

Teamwork Exercise – notes for Students

Shipwrecked on a deserted island!

You and your team are on a blue ocean sailing experience in the South Pacific. During the night, the team member on watch fell asleep, and suddenly everyone woke up as you ran aground on a tropical island. This island (according to the chart you have on board, located nearby to the latest position fix taken on the last watch) is Henderson Island, a small uninhabited island of the Pitcairn group of islands (famous for the “Mutiny on the Bounty” story).

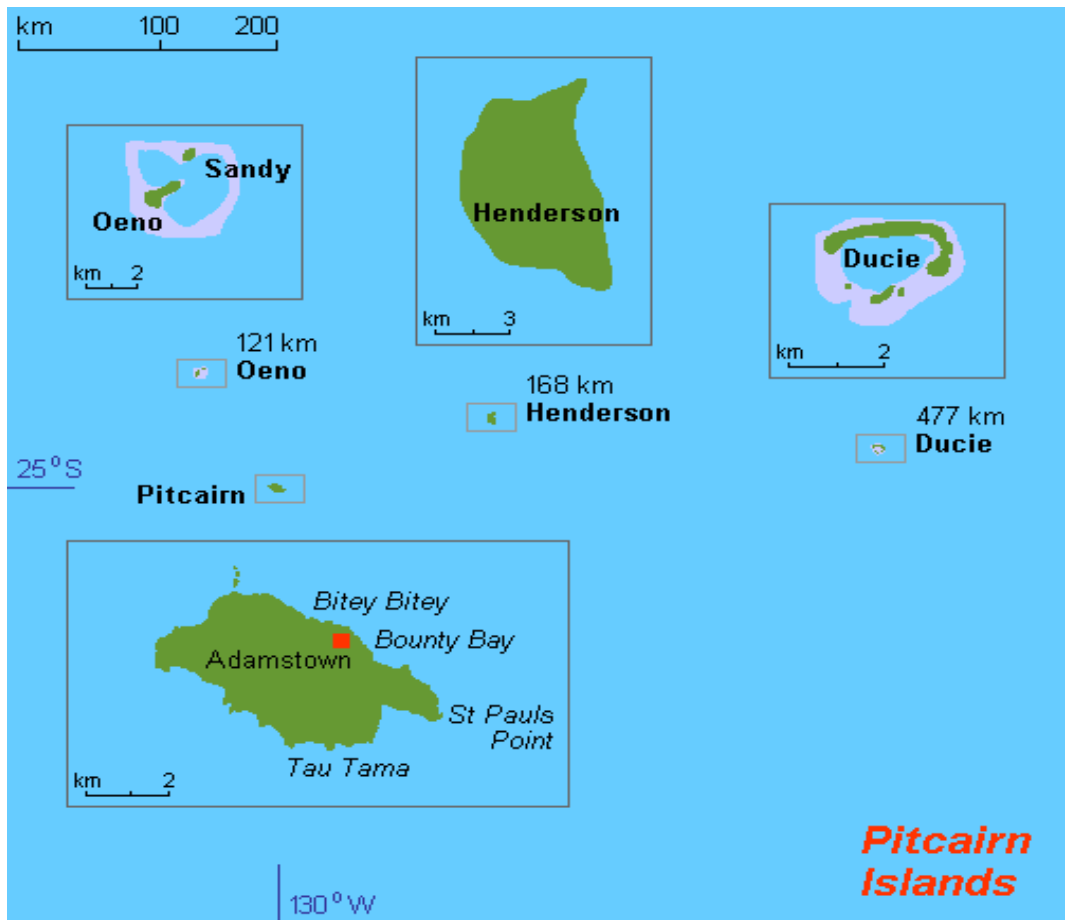
The crew members start to scramble ashore. From the chart, saved by a crew member, you can see that the nearest inhabited island is the main Pitcairn Island itself, which is nearly 170 kilometres away (and has only 46 inhabitants and almost no communications with the outside world). There are other small and also similarly uninhabited islands in the vicinity, nearer and further away. The nearest major landmass in the South Pacific is more than 5,000 kilometres away.

Another crew member saved a guide book. The geology of Henderson Island is described as a raised coral atoll; its surface is mostly reef-rubble and dissected limestone. An extremely rugged mixture of steep, jagged pinnacles and shallow sink holes with tropical vegetation, the island is encircled by steep, undercut limestone cliffs on all but the north end. There are three main beaches, on the north-west, north, and north-east sides, and the north and north-west sides are fringed by reefs. You can already see a hill with a stream of water running down.

Your boat starts to lurch onto the rocks, taking in water, and is sinking, holed on the rocks, and is going down fast. One team member has already launched the life-raft from the boat, and this has been dragged up the beach. Your team quickly retrieves several items from the boat, which might help with your survival. These are all on the beach with you. Suddenly you notice that your skipper, the only person who knows about seamanship and navigation, is not with you. Some of the crew start looking for him, but the coral atoll is sharp and forbidding.

So, what will you do? You have a choice - should you get in the life-raft and go off in search of Pitcairn Island, which at least is inhabited and therefore habitable? In the life-raft you might be able to attract attention and get rescued by another boat or a big ship. Or maybe you can try to get to the mainland? On the other hand, should you stay where you are on the island and hope to get rescued as eventually the authorities (which the skipper notified of your cruise) will post you missing?

The object is survival. Your team has agreed to stay together. The life-raft is large enough and is equipped for the number of people in your team.



The 15 items listed below are the ones saved from the boat (in addition to the life-raft, local chart of the Pitcairn Islands and the guide book describing the geology of the island and nearby area).

Make a personal ranking by yourself (#1 is most important, #15 least), and then discuss the items with your team members and make a team ranking on which you are all agreed.

The experts will then give their definitive answers. Survivors are those with the ranking closest to that of the experts.

Items for survival	Personal ranking	Team ranking	Team score	Individual score
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Compass

Satellite phone

Matches

Canvas awning/rope

First aid kit

Charts of Pacific

Food on board

Hatchet

Sailing boots

Water in jerry-cans

2hp outboard motor

Sextant

Distress flares

Fishing hooks/knife

Waterproof clothes