

SURVIVAL ACTIVITY

GROUP MEMBERS:

Picture yourself on vacation in spectacular Southeast Alaska, kayaking with a group of friends. You can't believe you are there. You have never kayaked before in your life, but the school had a special deal enabling students to spend a few days sea kayaking and whale watching. It sounded great, so you went along.

It's the end of July. The weather is warm and the scenery is spectacular. You've had good times and easy paddling so far, but today you've noticed clouds gathering and a chill in the air. Still, you and your friends climb into the kayaks and get started, thinking that if it does rain you will be able to dry off later, after you travel the day's course and make camp.

Just as you expected, rain begins to fall, and it shows no sign of stopping soon. The clouds get darker, the rain pours down harder and harder, and **THE WIND COMES UP!** It becomes difficult to paddle in the waves. You might be in trouble.

Then a huge wave hits the kayak and, very quickly, you capsize. But you and your friends remember your safety training. You grab hold of the kayaks and paddles and swim for shore. Thank goodness you were careful to travel near land at all times. Gasping for breath and shivering from exposure to the cold water, you eventually drag yourself up onto the shore.

Now you have a new problem. You and your friends are stranded on a small, deserted island, and you don't know how long you will have to be there. The nearest settlement is over 75 miles away.

Your task: Survive!

- Look at the Activity Map and decide which of the resources listed there are valuable (because they have more than one use) and which are not valuable.
- Review the island's environment and the equipment that remains from the kayaks.
- You will have 30 minutes to figure out how you will survive and then write out a survival plan.
- You will present your plan to the class.
- Consider these questions in formulating your plan:
 - What will you make to eat or for shelter? How will you make it? Who will make it? What natural resources will you use? What tools will you use? Will everyone get a share of what is produced or will items produced go only to those who help to produce them? Will a leader decide who got what?

After all groups have presented their plans, discuss the following questions as a class:

1. Were your choices made randomly or did you consider alternatives?
2. What alternatives did you consider before you made choices about what to produce or use?
3. How did you experience scarcity in this activity?
4. What choices did you have to make to try to survive?
5. What opportunity costs did you encounter as you made your decisions?