













First Step: Surviving The Plane Crash

You and your companions were travelling to a mathematical symposium when the small plane crashed. You have just survived but both the pilot and co-pilot were killed in the crash. It is mid-January, and you are in Northern Canada. The daily temperature is 25 below zero, and the night time temperature is 40 below zero. There is snow on the ground, and the countryside is wooded with several creeks criss-crossing the area. The nearest town is 20 miles away. You are all dressed in city clothes appropriate for a conference meeting.

Your group of survivors managed to salvage the following items:

			
A ball of steel wool	A small ax	A loaded .45-caliber pistol	A can of Crisco shortening
			
Newspapers (one per person)	Cigarette lighter (without fluid)	Extra shirt and pants for each survivor	20 x 20 ft. piece of heavy-duty canvas
			
A sectional air map made of plastic	One quart of 100-proof whiskey	A compass	Family-size chocolate bars (one per person)

Your task as a group is to consider the uses for each of the above 12 items and to list those in order of importance for your survival so you may agree on your top 5 choices.

You must come to agreement as a group.

Which five objects would you select for your collective survival, from the most to the least useful?