

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, group work

Focus

Critical thinking

Problem solving

Survival items

Aim

To use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to survive being stranded on a desert island.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each group of three. Also, make one copy of the cards and cut as indicated. You will also need a dice.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

60 minutes

Introduction

In this desert island survival activity, students use their critical thinking and problem-solving skills to survive being stranded on a desert island.

Procedure

Set the scene by drawing a boat on the board. Tell the students to imagine that they are on the boat and to suggest what they are doing there.

Then, draw lightning on the board. Explain that the boat has been hit by a storm and has started taking on water.

Now, divide the students into groups of three and give a copy of the worksheet to each group.

Tell the students that there is a desert island nearby and that each group must choose four items from the worksheet to help them survive on the island.

The students then complete the worksheet by naming the four items and explaining why they chose each one.

When the students have finished writing, ask each group to explain their choices to the class.

Next, the groups find out what challenge they face on the island by choosing a card.

Each group reads the challenge on their card and makes a plan on how they are going to survive on the island using the four items to help them.

Afterwards, the groups take it in turns to read their challenge and present their ideas to the class. Assess each group's chances of survival, according to their ideas. Award each group a score between zero and three.

After each group has presented, they roll a dice and the awarded points are combined with the number on the dice.

Groups need to score four or more to survive. A score of six or more is needed to thrive on the island. Depending on the score, make up the ending of each group's tale.

For example, a group with a score of four may barely survive. A score of nine would mean everything happened as the group planned and a score of six would be somewhere in between.

Your boat is sinking! There is a desert island nearby. You can swim there, but you can only take one bag with you. Choose four items to help you survive on the island.

lamp



sunscreen



toilet paper



pot



first aid kit



hiking boots



axe



flare gun



inflatable raft



lighter



insect repellent



hammock



compass



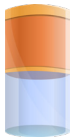
mirror



knife



water filter



fishing rod



rope



rifle



tent



Name the four items and explain why you chose each one.

Item 1:

Reason:

Item 2:

Reason:

Item 3:

Reason:

Item 4:

Reason:

1. The island is inhabited by nomadic tribes of hunter gatherers. Some of the tribes are extremely dangerous cannibals, but some tribes are quite friendly.

2. The island is perfect. There are many fruits and wild animals to eat. You even found a treasure chest full of gold. However, you were spotted with the chest by pirates and now they are coming after you and the treasure.

3. The island is devoid of dangerous animals, but there is a very strong storm every eight hours that destroys any structures and leaves everything soaking wet.

4. The island is home to a tribe of children, no older than eight years old, who have been shipwrecked there for over a year.

5. Remember the movie King Kong? Well, you are on that island. Not only do you have to survive, but you have to avoid King Kong, dinosaurs and very large flying insects!

6. The island is full of zombies, who only come out at night. They will definitely eat you if they see you, but they are afraid of water.

7. The island is actually quite nice. However, it's only 50 centimeters above sea level, and it is sinking at the rate of one centimeter a day. You don't have long until the whole island is going to be underwater.

8. The island is filled with highly-evolved apes, who dominate everything. The apes are very grumpy and don't like visitors.

9. Welcome to snake island. This island is covered in poisonous snakes. They are everywhere. The only place which is safe is the beach. However, at high tide the beach disappears.

10. The island is warm during the day. However, at night the temperature on the island drops to -30 degrees Celsius and everything freezes.