

# Lost at Sea

You have chartered a yacht with a group of friends for a vacation trip of a lifetime across the Pacific Ocean.

Unfortunately, in mid-Pacific a fierce fire breaks out in the ship's galley. Much of the yacht is destroyed and is slowly sinking.

Your location is unclear because vital navigational and radio equipment have been damaged in the fire. Your best estimate is that you are many hundreds of miles from the nearest landfall.

You and your friends have managed to save 15 items, undamaged and intact after the fire. In addition, you have salvaged a rubber lifeboat and a box of matches.

Your task is to rank the 15 items in terms of their importance for you, as you wait to be rescued. You will be given 5 minutes to rank the items and then the group will have 20 minutes to rank the items as a group. Place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important and so forth until you have ranked all 15 items.

Item	Ideal Rank	Your Rank	Diff For You	Team Rank	Diff For Team
A sextant					
A shaving mirror					
A quantity of mosquito netting					
A 5-gallon container of water					
A case of Army rations					
Maps of the Pacific Ocean					
A floating seat cushion					
A gallon container of gas/oil mixture					
A small transistor radio					
20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting					
A can of shark repellent					
A bottle of 160 proof rum					
15 feet of nylon rope					
2 boxes of chocolate bars					
An ocean fishing kit and pole					
<b>Total Points Difference</b>					

## Lost at Sea - Ideal ANSWERS

Item	Ideal Rank	Your Rank	Diff For You	Team Rank	Diff For Team
<b>A sextant</b> - Impractical without relevant tables or a chronometer.	<b>15</b>				
<b>A shaving mirror</b> -One of your most powerful tools, because you can use it to signal your location by reflecting the sun.	<b>1</b>				
<b>A quantity of mosquito netting</b> - Assuming that you've been shipwrecked in the Pacific, where there are no mosquitoes, this is pretty much useless.	<b>14</b>				
<b>A 5-gallon container of water</b> - Essential for water and collecting water to restore your lost fluids.	<b>3</b>				
<b>A case of Army rations</b> - Valuable for basic food intake.	<b>4</b>				
<b>Maps of the Pacific Ocean</b> - Worthless without navigational equipment.	<b>13</b>				
<b>A floating seat cushion</b> - Useful as a life preserver.	<b>9</b>				
<b>A gallon container of gas/oil mixture</b> - Again, potentially vital for signaling as gas/oil floats on water and can be lit by your matches.	<b>2</b>				
<b>A small transistor radio</b> - Chances are that you're out of range of any signal.	<b>12</b>				
<b>20 square feet of opaque plastic sheeting</b> - Could be used for shelter, or to collect rainwater.	<b>5</b>				
<b>A can of shark repellent</b> - Potentially important when in the water.	<b>10</b>				
<b>A bottle of 160 proof rum</b> - Could be useful as an antiseptic for treating injuries, but will only dehydrate you if you drink it.	<b>11</b>				
<b>15 feet of nylon rope</b> - Handy for tying equipment together, but not necessarily vital for survival.	<b>8</b>				
<b>2 boxes of chocolate bars</b> - A handy food supply.	<b>6</b>				
<b>An ocean fishing kit and pole</b> - Potentially useful, but there is no guarantee that you're able to catch fish. Could also feasibly double as a tent pole.	<b>7</b>				

### Scoring

0-25	Excellent
26-32	Good
33-45	Fair
56-70	Oops
71-112	Oh, well

Maximum difference is  
112 for the individual  
and team score.