

Wilderness Survival Problem

Now that you have studied survival skills, test your knowledge: Your small plane has crashed in a Canadian wilderness lake during the early spring. Miraculously, no one is injured. This is lake country, surrounded by thousands of lakes and rivers, with no known human or town within hundreds of miles. You are the leader of a group of five "city slicker" fishermen, who have never camped before and know nothing about the outdoors and survival.

YOUR PROBLEM: To survive and be rescued as soon as possible.

Below is a list of items which you may find in the plane wreckage. However, the plane is sinking fast and your life raft is full. It is a half mile to shore and a storm is brewing. You have only a minute to get the most important of these items out.

Rate the items according to their importance to your survival. Give a "1" to the item that you think is the most essential, a "2" to the next important thing, etc. Give the "13" to the item which is the least important to your survival. Your teacher has the "Answer Key" – you may be surprised at some of the actual answers so be ready to defend your thinking!

___ Flashlight

___ .45 Caliber Pistol

___ Jackknife

___ Parachute

___ Fish Hooks

___ Water Purification Tablets

___ First Aid Kit

___ Hand Axe

___ Compass

___ Five Heavy Coats

___ Three Flares

___ One Cosmetic Mirror

___ 100 yards of 25 lbs. Test Fish Line

CORRECT ANSWERS TO WILDERNESS SURVIVAL PROBLEM

1 Three Flares

Items 1 and 2 are rated highly because they would help in being sighted for rescue

2 One Cosmetic Mirror

3 Parachute

Items 3, 4 and 5 are rated next because they can be using in shelter building and staying warm.

4 Five Heavy Coats

5 Hand Axe

6 100 yards of 25 lb. Test Fish Line

Items 5, 6 7 and 8 are rated next because they can be used to get food.

7 Fish Hooks

8 Jackknife

Items 9- 13 are "luxury items" and not immediately critical. A first aid kit may only be suitable for minor injuries; a compass is not helpful without a map; a flashlight needs batteries; a pistol assumes a limited number of bullets and knowledge to use it properly; purifying water can be done in other ways .

9 First Aid Kit

10 Compass

11 Flashlight

12 Pistol

13 Water Purification Tablets

Rate your level of survival skills:

- 1.) Place the correct number next to your answer.
- 2.) Find the difference between your answer and the correct response listed on the answer key.
- 3.) Add up the total of all differences. If you got a score of:
0 - 10 Expert
10 - 25 Woods person
20 - 35 Survivor
Over 35 Uh oh! Study more about Survival Skills!

Images for Wilderness Problem: print multiple copies and cut for use by student teams to discuss their solutions:



Flashlight



Compass



5 Heavy Coats



Small Mirror



5 Fish hooks



Pocket Knife



Hand axe



FIRST AID



Parachute



3 Flares



Fishing
Line



Water
Purification
Tablets



Hand
Gun