



Lost at Sea

You and your crew are adrift on a private yacht in the South Pacific. As a consequence of a fire of unknown origin, much of the yacht and its contents have been destroyed. The yacht is now slowly sinking. Your location is unclear because of the destruction of critical navigation equipment, and because you were distracted trying to bring the fire under control. Your best estimate: you are approximately one thousand miles south-southwest of the nearest point of land.

Appended is a list of fifteen (15) items that are intact and undamaged after the fire. In addition to these articles, you have a serviceable, rubber life raft with oars. The emergency kit on the raft is not in the best condition, holding only a package of cigarettes, several books of matches, and five one-dollar bills. The raft is large enough to carry yourself, your crew, and only ten (10) of the items listed below.

Your task as a captain is to rank the fifteen items in terms of their importance to your survival, knowing that the five lowest-ranked items will not come aboard the raft with you. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important item, and so on. Make a quick note, too, about why you are keeping or not keeping certain items. What might each one be used for in your situation or how might it be innovated to prove useful?

Remember: those items numbered 11-15 will **not** come onto the raft with you as the yacht sinks away.

- _____ Sextant
- _____ Shaving mirror
- _____ Five-gallon can of water
- _____ Mosquito netting
- _____ One case of US Army C-rations
- _____ Maps of the Pacific Ocean
- _____ Military-grade flotation seat cushion
- _____ Two-gallon can of oil-gas mixture
- _____ Small transistor radio
- _____ Shark repellent
- _____ 20 square feet of opaque plastic
- _____ 1 quart of 160-proof Puerto Rican rum
- _____ 15 feet of nylon rope
- _____ 2 boxes of chocolate bars
- _____ Fishing kit