

What Would You Take to Sea?

Instructions for Teachers

Materials:

- Notebook paper and pens or pencils
- A world map or globe

Learner Objectives:

- Demonstrate problem solving.
- Identify the basic human needs for survival.
- Summarize the hazards facing sailors hundreds of years ago.

Procedure:

Arrange students into cooperative working groups (about four or five per group.)

After a discussion of the Age of Exploration, explain to the students that they are about to embark on a journey at sea. What items would they need to survive the adventure?

- Have students choose the most important people needed to run a ship (would they want a captain? A cook? A doctor? A navigator? A crewman? All of these people?)
- Have students choose what type of ship they will take their journey in.
- Where are they sailing from and where do they expect to go?
- What food and drink will they take to last the journey?
- If they must stop along the way to resupply, where do they plan to get their supplies?
- Will they take extra clothing or bedding?
- How will they maintain hygiene?
- Does the group want to include medical supplies? What kind of medical supplies do they think they will need?

What scientific/math knowledge would they need to steer the ship?

- Knowledge of navigational instruments and how they are used.
- Knowledge of the positions of the sun, moon and stars.
- What sails are best for what type of winds?

What supplies will be needed to keep the ship sailing?

- Rope
- Nails or wooden trunnels
- Kits to repair sails
- Extra wood to make repairs

Give students one class period to accomplish this so that groups can report their findings the next class day.

- Have the captain from each group report their results.
- Have a class discussion on which groups would survive or not survive and why.