

# The Bermuda Triangle – Flight 19



In the last 500 years, over 1000 ships and aircraft have entered the Bermuda Triangle and mysteriously vanished. It is the deadliest place on Earth for planes and boats. The Bermuda Triangle is an area of water about 500,000 square miles in size. One tip of the triangle starts from Miami, Florida and extends northeast towards the island of Bermuda. The next side of the triangle then runs straight south towards the Puerto Rico and then turns back northeast up to Florida.

The story of Flight 19 is one of the most **incredible** cases of Bermuda Triangle disappearances. In the early afternoon of December 5, 1945, five American military aircraft with 14 men aboard **departed** from a naval base in Florida on a training flight. These aircraft were called Avengers, and they were among the sturdiest and most reliable aircraft in the world at the time. Commander Charles Taylor, an experienced pilot, was supposed to lead the flight east from the Florida coastline, which would take them into the Bermuda Triangle. The sky was clear and it was a perfect day for flying but problems began about 90 minutes after takeoff.

Taylor radioed back to his base at 3:40 p.m. that he was lost and his plane's compass was not working. This should not have been a problem as the normal **procedure** for going home was to simply fly west until they returned to the U.S. coast. The men of Flight 19, however, never returned home and the airplanes seemed to have simply vanished. The final radio messages from Flight 19 were very odd. One pilot stated, "Everything looks strange. Even the ocean." Another one said, "It looks like we're entering white water. We're completely lost." A rescue plane flew into the Bermuda Triangle to try and find the men but **it** crashed and all 13 men on board were killed. Later on, a Navy official stated that Flight 19 "flew off to Mars."

Flight 19's disappearance is just one of many in the long history of the Bermuda Triangle mystery. Is there a scientific explanation for these disappearances or are there supernatural forces at work in the area? The number of unanswered questions about the fate of the planes only adds to the mystery. Did Taylor, an experienced pilot, really make a simple navigational mistake? If so, why didn't any of the other men in his flight see the error and correct it? Why has the wreckage of the planes and the men's bodies never been found after all these years? The US Navy investigated the incident in 1946 and reported that the Flight 19 incident was a "disappearance" with the **chilling** words "cause unknown" added later on.



1. According to the article, how many ships and planes have disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle?
  - a) less than 1000
  - b) more than 1000
  - c) approximately 500
  - d) approximately 500,000
  
2. The word “incredible” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) believable
  - b) extraordinary
  - c) magnificent
  - d) extravagant
  
3. The word “departed” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) took off
  - b) took on
  - c) took out
  - d) took in
  
4. It can be inferred from paragraph 2 that
  - a) the commander of Flight 19 made a huge mistake
  - b) the type of aircraft was not suitable for this mission
  - c) it is quite obvious why the Flight 19 incident occurred
  - d) it is difficult to comprehend why the Flight 19 incident occurred
  
5. Paragraph 2 is about:
  - a) possible reasons why the Flight 19 incident occurred
  - b) an astonishing example of a Bermuda Triangle disappearance
  - c) an typical example of a Bermuda Triangle disappearance
  - d) the reasons why Flight 19 should have never departed from Florida
  
6. According to paragraph 3, what was the initial problem with the aircraft of Flight 19?
  - a) the controls in all of the aircraft stopped working
  - b) the pilot was having problems with the landing gear
  - c) one of the airplane’s compasses wasn’t functioning properly
  - d) one of the airplane’s engines wasn’t functioning properly
  
7. The word “procedure” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:
  - a) routine
  - b) produce
  - c) property
  - d) tradition

8. The word “it” in paragraph 3 refers to:
- a) Flight 19
  - b) the navy
  - c) the rescue plane
  - d) the U.S. coast
9. The word “chilling” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:
- a) exciting
  - b) cold
  - c) frightening
  - d) comforting
10. What can be determined about Flight 19 in paragraph 4?
- a) the mystery has been solved
  - b) the cause of the incident was human error
  - c) the US Navy was responsible for their disappearance
  - d) the disappearance remains a mystery
11. It can be determined from paragraph 5 that
- a) the US Navy’s investigation wasn’t thorough enough
  - b) the only explanation could be supernatural forces at work
  - c) there are many unanswered questions about the Flight 19 incident
  - d) many of the questions about the Flight 19 incident have been answered

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (d) 11. (c)