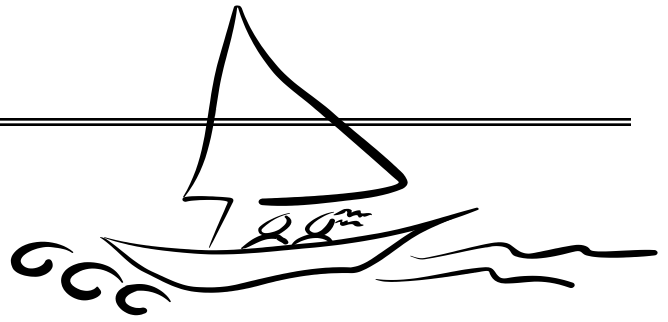


Lost at Sea



Situation

You are adrift on a private yacht in the South Pacific. As a consequence of a fire of unknown origin, much of the yacht and its contents have been destroyed. The yacht is now slowly sinking. Your location is unclear because of the destruction of critical navigational equipment and because you and the crew were distracted trying to bring the fire under control. Your best estimate is that you are approximately one thousand miles south-southwest of the nearest land.

Below is a list of fifteen items that are intact and undamaged after the fire. In addition to these articles, you have a serviceable, rubber life raft with oars large enough to carry yourself, the crew, and all the items listed below. The total contents of all survivors' pockets are a package of cigarettes, several books of matches, and five one-dollar bills.

Your task is to rank the fifteen items below in terms of their importance to your survival. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important, and so on through number 15, the least important. You will do this twice: once alone (10 min.) and once as a group (20 min.).

Items	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
	Your Individual Ranking	Your Team Ranking	Coast Guard Ranking	Difference between Step 1 & 3	Difference between Step 2 & 3
Sextant					
Shaving Mirror					
Mosquito Netting					
25 liter container of Water					
Case of Army Rations					
Maps of the Pacific Ocean					
Floating Seat Cushion					
10 liter can of Oil/Petrol mixture					
Small Transistor Radio					
20 sq. ft. of opaque Plastic Sheeting					
Can of Shark Repellent					
One bottle rubbing alcohol					
15 ft. of Nylon Rope					
2 boxes of Chocolate Bars					
An ocean Fishing Kit & Pole					
			TOTALS	Your Score	Team Score

INSTRUCTIONS

Lost at Sea

- 1) Provide a Lost at Sea ranking chart for every member of your group.
- 2) Ask each person to take 10 minutes to decide their own rankings, and record the choices in the left-hand **Step 1** column.
- 3) Invite everyone to get into teams of 3-5. Encourage the group to discuss their individual choices and work together to agree on a collaborative list. Allow 20 minutes for this section. Each group records their rankings in the **Step 2** column (team rankings).
- 4) The correct answers were suggested by the US Coast Guard. Display the 'expert' rankings on the PowerPoint presentation, whiteboard or photocopy. Have groups list the scores in **Step 3**.
- 5) Groups compare individual and group answers with the correct answers and determine a score. For each item, mark the number of points that your score differs from the Coast Guard ranking and then add up all the points. Disregard plus or minus differences. The **lower** the total, the better your score.
- 6) As the groups work together, sharing thoughts and ideas, this should produce an improved score over the individual results. Discuss with your group why the scores were different. What changed their minds? And was this enough to survive.

Expert Analysis

According to the “experts,” the basic supplies needed when a person is stranded in 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 that amount of time. Without signaling devices, there is almost no chance of being spotted and rescued.

Item	Coast Guard Ranking	Reasoning
Sextant	15	Useless without the relevant tables & a chronometer.
Shaving Mirror	1	Of all the items, the mirror is absolutely critical. It is the most powerful tool you have for communicating your presence. In sunlight, a simple mirror can generate five to seven million candlepower of light. The reflected sunbeam can even be seen beyond the horizon.
Mosquito Netting	14	There are NO mosquitos in the middle of the ocean.
25 liter container of Water	3	Vital to restore fluids lost through perspiration. Quantity will supply rations for your group for several days.
Case of Army Rations	4	This is your basic food intake.
Maps of the Pacific Ocean	13	Worthless without navigation equipment
Floating Seat Cushion	9	Useful as a life preserver if someone fell overboard.
10 liter can of Oil/Petrol mixture	2	2 nd most critical item for signaling. The mixture will float on water & can be ignited using the matches.
Small Transistor Radio	12	You would be out of range of any radio station.
20 sq. ft. of opaque Plastic Sheeting	5	Can be used to collect rain water & shelter from wind & waves.
Can of Shark Repellent	10	Obvious!
One bottle of Rubbing Alcohol	11	Can be used as an antiseptic for any injuries. Not to be ingested as it will cause dehydration.
15 ft. of Nylon Rope	8	Could be used to lash people or equipment together to prevent being washed overboard. There are a variety of other uses but non high on the list for survival.
2 boxes of Chocolate Bars	6	Your reserve food supply.
An ocean Fishing Kit & Pole	7	Ranked lower than chocolate as there is no guarantee you'll catch fish. Pole could be used as a tent pole.

Scores

00 - 25	Excellent	You demonstrated great survival skills. Rescued!
26 - 32	Good	Above average results. Good survival skills. Rescued!
33 - 45	Average	Seasick, hungry and tired. Rescued!
46 - 55	Fair	Dehydrated and barely alive. It was tough, but rescued!
56 - 70	Poor	Rescued, but only just in time!
71+	Very Poor	Oh dear, your empty raft is washed up on a beach, weeks after the search was called off.