bermuda Triangle is one of the greatest mysteries of the world. Even though the real cause of these random disappearances has not been discovered, we are still able to wonder

what could be the main reason behind all of this, and maybe one day, one of you will solve one of the greatest mysteries of mankind.

Resources

Christodoulou, Holly. "Where Is the Bermuda Triangle, What Is It, Why Do Planes Go Missing There and What Conspiracy Theories Are There?" *The Sun*, 25 Sept. 2017, 3:56pm, www.thesun.co.uk/news/2021520/bermuda-triangle-ships-planes-conspiracy-theories/.

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History.com Staff. "Bermuda Triangle." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 2010, www.history.com/topics/bermuda-triangle.

Ratner, Paul. "The Mystery of the Bermuda Triangle May Finally Be Solved." *Big Think*, 22 Oct. 2016, bigthink.com/paul-ratner/the-mystery-of-the-bermuda-triangle-may-finally-be-solved.