**Wilderness Survival Scenario**

**Answers**

1. You have strayed from your party along and are now lost. You have no special signalling equipment. The best way to attempt to contact your friends is to:
2. **call “help” loudly but in a low voice.** Low tones carry further, especially in dense forests. There is a much better chance of being heard if you call loudly but in a low tone. “Help” is a good word to use, because it alerts your companions to your plight. Yelling or screaming would not only be less effective, but might be passed off as a bird call by your friends far away.

2. You are in “snake country.” Your best action to avoid snakes is to:

a. **make a lot of noise with your feet.** Snakes do not like people and will usually

do everything they can to get out of your way. Unless you surprise or corner a

snake, there is a good chance that you will not even see one, let alone come into

contact with it. Some snakes do feed at night, and walking softly may bring you

right on top of a snake.

3. You are hungry and lost in wild country. The best rule for determining which

plants are safe to eat (those you do not recognise) is to:

**c. put a bit of the plant on your lower lip for five minutes; if it seems all**

**right, try a little.** The best approach, of course, is to eat only those plants that

you recognise as safe. But when you are in doubt and very hungry, you may use the

lip test. If the plant is poisonous, you will get a very unpleasant sensation on your

lip. Red berries alone do not tell you much about the plant’s edibility (unless, of

course, you recognize the plant by the berries), and birds just do not have the same

digestive systems we do.

4. The day becomes dry and hot. You have a full bottle of water (about one litre) with

you. You should:

**c. drink as much as you think you need when you need it.**The danger here is

dehydration and once the process starts, your litre of water will not do much to

reverse it. Saving or rationing will not help, especially if you are lying unconscious

somewhere from sunstroke or dehydration. So use the water as you need it, and be

aware of your need to find a water source as soon as possible.

5. Your water is gone and you have become very thirsty. You finally come to a dried-up

stream. Your best chance of finding water is to:

**c. dig in the stream bed at the outside of a bend.**This is the part of the river

or stream that flows the fastest, is less silted, deepest, and the last part to go dry.

6. You decide to walk out of the wild country by following a series of ravines

where a water supply could be available. Night is coming on. The best place to

make camp is:

**b. midway up the slope.** A sudden rain storm might turn the ravine into araging

torrent. This has happened to many campers and hikers before they had a chance to

escape. The ridge line, on the other hand, increases your exposure to rain, wind, and

lightning, should a storm break. The best location is on the slope.

7. Your flashlight glows dimly as you are about to make your way back to your

campsite after a brief trip. Darkness comes quickly in the woods and the surroundings

seem unfamiliar. You should:

1. **put the batteries under your armpits to warm them, and then replace them in**

**the torch.** Flashlight batteries lose much of their power, and weak batteries run down faster, in the cold. Warming the batteries, especially if they are already weak, will restore them for a while.

8. Snow confines you to your small tent. You doze with your small stove going. There is

danger if the flame is:

1. **yellow.** A yellow flame indicates incomplete combustion and a strong possibility carbon monoxide build-up. Each year many campers are killed by carbon monoxide poisoning as they sleep or doze in tents, cabins or other enclosed spaces.

9. You must cross a river that has a strong current, large rocks, and some white water.

After carefully selecting your crossing spot, you should:

1. **leave your boots and pack on.** Errors in crossing rivers are a major causeof fatal

accidents. Sharp rocks or uneven footing demand that you keep your boots on. If your pack is fairly well balanced, wearing it will provide you the most stability in the swift current. A waterproof, zippered backpack will usually float, even when loaded with normal camping gear; if you step off into a hole or deep spot, the pack could become a lifesaver.

10. In waist-deep water with a strong current, when crossing the stream, you should face:

**b. across the stream.**Errors in facing the wrong way when crossing a stream are

the cause of many drownings. Facing upstream is the worst alternative; the current

could push you back and your pack would provide the unbalance to pull you over.

You have the best stability facing across the stream, keeping your eye on the exit

point on the opposite bank.

11. You find yourself stuck on the edge of a cliff. Your only way is up some slippery,

mossy and wet rock. You should try it:

**c. with just your socks on.** They will give you more stability then the other options.

Normal hiking boots become slippery and going barefooted offers your feet no

protection at all.

12. Unarmed and unsuspecting, you surprise a large bear prowling around your campsite.

As the bear rears up about ten metres from you, you should:

1. **freeze, but be ready to back away slowly.** Sudden movement will probablystartle the bear a lot more than your presence. If the bear is seeking some of your food, do not argue; let the bear have a look round and be gone. Otherwise, back very slowly toward some refuge (trees or rocks).