

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Lost at Sea

You are adrift on private yacht in the South Pacific. Due to 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 critical navigational equipment was destroyed and you and the crew were distracted in trying to bring the fire under control. Your best estimate is that you are approximately 1,000 miles south-southwest of the nearest land.

Following is a list of 15 items that are intact and undamaged after the fire. In addition to these articles, you have a serviceable life raft with oars that is large enough to accommodate yourself, the whole crew, and the items you managed to salvage. The total contents of all the survivors' pockets are several books of matches and five one-dollar bills.

Your task is to rank the following items 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 16, the least important.

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| _____ Sextant | _____ Small transistor radio |
| _____ Shaving mirror | _____ Shark repellent |
| _____ Five-gallon can of water | _____ 20 square feet of opaque plastic |
| _____ Mosquito netting | _____ One quart of Puerto Rican rum |
| _____ One case of US Army food rations (MRE) | _____ 15 feet of nylon rope |
| _____ Maps of the Pacific Ocean | _____ Two boxes of chocolate bars |
| _____ Seat cushion (can be floatation device) | _____ fishing kit |
| _____ Two-gallon can of oil-gas mixture | _____ matches |

After you have completed your rankings, meet with your assigned partner or group. Now rank the same items, using a group consensus method. This means that each group member must agree upon the ranking of each of the survival items before it becomes part of the group decision. Consensus is difficult to reach. Therefore, not every ranking will meet everyone's complete approval. As a group, try to make each ranking one with which all group members can at least partly agree. Here are some guides to use in reaching consensus:

1. Avoid arguing for your own individual judgments. Approach the task on the basis of logic.
2. Avoid changing you mind for the sole purpose of reaching agreement and avoiding conflict. Support only solutions with which you agree at least somewhat.
3. Avoid conflict-reducing techniques such as majority vote, averaging, or trading.
4. View differences of opinion as a help rather than a hindrance in decision-making.