

Survival science: learning through group interviews

Flood fighters challenge

You and a friend are staying in a rural area, surrounded by beautiful nature, in a large house. Unfortunately, a sudden downpour has caused severe flooding in the region. To make matters worse, a nearby dam has broken, sending a surge of water through the streets, submerging roads and cutting off all communication. The power is out, and the internet is down. Although the house is well-stocked with essentials, you face a serious dilemma: the rising floodwater has already submerged the basement, and it is steadily creeping towards the ground floor. You must move to the first floor, but space is extremely limited. You can only take 15 items with you. Time is not on your side – the water is rising quickly, and soon there will be no chance to retrieve supplies from the lower levels. You must carefully choose the items that will keep you and your friend safe for at least a week, until a rescue team arrives. Your choices could make the difference in terms of your survival.



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

Item	Your ranking
Maps of the local area	
A packet of chocolate biscuits	
Life jackets	
Metal bucket	
Two-person tent	
Rubber tubing	
Filter paper	
9V batteries	
Solar water pump (to move water)	
Steel wool	
Bunsen burner with one gas canister	
Decorative samurai sword	
Metal pipe, 10 cm in diameter, 2 m long	
Can of yellow spray paint	
Assortment of books	