

Deserted Island Survivor Challenge!

Imagine you're stranded on a deserted island! Today, we'll use skills from all our subjects to figure out how to survive and maybe even get rescued.

Materials Needed:

- Paper (plain, graph paper optional)
- Pencils, crayons, markers
- Ruler
- String or yarn
- Empty plastic bottle (optional, for message in a bottle)
- Household items for building (e.g., cardboard scraps, tape, sticks, leaves, cushions, blankets)
- Access to internet or books for research
- Timer or stopwatch
- Safe outdoor space (optional) or indoor space for movement

Lesson Activities:

1. Setting the Scene (Social Studies/English)

Discuss: What's the first thing you would do if you found yourself stranded? How would you feel? If there were other people, how would you decide who does what? (Basic governance/cooperation). Let's name our island!

2. Mapping Your Island (Social Studies/Art/Math)

Draw a map of your imaginary island on paper. Include key features: where you landed, potential fresh water source, high ground, areas for shelter, dangerous spots? Use symbols! Estimate distances (e.g., how far from the beach to the freshwater source?). Add a compass rose.

3. Shelter Building 101 (Science/Art/Math/Physical Education)

Discuss: What makes a good shelter? (Protection from sun, rain, wind). Research basic shelter designs (lean-to, A-frame). Design your shelter on paper, thinking about materials you might find. Calculate the approximate area it would cover. Then, using household items or outdoor materials (safely!), try building a small model or even a fort!

4. Finding Food & Water (Science/Research)

Research: How can you make seawater safe to drink? (Evaporation/distillation concept). What are general rules for identifying potentially edible plants (note: emphasize NOT eating unknown wild plants in reality)? Draw pictures of 3 plants you might find (real or imaginary) and label them safe or unsafe.

5. Survivor's Log (English)

Write a journal entry for your first day on the island. Describe what you saw, what you did (mapping, shelter building), how you felt, and your plan for tomorrow. Focus on descriptive words.

6. Rescue Ready (Physical Education/Art/English)

Activity 1: Design a large 'SOS' signal on paper or using found objects outside. How big does it need to be seen from the air? Activity 2: 'Resource Relay' - Set up stations representing water, food, firewood. Time how long it takes to run and collect one item from each station and bring it back to 'camp'. Activity 3 (Optional): Write a message detailing your situation, roll it up, and put it in a plastic bottle.

7. Calculating Rations (Math)

Imagine you found a small box of crackers with 24 crackers inside. If you need to make them last for 6 days, how many can you eat each day? What if you find another person on day 3? How many can you each have per day for the remaining days?

8. Island History Nugget (History/Research)

Briefly research a real-life survival story (e.g., Robinson Crusoe inspiration Alexander Selkirk, Shackleton's expedition, or a plane crash survival story). What skills did they use? What challenges did they face?

Wrap-up:

Share your map, shelter design, journal entry, and calculations. Discuss the most challenging part of the 'survival'. What skills were most important?