

Survival science: learning through group interviews

Antarctic escape challenge

50 scientists are stationed at an isolated research lab deep in Antarctica studying ancient ice cores. The team's biologist has been analyzing a strange, dormant pathogen found in the samples that have been collected. Unknowingly, he exposes it to the air. Within hours, he starts exhibiting violent symptoms – rage, pale skin, and bloodshot eyes. He attacks one of the engineers, biting into her arm. The virus spreads rapidly through the group. Panicking, four of the scientists lock themselves in a containment area on the third floor. Two of the four scientists are sweating and becoming pale. The room has a door and a large window that opens out onto the bleak landscape. They know they must stay alive until morning, when the emergency helicopter will arrive for a routine check-in. The temperature outside is deadly (-35°C), but so are the infected researchers banging against the door. The generator sputters and the power is dwindling. Through the long, frozen night, the survivors face not only the biting cold but the terror of their infected colleagues – and the ticking clock of survival. There are 15 items in the containment area. You and the team must use them appropriately to survive the night.



Halley VI Antarctic Research Station

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Use your knowledge of science to list these items from most to least important. Place the number 1 next to the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important, and so on, with number 15 being the least important. After the activity, you will receive the official ranking.

Item	Your ranking
Four surgical face masks	
Hand sanitizer	
Glucose tablets	
20 litres of distilled water	
Ten rolls of duct tape	
Sewing kit	
Foil thermal blankets	
Vial of morphine	
12 mosquito nets	
Two 500 ml bottles of sulphuric acid	
50 syringes labelled 'Zombie Vaccine, expiry April 2020'	
Two Zombie Cure tablets (effective in 1 h)	
Machete	
Handgun with 12 bullets	
Lab notebook	