

Survival Scenario- Lost at Sea!

Purpose/Objective

Students will be able to list items of importance in a survival situation

Materials

Supply lists for each group

Pencils

Procedure

1. Review with students the three things you need to survive:
 - a. Food
 - b. Water
 - c. Shelter
2. Once those three things are located, what is the most important thing to do?
 - a. Signal for help
3. Place students into groups and read the survival scenario (plane crash or water).
4. Hand out the list of supplies and each group should rank them in order of importance, 1 being the most important. They should also give a reason why they ranked it at that number
5. Have the students present their ranking, allow time for debate among the groups about their ranking.
6. Share the correct' answers

Scenario:

- You and your team have chartered a yacht.
- None of you have any previous sailing experience, and you have hired an experienced skipper and two-person crew.
- As you sail through the Southern Pacific Ocean a fire breaks out and much of the yacht and its contents are destroyed.
- The yacht is slowly sinking.
- Your location is unclear because vital navigational and radio equipment has been damaged.
- The yacht skipper and crew have been lost while trying to fight the fire.
- Your best guess is that you are approximately 1000 miles South West of the nearest landfall.
- You and your friends have managed to save the following 15 items, undamaged and intact after the fire.

1. A sextant
2. A shaving mirror
3. A quantity of mosquito netting
4. A 5 gallon can of water
5. A case of army rations
6. Maps of the Pacific Ocean
7. A floating seat cushion
8. A 2 gallon can of oil/petrol mixture
9. A small transistor radio
10. 20 square feet of Opaque plastic sheeting
11. Shark repellent
12. One quart of 160 per cent proof rum
13. 15ft nylon rope
14. 2 boxes of chocolate bars
15. A fishing kit

In addition to the above, you have salvaged a 4-person rubber life craft.

List in order of importance, 1 being the most important, what you think you will need to survive until you are rescued. Give a reason why you ranked each item in this particular order.

Name of Item	Why did you give it this ranking?
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

Lost at Sea Rationale

According to the experts (US Coastguard), the basic supplies needed when a person is stranded mid-ocean are articles to attract attention and articles to aid survival until rescue arrives. Articles for navigation are of little importance since even if a small life raft were capable of reaching land, it would be impossible to store enough food and water to survive for the requisite amount of time.

Without signaling devices, there is almost no chance of being spotted and ultimately rescued. Furthermore, most rescues occur within the first 36 hours and a person can survive with only a minimum of food and water during that period.

The following is the order of ranking the items in their importance to your survival:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Shaving Mirror | Critical for signaling |
| 2. 2-gallon can of oil/petrol mixture | Critical for signaling.
The mixture will float on water and could be ignited with one of the \$5 bills and a match. <i>What the experts don't say is how you get away from this conflagration or what to do if the wind should push the life raft into the flames!</i> |
| 3. 5-gallon can of water | Necessary to replenish fluids lost through perspiration (<i>that's sweat!</i>) |

4. One case of army rations	Basic food intake
5. 20 square feet of opaque plastic	Can be utilized to collect rain water and provide shelter from the elements
6. 2 boxes of chocolate bars	Reserve food supply <i>(what were you going to do with that much chocolate?)</i>
7. Fishing kit	Ranked lower than the chocolate as 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush' There is no guarantee you will catch any fish.
8. 15ft of nylon rope	Could be used to lash people or equipment together to prevent it being washed overboard.
9. Floating seat cushion	A life preserver if someone fell overboard
10. Shark repellent	Enough said
11. One quart of 160 per cent proof rum	Contains 80% alcohol, which is enough to be used as an antiseptic for any injuries, otherwise of little value -would cause dehydration if ingested

12. Small transistor radio

Of no use without a transmitter. You would also be out of range of any radio station.

13. Maps of the Pacific Ocean

Worthless without navigation equipment. It does not matter where you are but **where the rescuers are!**

14. Mosquito netting

There are **NO** mosquitos in the mid Pacific Ocean. As for fishing with **it?**—stick to the fishing kit.

15. Sextant

Useless without the relevant tables and a chronometer.