

Countdown to Doom

for the BBC Microcomputer

Hints and answers

Here is a list of commonly asked questions about Countdown to Doom, together with a set of hints and answers.

The hints and answers are arranged in a jumbled order to make it harder to accidentally see the solution to other questions. If you do not want to risk spoiling the rest of the adventure, ask a friend to look up the hint or answer to your question for you.

Hints and answers

1. One of the routes out of the machine room is the correct one, but it keeps changing.
2. Yes you do! Always!
3. Yes indeed; you can map the area without light.
4. Look at the state of your spacesuit – it was ancient! Surely there's a time when it wasn't!
5. Twit! Haven't you got the order sorted out by now?
6. Poor old rat! What harm did he do to you?
7. Then you're feeding it in the wrong order.
8. Then you didn't treat the computer right. It was waiting for input.
9. De-activate the robot by it and see what happens.
10. Yes, he does. Can you de-activate him?
11. You can label the rooms and their orientation.
12. A little muscle helps.
13. Yes, you can. Just don't take anything with you.
14. Yes, you do. That's the exit!
15. Yes, it's odd when you need even, or vice versa. There is a route back to the ship which needs one more move than normal. Can you find it?
16. Try catching it in a useful receptacle.
17. Really? Head up-river and try using the vine.
18. Acid + alkali = ?
19. Remember the warning about quiet!
20. Spend as little time as possible holding them.
21. It's unbeatable as an adult. Can you beat it when it's a baby?
22. It needs to be colder to work.
23. Well you would, wouldn't you? Try warming up the far end of the glacier.
24. You shouldn't be! Each area of the jungle has its own description. Look carefully.
25. There are two distinct puzzles to the swamp. For one, you need to be able to tell which are the safe bits before you tread on them. You'll need some equipment. For the other puzzle, you need to rush in and stay alive. For that, you'll need something with oxygen.
26. How would you move it in real life?
27. Try leaving the explosive behind in a sensible place, and going away!
28. The door is jammed. How would you unjam it?
29. Think of the machine noises as times on a clock, with the 'safe' direction.

30. Try 'dropping' and 'getting' objects to label rooms. INV will tell you which room you're in. You can then map the maze.
31. You should feed it with discs first – in the right order.
32. Use the word hidden in the cryptogram. There are sufficient clues around to make solving it easy.
33. Drop objects to identify a room. Their position will show you which way round you are.
34. Push one of the niches.
35. Get the can and throw it in first.
36. Try doing something noisy like jumping or shouting or banging.
37. Make taking the crystals the last thing you do back in time.
38. Go to the far end of the glacier.
39. Fire the phaser at the end of the glacier.
40. To cross swamps, find and wear the goggles. To sink into swamps, find and wear a not-too-ancient spacesuit.
41. Push it.
42. Trying lighting the fuse!

Problems arising, hints and answers

- I can't get out of the spaceship.
Hint 28, Answer 42
- I keep blowing myself up.
Hint 27
- I blew the door up, but it's still there.
Hint 26, Answer 41
- I keep dying in the swamp.
Hint 25, Answer 40
- I'm lost in the jungle.
Hint 24
- I get too cold and die on the glacier.
Hint 23, Answer 39
- The phaser kills me.
Hint 22, Answer 38
- The monster kills me when I try to go past or take the crystals.
Hint 21
- I get the crystals but I'm dying from their radiation.
Hint 20, Answer 37
- I die in the desert.
Hint 19, Answer 36
- The pit is killing me.
Hint 18, Answer 35
- I can't get back from beyond the desert.
Hint 17
- The blob kills me when I pick it up.
Hint 16
- The platform runs out of power at the wrong place.
Hint 15
- I die when entering the artefact through its NE entrance.
Hint 14
- I can't get into the artefact through its SW entrance.
Hint 13
- I can't get out of the curving corridor in the artefact.
Hint 12, Answer 34
- I'm lost in the pneumatic tubes maze.
Hint 11, Answer 33
- The robot takes all my objects
Hint 10, Answer 32
- The flickering screen kills me.
Hint 9

When I leave the computer room, I die no matter which door I go through.

Hint 8, Answer 31

The computer spits out my discs.

Hint 7

I killed the rat and the computer seemed upset.

Hint 6

I got the present from the computer but died going through a door.

Hint 5

I sank OK to the bottom of the swamp but die when I moved.

Hint 4

Below the swamp it's pitch dark. I'm lost. How do I get light?

Hint 3, Answer 30

I die in the volcano.

(a) going down: Hint 2

(b) going up: Hint 1, Answer 29

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