**Tutorial Activity**

**Diverse Teams and Decision Making**

*Introduction*

Place the students into groups of four, ensure a mixture of homogeneous groups and diverse groups. The easiest type of diversity to work through is gender. Make sure each group has a pen and paper.

Once the students are settled, lay out the scenario for them:

“You and your team have chartered a yacht. None of you have any previous sailing experience, and you have hired an experienced skipper and two-person crew. As you sail through the Southern Pacific Ocean a fire breaks out and much of the yacht and its contents are destroyed. The yacht is slowly sinking. Your location is unclear because vital navigational and radio equipment has been damaged. The yacht skipper and crew have been lost whilst trying to fight the fire. Your best guestimate is that you are approximately 1000 miles South West of the nearest landfall.”

With the whole group, discuss what you need to survive: food, water, and shelter. Talk through the goals of the groups: survive and then signal for help. Once everyone is ready, present the students with the list of items.

“You have salvaged a four-man rubber life craft. In your pockets, your group finds a packet of cigarettes, three boxes of matches and 3 $5 notes. On the deck, you are able to salvage fifteen items which are undamaged and in working condition.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * 20 square feet of Opaque plastic sheeting * Shark repellent * One quart of rum * 15ft nylon rope * 2 boxes of chocolate bars * A case of army rations * Maps of the Pacific Ocean * A floating seat cushion | * A fishing kit * A sextant * A shaving mirror * A quantity of mosquito netting * A 5 gallon can of water * A 2 gallon can of oil/petrol mixture * A small transistor radio |

But you are only able to carry two items per person (a total of 8 items). Select 8 items to bring with you. The US Coastguard has ranked all fifteen items from most important to least important. Your goal is to select the 8 items with the lowest average ranking.”

Give the students 15 minutes to discuss the items and make their selection. Once they are satisfied with their list, read through the ranking and the justification.

“According to the experts (US Coastguard), the basic supplies needed when a person is stranded mid-ocean are articles to attract attention and articles to aid survival until rescue arrives. Articles for navigation are of little importance since even if a small life raft were capable of reaching land, it would be impossible to store enough food and water to survive for the requisite amount of time. Without signalling devices, there is almost no chance of being spotted and ultimately rescued. Furthermore, most rescues occur within the first 36 hours and a person can survive with only a minimum of food and water during that period.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item (Rank)** | **Reason** |
| Shaving Mirror (1) | Critical for signalling |
| 2 gallon can of oil/petrol mixture (2) | Critical for signalling. The mixture will float  on water and could be ignited with one of  the $5 bills and a match. |
| 5 gallon can of water (3) | Necessary to replenish fluids lost through perspiration |
| One case of army rations (4) | Basic food intake |
| 20 square feet of opaque plastic (5) | Can be utilised to collect rain water and provide shelter from the elements |
| 2 boxes of chocolate bars (6) | Reserve food supply |
| Fishing kit (7) | Ranked lower than the chocolate as ‘a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush’ There is no  guarantee you will catch any fish. |
| 15ft of nylon rope (8) | Could be used to lash people or equipment together to prevent it being washed overboard. |
| Floating seat cushion (9) | A life preserver if someone fell overboard |
| Shark repellent (10) | Does what it says on the tin. |
| One quart of 160 per cent proof rum (11) | Contains 80% alcohol, which is enough to be used as an antiseptic for any injuries, otherwise of little value – would cause dehydration if ingested |
| Small transistor radio (12) | Of no use without a transmitter. You would also be out of range of any radio station. |
| Maps of the Pacific Ocean (13) | Worthless without navigation equipment. It does not matter where you are but where the  rescuers are! |
| Mosquito netting (14) | There are no mosquitos in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. As for fishing with it? – stick to the fishing kit. |
| Sextant (15) | Useless without the relevant tables and a chronometer. |

Have the students add up their rank, the lowest score wins. Once this is done, turn your attention to reflecting with the students about their experiences. Be sure to call on all the groups to allow students to hear from homogeneous teams and diverse teams.

*Example Reflection Questions*

* What was the deliberations like in your group? Did you elect a leader or make decisions by committee?
* Did you disagree? How did you resolve the disagreements?
* Did you select one of your items only to discard it later for a different one? What was that discussion like? Was the new item better than the old item or worse?