

The Rule of Law

A ship is travelling across the Pacific Ocean. The ship is a cargo vessel and is carrying supplies to a small remote island on the other side of the ocean. The ship's *inventory* (a list of items) lists supplies such as food, clothing, furniture, and some building materials.

There are 8 crew members and only 6 passengers, who are residents of the island they are travelling to. The total people on the ship include:

Passengers

- *a doctor*
- *a young woman who uses a walking stick*
- *an elderly man*
- *a mother with her child who is 8 years old*
- *and a school principal*

Ship's Crew

- *the Captain*
- *the First Officer (second in charge)*
- *a mechanic*
- *medical officer*
- *a cook*
- *3 deck hands*



The ship had been travelling at sea for five days when a huge storm unexpectedly blew in. The vessel battled with the violent weather to stay afloat, but couldn't escape the huge waves. After several hours, it crashed onto a reef and floundered. Everyone struggled to stay alive in the water and some made their way to the exposed rock connected to the reef that wrecked the ship.

By morning, it became clear the reef was part of a small island, so they frantically swam ashore before collapsing exhausted onto the beach. Things looked grim. The ship's captain, the cook, and the three deckhands had perished. There were only 8 people left.

As the days passed and the shock of their ordeal sank in, the survivors came to the realisation they were marooned, and any prospect of rescue would be slim at best. How would they survive?



The island was not too small, but not big either. It had a forest on one side, and the other side rose up a short hill to reach a dangerously high rocky cliff, before falling away to breaking waves on the other side. The soil inland from the sandy beach was quite fertile.

In order to survive, they all had to learn how to live and work together as a team and make the best of a bad situation. Everyone had to think about how this was going to work. The rest of their lives depended on it.....

ROLE PLAY

You will need 8 people for this activity. Each person will play the part of a survivor stranded on the island. However, there are a few things you will need to know before you begin. Each character has their own personality and ideas about how things should be done.



Here is the dilemma:

- The doctor is only a young man who has recently graduated from Medical School and is trained in the latest techniques regarding various treatments. He graduated with Honours and won an award. He has not had the opportunity to work on a patient as yet.
- The young woman is quite disabled and cannot get around without her stick – which was lost in the ordeal
- The elderly man has had extensive experiences trekking in remote areas and knows how to survive in the wilderness, but he is very frail and old. He is also a great gardener!
- The mother is very fit and healthy. She attended the gym for a 60 minute workout every afternoon
- The child is highly intelligent, but her behaviour is very naughty. This is because her mother lets her have everything she wants all any time
- The school principal is experienced in managing groups of people and knows how to get things organised and done. He is also a very kind man.
- The First Officer is very ambitious and has always wanted to be in charge of something. Unfortunately, he thinks losing the captain may be a good thing! He is also an impulsive person and doesn't think about the needs of others
- The mechanic is depressed and cries all day – no one seems to be able to console him
- The medical officer is extremely experienced and has many years of treating people for a variety of small to serious injuries and illnesses

Everyone is frightened and doesn't want to be the next person to perish!

Some supplies had washed up onto a beach. These included:

- ✓ A carton of tissues
- ✓ A box of assorted clothing for women and girls (coats, trousers, t-shirts, hats and handbags – and one pair of ruby red slippers)
- ✓ A very comfy sofa



In the distance the survivors could still see the shell of the ship perched up on top of the rocky reef, looking mangled and torn.

Some supplies were still preserved and undamaged onboard, such as;

- ✓ The ship's medical kit with limited supplies of bandages, 'Stingos' spray, and disinfectant
- ✓ Food from cupboards in the galley, along with cups, cutlery and plates
- ✓ 6 Wooden planks, a 10m piece of rope, a large canvas, and one Cadbury chocolate bar

Your Task:

Identify what challenges the survivors will face in the near and distant future.

Discuss what roles they will each need to have in order to determine how the resources will be managed so all of them can survive on the island. When you have finished, discuss what happened.



1. *How did the group interact with each other?*
2. *What rules were made to protect each of the survivors, and preserve their rights as fellow human beings?*
3. *Did any rules develop into a law? If so, how and when?*
4. *What was the level of participation from each survivor during the task? And how did they accept responsibility for their part in the process?*

