

Island Survival Essay Worksheet

Objective:

In this writing task, you will choose a location where you would need to survive. You will also select three items to bring with you to help ensure your survival. After choosing your location and items, you will write a **5-paragraph essay** explaining why you chose those items and how they will help you survive in the environment you selected. Your essay should clearly explain your reasoning, demonstrate critical thinking, and show how each item is important for survival in your chosen setting.

Step 1: Choose Your Survival Location

First, think about where you would be stranded. You need to pick a **wilderness location**. Some ideas for your location could be:

- A **forest** (like Brian in *Hatchet*)
- A **desert**
- A **mountain** range
- A **tropical island** or **beach**
- A **polar** or **arctic** region

Write a brief description of the environment where you would be stranded, including details such as the climate, terrain, and any challenges you might face.

Location:

Description of Environment:

Step 2: Choose Three Survival Items

Now, choose three items that you would bring with you into the wilderness. These items should be practical and essential for your survival in the environment you've selected.

Possible items to consider:

- A **knife** or **hatchet** (for cutting wood, building shelter, protection)
- A **firestarter** (for warmth, cooking, signaling for help)
- A **water filter** or **purification tablets** (to make sure you have clean drinking water)
- A **first-aid kit** (for injuries and emergencies)
- **Clothing** or **gear** for the environment (e.g., thermal clothes, sun protection)
- A **fishing net** or **fishing gear** (if you are in a water-rich area)
- **Emergency shelter** (like a tarp or tent)
- A **flashlight** (for signaling or seeing in the dark)

For each item you choose, think about how it will help you survive in your environment. You will need to explain in your essay why each item is important for your survival.

Item 1:

Reason for Choosing Item 1:

Item 2:

Reason for Choosing Item 2:

Item 3:

Reason for Choosing Item 3:

Step 3: Plan Your Essay

Now that you have your location and items selected, it's time to plan your 5-paragraph essay. Use the outline below to organize your thoughts.

Essay Outline:

1. **Introduction** (1 paragraph)
 - Introduce the topic of survival.
 - Briefly describe your chosen location.
 - State the 3 items you will take and mention that you will explain why these items will help you survive.
2. **Paragraph 1: The First Item**
 - Describe the first item you have chosen.
 - Explain why this item is essential for survival in your environment.
3. **Paragraph 2: The Second Item**
 - Describe the second item you have chosen.
 - Explain how it will help you overcome challenges in the wilderness.
4. **Paragraph 3: The Third Item**
 - Describe the third item you have chosen.
 - Explain how it will support your survival in your chosen environment.
5. **Conclusion** (1 paragraph)
 - Summarize the importance of your three items.
 - Restate how these items will help you stay alive in the wilderness.
 - End with a final thought on why choosing the right tools is critical for survival.

Step 4: Writing Tips

- **Be clear and specific:** Make sure to describe each item clearly and explain **why** it is useful in your environment.
- **Use examples:** If you're in a forest, explain how a firestarter can help you stay warm at night, or how a knife can help you build shelter or hunt for food.
- **Be realistic:** Choose items that would actually help in real life; avoid things that are not practical (e.g., an item that wouldn't work in the wilderness).

- **Stay focused:** Your essay should explain your choices and show that you've thought carefully about your survival plan.

Step 5: Draft Your Essay

Using the outline above, begin writing your 5-paragraph essay. Take your time to make sure your reasoning is clear and your ideas are well-explained.

Step 6: Review and Revise

After completing your essay, review it for any spelling or grammar errors. Make sure you have followed the structure of the essay and that your explanations are clear and logical. If possible, ask a peer or teacher for feedback.

Reflection

Write a brief reflection on this writing task:

- How did selecting survival items and thinking about your environment challenge your thinking?
- Did you learn anything new about survival through this activity?