

LO: To write an effective instructional text which describes how to survive on a desert island.



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Genre

Imperative verbs

Writing/Grammar

Start every sentence with a capital letter

Use full stops appropriately

Maintain legible, neat handwriting

Genre

Steps in chronological order

Writing/Grammar

I can use present tense

Genre

Accurate descriptions

Organisational devices to structure my writing

Writing/Grammar

I can include time conjunctions

I can write in second person

Genre

Tips and extra advice for the reader

A conclusion directed at the reader

Writing/Grammar

I can adapt my writing to suit different audiences and purposes

How to survive on a desert island

Introduction

When marooned on a desert island you will encounter many challenges in your struggle for survival. Desert island habitats are often found in the Pacific Ocean or equatorial regions of the world. You will need to quickly learn about and adapt to your environment. This guide provides several tips and important steps which will improve your chances of survival.

Survival steps

1. Seek shelter from the heat.

The blistering heat of the day on a desert island will very quickly cause humans to become dehydrated and get sunburn. Start to explore the island for temporary shelter and avoid staying in the sun during the middle of the day.

2. Locate a water supply.

Humans can survive for up to 1-3 weeks without food but require water within at least 3 days. As a result, finding a water source that is safe to drink becomes a top priority when stranded on a desert island. Dehydration can happen very quickly, especially in a hot environment. Remember... do **not** drink seawater, because of its high concentration of salt, you will dehydrate at an increased rate!

3. Find a shelter.

Caves make excellent shaded and dry shelters, which would be ideal protection from the heat of day or sudden rainstorms. Trees should provide protection from the climate, and the leaves of a coconut tree are large and waxy and can be used to provide a waterproof material to build a roof or hat. They should be gathered before they become wet or damp.

4. Find a food source.

Once your liquid requirements have been met, a castaway will then need to search for a food source. Many of the survival activities that they will be required to undertake to survive on the island will require high amounts of energy. The type of food that is safe to consume and available to you would be fruit, for instance: coconut; pineapple and other sugar-rich fruits. To determine which fruit is safe and not poisonous, observe the habits of other animals on the island. Whatever they eat, you should be able to stomach. In addition, you may want to supplement your diet with some freshly caught fish, this will be quite a challenging task, but the reward will be a good source of protein and minerals.

5. Signal for rescue.

In these first days or perhaps weeks of your solitary life on the desert island you may have just been concentrating on getting enough food and water to survive however eventually you will grow more confident and you may be able to begin to consider a strategy for getting off the island. Successful methods used by other desert island exiles include building a beacon, which can be lit to attract attention from passing vessels, or to use shells or stone to write large messages in the sand for aircraft that might be passing overhead.

Top Tips

Maintaining a positive mentality – Living in complete isolation will be a difficult mental challenge. It will be important to keep busy and create small achievable goals to stay positive!

Conclusion

Now that you have read our desert island survival guide, we hope that you will be prepared for the future. Remembering the 5 important survival steps will dramatically improve your chances for survival in a difficult situation.