

BERMUDA TRIANGLE ESCAPE ROOM

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens/tweens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Bermuda Triangle is a space in the North Atlantic where ships, planes, and people have allegedly gone missing. Roughly, its borders run from Florida to Bermuda to Puerto Rico. Set up your own Bermuda Triangle Escape Room, and challenge your patrons to make it through! Modify clues with more or less complexity for different age groups. Puzzles created by Kara Reiman of Maine State Library, Augusta, ME. Suggested runtime: 60 min.

ADAPTATION:

For a digital version, use this escape room link: <https://bit.ly/3fq5q5b>. Share the link directly with patrons, or screen share over Zoom.



Image source: Shutterstock

GAME/ACTIVITY

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- A map that shows latitudes and longitudes in the Caribbean
- Image of airplane dashboard
- Black poster board
- White paint or white gel pen
- 5-digit word lock
- GO button
- Lockbox with padlock (and key)
- Compass (real or fake)
- Black light
- Invisible ink
- Magnifying glass

To prepare the puzzles:

- Blow up a map of the Caribbean and mark the following locations, printing the names as follows: waShington dc, bermUda, miaMi, cubA, puerto riCo.
- Map a night sky map by painting or drawing stars on black poster board. Draw a yellow streak and write “meteor” in tiny letters underneath.
- Set the word lock to SUMAC.
- Create or buy a button that says GO.
- Print out or draw your own airplane dashboard, use invisible ink to draw N, E, W, S in the correct diamond pattern somewhere on it. (To be more accurate, have the N facing toward the back of the plane.) Set up the dashboard at the front of the room on a table or desk.
- Set up a table or desk at the front with a few rows of 2x2 chairs for airplane seats.
- Put the maps up on the walls, and place the locks and clues.

Before letting a group enter the room, explain the guidelines and rules, and give them a short description of the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle. Read the intro letter and each announcement as they have accomplished the tasks.

Introduction letter: Welcome, travelers! I'm so glad you decided to embark on this journey with us. This is a non-stop flight from Washington, DC to San Juan, Puerto Rico. We're looking at a smooth journey over the Bermuda Triangle today, but if anything goes wrong, we'll be looking to you to help out. Make sure you look all around you as you board the plane so you know where everything is. Let's go!

TIP:

Have someone run through the game once before you go live to make sure everything works smoothly and you haven't forgotten something.

TIP:

To ensure smooth gameplay, require registration and keep the groups small.

GAME/ACTIVITY

ANNOUNCEMENT #1:

Oh, dear. I have forgotten the code I need to enter our destination into the computer. It's something about a tree that's also a spice. Can you see if you can help me remember it? Once you have it, just enter it into the lock there to access the GO button.

PUZZLE #1:

A map of BT with some locations labeled, some letters capitalized (SUMAC). Those letters, from N to S, will be the code to unlock a box with the "GO" button (this can be a piece of paper with "go" written on it, or it can be an actual button). Additionally, they may figure it out if they can figure out the clue.

ANNOUNCEMENT #2:

What's this? We seem to be flying into some fog. Oh no! Our directional system is not responding. I'm going to need a compass. Has anyone found one for me? Could you bring me one?

PUZZLE #2:

A compass (real or fake) locked in a box with a key lock. Hide the key and the locked box.

ANNOUNCEMENT #3:

The compass is going wild! Something is throwing it off. How will we ever figure out which direction is true north? I wish someone would SHINE SOME LIGHT on it.

PUZZLE #3:

Hide a black light somewhere in the room or in another locked box. The black light needs to be shined on the control panel which indicates NSWE in invisible ink.

ANNOUNCEMENT #4:

Good! We're back on track! Woah! Did anyone see that? It was a streak of light in the distance. I wonder what it was. Can you do some research and see if you can figure it out? I'm just gonna keep the plane in a holding pattern until we figure out what that was! I'd hate to bump into a UFO!

PUZZLE #4:

Hide a magnifying glass somewhere in the room. A map of the night sky will show a tiny yellow meteor somewhere on it and in tiny letters it will say meteor next to it.

GAME/ACTIVITY

ANNOUNCEMENT #5.

Ah, so it was just a meteor! Strange. Well, we're just about ready to start our descent into Puerto Rico. I just have to double check our coordinates. Oh, dear. I seem to have lost the paper with the Puerto Rico coordinates on it. Can somebody help me find them? I sure hope they didn't get separated. I need two coordinates.

PUZZLE #5:

Hide four slips of paper with the coordinates listed separately (18.4655° N, 66.1057° W, 59.9311° N, and 30.3609° E) in different places, such as in a flight-related book or taped to the bottom of an "airplane" seat. Have a map that shows latitude and longitude so that they can figure out the correct two coordinates (18.4655° N and 66.1057° W). They win if they bring you the correct two coordinates in time.

ANNOUNCEMENT #6 (SUCCESS):

Awesome job! We're coming in for a landing in Puerto Rico thanks to your hard work. Looks like the whole Bermuda Triangle thing is just a myth!

ANNOUNCEMENT #6 (FAILURE):

(Maybe play spooky music, like the X-Files theme song.) Hmm...this doesn't seem right. We've been flying forever. I think, despite your best efforts, we've gotten lost in the Bermuda Triangle, never to return. Better luck next flight!

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Set up the room with clues before the program. Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES**Books**Non-fiction

Where Is the Bermuda Triangle? (2018) by Megan Stine and Tim Foley (children's)

Bermuda Triangle (Eyewitness Books) (2000) by Andrew Donkin (children's)

Fiction

The Treasure Of The Bermuda Triangle (2014) by Steve Stevenson and Stefano Turconi (children's)

Printables

Printable: World Map

Printable: Airplane Dashboard

