

A Learning Challenge – Stranded



Your challenge is to ...

Make sure that your group survives in the desert. You have twelve items which you grabbed when escaping from the minibus.

Rank the items according to their importance to your survival.

1 = Most important

12 = Least important

You have 30 minutes.

Where you are and what you know ...

You are on a field trip to study unusual formations in the desert. It is the last week in July. You have been driving over old trails, far from any road. At about 10:30 a.m. your specially equipped minibus overturns and rolls into a ravine and burns. Fortunately you were able to get out without many injuries.

The nearest ranch is about 45 minutes to the east. You will be missed when you don't report to your hotel in the evening. Several people know sort-of where you are, but won't be able to pinpoint your position.

The area around is rocky and dry. There is a shallow water hole nearby but the water is contaminated by worms and several dead mice. The weather report before you left said that the temperature would reach 42°. You are all in light clothing and you have hats and sunglasses. You have agreed to stick together. When escaping from the minibus you each grabbed a couple of items. There are 12 in all.

- Magnetic compass
- 20' x 20' piece of heavy-duty, light blue canvas
- Book, *Plants of the Desert*
- Rear-view mirror
- Large knife
- Torch (four battery size)
- One jacket per person
- One transparent plastic groundsheet per person
- .38-caliber loaded pistol
- One 2-litre plastic bottle per person, full of water
- Accurate map of the area
- Large box of kitchen matches