

# Reading Comprehension Task:

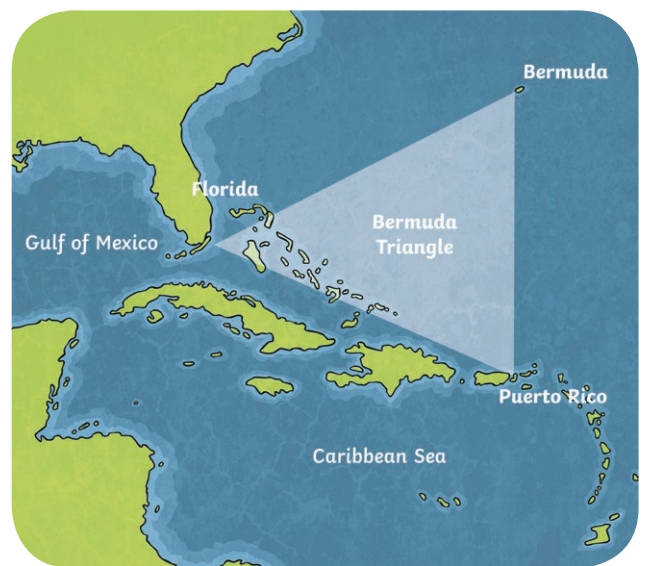
## The Bermuda Triangle

You have 30 minutes to read the following passage and answer **all** of the questions below. Match your response to the marks available. You may continue your answers on the additional pages provided, if required.

Surrounded by mystery and lore, the Bermuda Triangle is regularly regarded as one of the most infamous and supernatural places on Earth. Although not a set geographic location (rather, it is a loosely-defined area of the Atlantic Ocean said to cover between 500,000 – 1,510,000 square miles), this epicentre of oceanic conundrums has earned a sinister reputation amongst many explorers.

Situated between the coasts of Florida, Puerto Rico and the island from which it takes its name, the Bermuda Triangle encompasses some of the world's most heavily-utilised shipping lanes. Unusual tales recounting strange activity within the area originated hundreds of years ago, with some of the earliest and most renowned of these being the stories told by Christopher Columbus and his crew.

During their maiden voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, Columbus and his fleet reported numerous bizarre sightings within the Bermuda Triangle. They recounted how strange lights appeared to shift freely in the sky and how a single candle-like glow bobbed up and down upon the horizon, vanishing and reappearing before their eyes. Remarkably, Columbus also reported that a glowing, disc-shaped object emerged from the water and rapidly shot skyward.



1. **...this epicentre of oceanic conundrums has earned a sinister reputation...**

Rewrite this phrase replacing the words 'epicentre', 'conundrums' and 'sinister' with appropriate synonyms.

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2 marks

2. Using evidence from the text, explain why people continue to visit the Bermuda Triangle despite its reputation.

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2 marks

3. Select from the text two ways in which the author makes the Bermuda Triangle seem mysterious and discuss the effect that each has on the reader.

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3 marks

4. Rationalise one of Columbus's sightings, providing a plausible explanation suitable for the era in which the sighting occurred.

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3 marks

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# Reading Comprehension Task:

## The Bermuda Triangle **Example Answers**

To achieve the full number of marks for each question, pupils' responses should be to the same quality as the examples below. This is not a comprehensive list of answers and should only be used as a guide regarding answer depth and detail.

1. **...this epicentre of oceanic conundrums has earned a sinister reputation...**

Rewrite this phrase replacing the words 'epicentre', 'conundrums' and 'sinister' with appropriate synonyms.

**...this hub of oceanic enigmas has earned an unpleasant reputation...**

2. Using evidence from the text, explain why people continue to visit the Bermuda Triangle despite its reputation.

**People continue to visit the Bermuda Triangle because it 'encompasses some of the world's most heavily-utilised shipping lanes'; this means that sailors have no choice but to pass through it when travelling along these channels.**

3. Select from the text two ways in which the author makes the Bermuda Triangle seem mysterious and discuss the effect that each has on the reader.

**One way that the author makes the Bermuda Triangle seem mysterious is by saying that it is 'surrounded by mystery and lore' – this makes the reader want to know more about the stories surrounding the Bermuda Triangle. The author also briefly covers some of the strange events that have happened there; I believe that this will make the reader want to engage with the text to prove or disprove these happenings.**

4. Rationalise one of Columbus's sightings, providing a plausible explanation suitable for the era in which the sighting occurred.

**Columbus reported seeing a candle-like glow bobbing up and down on the horizon. I think that this could have been a lighthouse which remained stationary on the shore as Columbus's ship bobbed on the waves. The light might have seemed candle-like because of how far away Columbus's ship was.**