

Activity Type

Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking
Activity: writing sentences, preparing and delivering a presentation, freer practice (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

Advanced (C1)

Time

50 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. Ask 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.

Next, divide the students into groups of three.

Give each group a copy of the worksheet.

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.

Students then write sentences, naming the four items and explaining why they chose each one.

Afterwards, each group explains their choices to the class.

Next, 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.

Groups then take turns reading their challenge and presenting their ideas to the class.

Assess each group's chances of survival, according to their ideas and score them 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 only has one small freshwater spring that is a long hike from where you are with dangerous crocodiles hiding along the route. You must figure out how to deal with the crocodiles and not run out of water by finding alternative ways to stay hydrated.

2. The island is quite nice, but there is a very strong storm every eight hours that destroys any structures and leaves everything soaking wet. You need to figure out how to deal with these storms, stay dry, and live on the island.

3. The island has lots of edible plants and fruit trees, but there are also many highly poisonous plants and fruits, and you can't tell which is which. You need to find a way to tell them apart to survive. If you get sick, it's game over!

4. Welcome to Snake Island! This island is covered in poisonous snakes. They are absolutely everywhere. The only place that is safe is the beach. However, at high tide, the beach disappears. What are you going to do?

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! How are you going to avoid these animals and still live on the island?

6. The island is home to a large population of insects that can be quite bothersome, especially at night. Some of these insects bite and could cause allergic reactions or infections. You must find a way to protect yourselves and keep the insects at bay.

7. The island is amazing, with lots of fruit trees and animals to eat. However, it's only 50 centimeters above sea level and 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. There are no animals to eat here, but there are lots of fish. However, the waters surrounding the island have very strong currents that make fishing hazardous. How are you going to safely fish for food and ensure that no one is swept away?

9. 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. You need to find a way to keep yourselves safe at night, or you'll become zombies too.

10. The weather on the island is unpredictable and changes drastically. The island is warm during the day. However, at night the temperature on the island drops to -30 degrees Celsius and everything freezes. What are you going to do?