Would You Survive?: A Survival Test

You’re lost in the wilderness, stranded atop mountain or helplessly adrift at sea! (Never mind how you got there, just play the game!) What should you do? Your very survival depends on how much you know about your present environment and situation. Answer the following questions and test your survival IQ.

1. You’re alone in the wilds. You have no idea how long it will take for someone to find you. What is your greatest danger?
   a. Starvation and lack of water
   b. Panic
   c. Attack by wild animals, especially at night

2. Your airliner has crashed in the mountains. You’re one of several survivors. This is what you do:
   a. Climb to the top of the nearest mountain and build a signal fire.
   b. Make short trips; a road may be nearby
   c. Stay put and wait for rescue.

3. It’s cold and you have no fire. In order to keep warm you would:
   a. Remain motionless to conserve energy.
   b. Exercise vigorously.
   c. Cover your head.

4. The temperature is below zero, but there are clothing and blankets in the crashed plane. Your best course is to:
   a. Bundle up with everything you can find.
   b. Avoid perspiring.
   c. Keep your feet warm.

5. You suspect that searchers may be in the woods looking for you. You would:
   a. Scream several times.
   b. Build a fire and make smoke signals.
   c. Try to find your way toward the rescue party.

6. A search plane flies overhead. In order to attract a plane’s attention, you:
   a. Use the mirror in your compact as a signal
   b. Wave your most colorful piece of clothing.
   c. Climb to the top of a tree.

7. Which one of these American wild animals should you most worry about meeting?
   a. A bobcat
   b. A mountain lion
   c. A mink

8. You’ve accidentally disturbed a grizzly bear or a female black bear with cubs and it’s obviously angry. The thing to do is:
   a. Faint, or at least pretend to faint.
b. Moving slowly, hide behind a tree.
c. Run as fast as you can.

9. It’s night in the Canadian wilderness. You’re surround by wolves. Your course of action:
   a. Yell at the wolves and they will probably run away.
   b. Build a fire to keep them at a distance.
   c. Ignore them.

10. You suspect it may be many days before you’re found. Your greatest concern is:
   a. Lack of food
   b. Lack of water
   c. Lack of shelter

11. Your hunger pangs are serious. You must eat something. You:
   a. Chew leaves, but don’t swallow them
   b. Eat tree bark
   c. Catch and eat small snakes and insects.

12. If you’re starving, there’s one tasty wild animal you can capture without traps or weapons:
   a. Cottontail rabbit with young
   b. Woodchuck
   c. Porcupine

13. Of hazards you may face in the wilderness, you should concern yourself least about:
   a. A poisonous snake bite.
   b. A sprained ankle
   c. Lack of pure drinking water.

14. The mosquitoes are numerous and too hungry for comfort. Your best recourse is to:
   a. Use perfume, if you have any, as a repellent.
   b. Build a fire and stay in its smoke.
   c. Sit very still.

15. Your airliner has crashed in deep snow and the temperature is below zero. The warmest place you can be is:
   a. In the plane’s broken fuselage
   b. Under the snow
   c. Inside a tent made of seat cushions and parachutes.

16. When snow is on the ground, snow blindness is a danger. You have no sunglasses, therefore you:
   a. Close your eyes frequently as soon as they start hurting.
   b. Shade your eyes whenever the sun is shining.
   c. Shade your eyes whether there is sunshine or not.

17. A severe electrical storm occurs. Where is the safest place to be?
   a. In the open, away from all trees.
b. In a forest, which will also shelter you from the rain.
c. Under the tallest tree, which will bleed off the electrical charge.

18. It’s very cold. Another survivor of the plane crash tells you that you have a white spot on your nose—frostbite! You:

   a. Warm the spot with your hand.
   b. Rub it with snow.
   c. Cover your face with cloth or fur.

19. You have no water, but the crashed plane has the usual supply of beverages. To quench your thirst, you should drink:

   a. Scotch
   b. Beer
   c. Soft drinks

20. You know if you walked west you would find a highway, but you haven’t got a compass. To find your way, you would utilize the knowledge that:

   a. Moss grows on the north side of trees.
   b. The sun’s shadow is a direction finder.
   c. The tops of tall trees point east.

21. A danger in the woods can be a fox or a raccoon with rabies. You can recognize an infected animal because it:

   a. shows no sign of fear
   b. howls and whimpers
   c. foams at the mouth

22. Your airliner has crashed at sea. You’re in the water waiting to be picked up by a life raft. Sharks appear! You:

   a. Kick them off as they approach.
   b. Try not to worry—you know they won’t touch you if you’re not bleeding.
   c. Put your head under the water and yell.

23. You’re in a life raft at sea without drinking water and desperately thirsty. You would drink:

   a. Sea water—it’s safe to ingest in moderate quantities.
   b. Urine—repulsive thought, but you’ll need it, to replenish body moisture.
   c. The blood of sea birds.

24. Your airliner has been forced down in the burning hot desert. Our best plan is to:

   a. Remain in the shade, moving as little as possible.
   b. Take off all the clothing you can and breath thorough your mouth.
   c. Stay active so perspiration will cool you.

Scoring: Give yourself one point for each correct answer.

- 22-23 points: Splendid! You might consider a career as a wilderness explorer.
- 18-21 points: Resourceful! You can make it on your own.
- 12-17 points: You’re a fair woods person but don’t go on long hikes by yourself.
- 11 or under: Stay in the cafeteria, you may get lost in the hallways.