

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL WORK SHEET

Here are twelve questions concerning personal survival in a wilderness situation. Your first task is *individually* to select the best of the three alternatives given under each item. Try to imagine yourself in the situation depicted. Assume that you are alone and have a minimum of equipment, except where specified. The season is fall. The days are warm and dry, but the nights are cold.

After you have completed this task individually, you will again consider each question as a member of a small group. Your group will have the task of deciding, *by consensus*, the best alternative for each question. Do not change your individual answers, even if you change your mind in the group discussion. Both the individual and group solutions will later be compared with the "correct" answers provided by a group of naturalists who conduct classes in woodland survival.

Correct answer
↓

Your
Answer

Your Group's
Answer

- A 1. You have strayed from your party in trackless timber. You have no special signaling equipment. The best way to attempt to contact your friends is to:
- a. call "help" loudly but in a low register.
 - b. yell or scream as loud as you can.
 - c. whistle loudly and shrilly.
- A 2. You are in "snake country." Your best action to avoid snakes is to:
- a. make a lot of noise with your feet.
 - b. walk softly and quietly.
 - c. travel at night.
- C 3. You are hungry and lost in wild country. The best rule for determining which plants are safe to eat (those you do not recognize) is to:
- a. try anything you see the birds eat.
 - b. eat anything except plants with bright red berries.
 - c. put a bit of the plant on your lower lip for five minutes; if it seems all right, try a little.
- C 4. The day becomes dry and hot. You have a full canteen of water (about one liter) with you. You should:
- a. ration it—about a cupful a day.
 - b. not drink until you stop for the night, then drink what you think you need.
 - c. drink as much as you think you need when you need it.
- C 5. Your water is gone; you become very thirsty. You finally come to a dried-up watercourse. Your best chance of finding water is to:
- a. dig anywhere in the stream bed.
 - b. dig up plant and tree roots near the bank.
 - c. dig in the stream bed at the outside of a bend.

b

B

b

A

a

A

b

A

b

B

- C 6. You decide to walk out of the wild country by following a series of ravines where a water supply is available. Night is coming on. The best to make camp is:
- a. next to the water supply in the ravine.
 - b. high on a ridge.
 - c. midway up the slope.

b

B

- B 7. Your flashlight glows dimly as you are about to make your way back to your campsite after a brief foraging trip. Darkness comes quickly in the woods and the surroundings seem unfamiliar. You should:
- a. head back at once, keeping the light on, hoping the light will glow enough for you to make out landmarks.
 - b. put the batteries under your armpits to warm them, and then replace them in the flashlight.
 - c. shine your light for a few seconds, try to get the scene in mind, move out in the darkness, and repeat the process.

C

C

- A 8. An early snow confines you to your small tent. You doze with your small stove going. There is danger if the flame is:
- a. yellow.
 - b. blue.
 - c. red.

C

A

- A 9. You must ford a river that has a strong current, large rocks, and some white water. After carefully selecting your crossing spot, you should:
- a. leave your boots and pack on.
 - b. take your boots and pack off.
 - c. take off your pack, but leave your boots on.

C

C

- B 10. In waist-deep water with a strong current, when crossing the stream, you should face:
- a. upstream.
 - b. across the stream.
 - c. downstream.

a

A

- C 11. You find yourself rimrocked; your only route is up. The way is mossy, slippery rock. You should try it:
- a. barefoot.
 - b. with boots on.
 - c. in stocking feet.

b

B

- C 12. Unarmed and unsuspecting, you surprise a large bear prowling around your campsite. As the bear rears up about ten meters from you, you should:
- a. run.
 - b. climb the nearest tree.
 - c. freeze, but be ready to back away slowly.

C

C

1

3

correct answer

individual

group

257

Wilderness Survival Consensus-seeking Task Reaction Paper (20 points)

Points will be subtracted for grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors.

1. **Discuss** the kind of leadership your group experienced (no specific leader, emergent, implied, or designated – see description below). What **style** did your leader(s) use (pgs. 275-277 in “What Effective Group Members Do in library reserve)? Why was the leadership style effective or ineffective? Discuss your leadership qualities by identifying 2 strengths (see back of this handout). Identify 2 qualities that you need to strengthen? (8 pts.)
2. **Discuss** the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of at least two decision-making techniques (see bottom of this page—at least one of them must be consensus) used by your group to answer the wilderness survival questions. Did groupthink affect any of your decisions? Why or why not? (6 pts.)
3. Did your group achieve synergy (provide your individual and group score)? Why or why not? (don't write “because our group score was higher/lower than the average of our individual scores”—that's too obvious)? Based upon your small-group experiences in this class up to this point, what is one thing that group members might do to help a group achieve synergy? (6 pts.)

No Specific Leader: A group with without specific leaders. All members help with leadership

Emergent Leader: A group member who emerges as leader (may be positive or negative).

Implied Leader: A group member with the highest rank/status or most experience with the topic.

Designated Leader: A group member who is elected or appointed.

yes, individual, 2, 1, 2, 4, 6, 3, 1, average 2.57, group 3
group members: michael, brandon, jaz, vanessa

Decision-making Techniques

Unanimity: The group accepts the choice that all group members support (with complete commitment—no reservations).

Consensus: The group accepts the choice that all group members support even though some members have reservations. Members of the group have been able to express their opinions and exercise influence over the choice.

Majority: The group accepts the choice that has more than half of the votes of the members.

Plurality: The group accepts the choice that has the highest support/most votes, even if that support/votes is less than a majority. Plurality is used when a choice must be made among more than two alternatives.

Minority Coalition: The group accepts the choice made by the vocal or informed **minority**.

Fiat: The group accepts the choice made by the most vocal or informed member of the group.

FORM 2.1 ■ SELF-ASSESSMENT OF LEADERSHIP

Mark the extent to which each statement represents what you believe to be true of yourself; then ask a friend to complete the same form as she or he perceives you to be.

	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	RARELY
1. I enjoy interacting in groups.	☒	☐	☐
2. People listen to me when I speak.	☒	☐	☐
3. I can get quiet people to talk.	☒	☐	☐
4. I am a good listener.	☒	☐	☐
5. I help people work out conflicts.	☐	☒	☐
6. It's fun to work with different kinds of people.	☐	☒	☐
7. I express my thoughts well.	☐	☐	☒
8. I am a credible person.	☐	☐	☒
9. I prepare ahead of time for meetings.	☐	☒	☐
10. When a group is off track, I bring it back to the subject.	☐	☒	☐
11. I can analyze ideas clearly.	☐	☐	☒
12. When tension is high, I use humor to ease it.	☐	☒	☐
13. I support my positions with logic.	☐	☒	☐
14. I am sensitive to others' feelings.	☐	☒	☐
15. I raise issues of ethics and morality.	☐	☒	☐
16. I work toward achieving goals.	☐	☒	☐
17. I keep a balance between needs of people and needs of the task.	☐	☒	☐
18. I summarize ideas to help the group.	☐	☒	☐
19. Doing what's right is important to me.	☒	☐	☐
20. I'm good at building team spirit.	☐	☒	☐