

The Personal Development Cafe



Desert Survival Team Building Exercise



Desert Survival

Aim: Develop communication, leadership and negotiation skills.

Objective: Participants will have worked individually and as a group to establish the importance of the listed objects, and identified whether they performed better as an individual or group. They will have recognised the aspects of team work involved and related this to the work place.

Time: 1 hour

Resources:	Scenario (provided) Pens & paper	List of items (provided) Tutor notes
-------------------	-------------------------------------	---

Issue the scenario and read through this with participants.

Issue the Score Sheet and ask participants to first work individually to put the items in order of importance (assume all are in good condition) and record this in the “My Ranking” column of the score sheet. They should not discuss this with anyone else at this stage.

Give them 10 minutes to do this.

Split the group into teams and explain that they are the real people who have crashed on the plane. Use the opportunity to discuss some of the characteristics of a good team.

Give the groups 20 minutes to come to a consensus on each item on the list and to write their agreed responses in the “Team’s Ranking” column. Instruct them not to change their individual responses.

Remind participants when there are 5 minutes left. When the time is up bring the group back together and go through the answers.

Ask them what thought process they followed for addressing the problems? What issues or questions did they consider? What order did they approach these issues? Ascertain how difficult it was to work out a team consensus and whether everyone finally agreed.

Score the score sheet – participants must work out the numerical difference between their ranking and the actual ranking ie if the answer is rank 7 and they said rank 1, then the difference is 6. If the ranking was 1 and they answered 3, the difference is 2. **Do not use minus figures.** They need to do this for their own ranking and their team ranking. The participant and team with the lowest score wins!

Get participants to work out whether they performed better by themselves or as part of the team, and why this was. Ascertain who ended up assuming role of the leader of each group, and whether people really put forward their point of view or went along with the crowd.

Relate this to activities in the work place and ascertain the importance of everyone in the team playing their part.

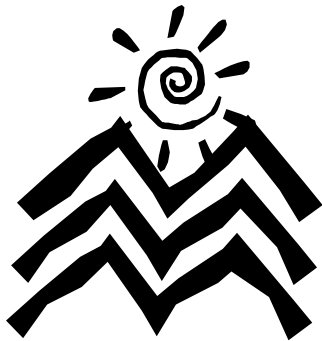


Desert Survival – The Scenario

It is approximately 10:00 am in mid-July and you have just crash landed in the Atacama Desert in South America.

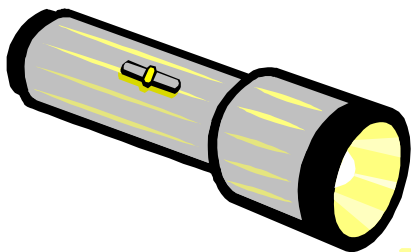
Your light twin-engined plane containing the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot has completely burned out with only the frame remaining. None of you have been injured.

The pilot was unable to notify anyone of your position before the crash. However, he had indicated before impact that you were 50 miles from a mining camp, which is the nearest known settlement, and approximately 65 miles off the course that was filed in your Flight Plan. The immediate area is quite flat, except for occasional cacti, and appears to be rather barren.



The last weather report indicated that the temperature would reach 110 F today, which means that the temperature at ground level will be 130 F.

You are dressed in lightweight clothing-short-sleeved shirts, pants, socks, and street shoes. Everyone has a handkerchief and collectively, you have 3 packs of cigarettes and a ballpoint pen.



Before your plane caught fire, your group was able to salvage the 15 items listed on the “Salvaged Items” page.

Your task is to rank these items according to their importance to your survival, starting with a “1” for the most important, to a “15” for the least important.



Desert Survival – Score Sheet

Item	My Ranking	Team Ranking	Answer	My Error	Team Error
Torch with 4 battery-cells					
Folding knife					
Air map of the area					
Plastic raincoat (large size)					
Magnetic compass					
First-aid kit					
45 calibre pistol (loaded)					
Parachute (red & white)					
Bottle of 1000 salt tablets					
2 litres of water per person					
A book entitled 'Desert Animals That Can Be Eaten'					
Sunglasses (for everyone)					
2 litres of 180 proof liquor					
Overcoat (for everyone)					
A cosmetic mirror					
Score					



Desert Survival – Answer Sheet

Item	Rank	Rationale
Torch with 4 battery-cells	4	Essential for night time use
Folding knife	6	For cutting rope, food, etc.
Air map of the area	12	To have idea on present location
Plastic raincoat (large size)	7	To collect dew overnight
Magnetic compass	11	Since awaiting rescue this isn't of much other use
First-aid kit	10	Everybody is safe at present
45 calibre pistol (loaded)	8	For defence. Three shots from a gun is also a recognised distress signal.
Parachute (red & white)	5	Use as tent
Bottle of 1000 salt tablets	15	Of no use in desert
2 litres of water per person	3	For drinking. A person actually requires a gallon of water a day in the desert.
A book entitled 'Desert Animals That Can Be Eaten'	13	Food is less important than water in the desert. Digestion consumes water.
Sunglasses (for everyone)	9	Protection against glare
2 litres of 180 proof liquor	14	Useful as an antiseptic only as alcohol causes dehydration
Overcoat (for everyone)	2	Essential protection in desert – clothing helps ration sweat by slowing evaporation and prolonging the cooling effect.
A cosmetic mirror	1	Means of visual signalling

Debrief

During hot weather walk through the desert slowly. Rest for 10 minutes every hour. Begin early in the morning or later in the day.

In the summer ground temperatures can be 30 degrees hotter than air temperature so try to sit at least 12 inches above the ground if possible.

Water sources can be located by digging three to six feet at the outside edge of a sharp bend in a dry streambed. Animal paths and flock of birds also may lead to water.

Cactus fruit and flowers may be eaten. Split open the base of cactus stalks and chew the pith (but don't swallow it). This can alleviate thirst.