

1. Life of Pie

You have chartered a yacht with three friends, for the holiday trip of a lifetime across the Indian Ocean. Because none of you have any previous sailing experience, you have hired an experienced skipper and two-person crew. Unfortunately in mid Indian a fierce fire breaks out in the ships galley and the skipper and crew have been lost whilst trying to fight the blaze. Much of the yacht is destroyed and is slowly sinking. Your location is unclear because vital navigational and radio equipment have been damaged in the fire. Your best estimate is that you are many hundreds of miles from the nearest landfall. You and your friends have managed to save 15 items, undamaged and intact after the fire. In addition, you have salvaged a four man rubber life craft and a box of matches.

Your task is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for you, as you wait to be rescued. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important and so forth until you have ranked all 15 items.

1. A sextant
2. A shaving mirror
3. A quantity of mosquito netting
4. A 25 liter container of water
5. A case of army rations
6. Maps of the Indian Ocean
7. A floating seat cushion
8. A 10 liter can of oil/petrol mixture
9. A small transistor radio
10. 20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting
11. A can of shark repellent
12. One bottle of 160 proof rum
13. 15 feet of nylon rope
14. 2 boxes of chocolate bars
15. An ocean fishing kit & pole

2. Stage 1

Your task as a group is to list the above 15 items in order of importance for your survival. List the uses for each (not asked in the Group Activity but for your purpose/practice)

Items	Your Ranking
A sextant	
A shaving mirror	
A quantity of mosquito netting	
A 25 liter container of water	
A case of army rations	
Maps of the Indian Ocean	
A floating seat cushion	
A 10 liter can of oil/petrol mixture	
A small transistor radio	
20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting	
A can of shark repellent	
One bottle of 160 proof rum	
15 feet of nylon rope	
2 boxes of chocolate bars	
An ocean fishing kit & pole	

3. Group Ranking

Now start the group discussion and try to agree to a final list of ranking before the time is up.

Items	Your Ranking	Group Ranking
A sextant		
A shaving mirror		
A quantity of mosquito netting		
A 25 liter container of water		
A case of army rations		
Maps of the Indian Ocean		
A floating seat cushion		
A 10 liter can of oil/petrol mixture		
A small transistor radio		
20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting		
A can of shark repellent		
One bottle of 160 proof rum		
15 feet of nylon rope		
2 boxes of chocolate bars		
An ocean fishing kit & pole		

4. Coastguard expert analysis

According to the experts, in this case the US Coast guard, the basic supplies needed when a person is stranded mid-ocean are articles to attract attention and aid survival until rescue arrives. A TransIndian trip takes roughly 20 days; significantly less with good winds and significantly more without them.

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. So, the list below is the ranking order of the items according to their importance to your survival:

5. Expert Ranking

Group Activity Exercises



Item	Coast Guard Ranking	Coastguard Reasoning
A sextant	15	Useless without the relevant tables and a chronometer.
A 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.
A quantity of mosquito netting	14	There are NO mosquitoes in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and the netting is useless for anything else.
A 25 liter container of water	3	Vital to restore fluids lost through perspiration. 25 liters will supply water rations for your group for several days.
A case of army rations	4	This is your basic food intake
Maps of the Atlantic Ocean	13	Worthless without navigation equipment.
A floating seat cushion	9	Useful as a life preserver if someone fell overboard.
A 10 liter can of oil/gasoline mixture	2	The second most critical item for signaling. The mixture will float on water and can be ignited using the matches.
A small transistor radio	12	You would be out of range of any radio station.
20 square feet of Opaque plastic sheeting	5	Can be used to collect rain water and shelter from the wind and waves.
A can of shark repellent	10	To repel sharks, of course!
One bottle of 160% proof rum	11	Contains 80% alcohol, which means it can be used as an antiseptic for any injuries, otherwise of little value. Very dangerous if drunk, as it would cause the body to dehydrate, the opposite of what you need to survive.
15ft 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 none high on the list for survival.
2 boxes of chocolate bars	6	Your reserve food supply
An ocean fishing kit with pole.	7	Ranked lower than the chocolate as there is no guarantee you will catch any fish. The pole might be used as a tent pole.

Group Activity Exercises



6. How to score

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Items	Your Ranking (1)	Group Ranking (2)	Expert Ranking (3)	Difference (1) – (3) (4)	Difference (2) – (3) (5)
A sextant					
A shaving mirror					
A quantity of mosquito netting					
A 25 liter container of water					
A case of army rations					
Maps of the Indian Ocean					
A floating seat cushion					
A 10 liter can of oil/petrol mixture					
A small transistor radio					
20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting					
A can of shark repellent					
One bottle of 160 proof rum					
15 feet of nylon rope					
2 boxes of chocolate bars					
An ocean fishing kit & pole					
A sextant					

Your Efficiency (4)

Total of (4) will give you difference between your score and expert score. Lower the better.

Group Efficiency (5)

Total of (5) will give you difference between group score and expert score. Lower the better.

Final Score = Your Efficiency (4) + Group Efficiency (5)

Total Score = Your Efficiency (4) + Group Efficiency (5)		
00 - 25	Excellent.	You demonstrated great survival skills. Rescued!
26 - 32	Good.	Above average results. Good survival skills. Rescued!
33 - 45	Average.	Sick, 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, you are doomed