**Stranded in the Desert**

You are one of the members of a geology club that is on a field trip to study unusual formations in the New Mexico desert. It is the last week in July. You have been driving over old trails far from any road, in order to see out-of the way formations. At about 10:30am, the specially equipped minibus in which your club is riding overturns, rolls into a twenty foot ravine and burns. The driver and the professional adviser to the club are killed. The rest of you are relatively uninjured.

You know that the nearest ranch is approximately forty-five miles east of where you are. There is no closer habitation. When your club does not report to its motel that evening, you will be missed. Several persons know generally where you are, but because of the nature of your outing they will not be able to pinpoint your exact whereabouts.

The area around you is rather rugged and very dry. There is a shallow water hole nearby, but the water is contaminated by worms, animal feces and urine, and several dead mice. You heard from a weather report before you left that the temperature would reach 108 degrees, making the surface temperature 128 degrees. You are all dressed in lightweight summer clothing, and you all have hats and sunglasses.

While escaping from the minibus, each member of your group salvaged a couple of items: there are twelve in all. Your group’s task is to rank these items according to their importance to your survival, from 1 (most important) to 12 (least important).

You may assume that the number of club members is the same as the number of persons in your group and that the group has agreed to stick together.

Rank the following items according to their importance to your survival, from 1 (most important) to 12 (least important).

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| **Object** | **Group Rank** | **Reason** |
| Magnetic compass |  |  |
| 20X20 ft piece of heavy-duty light blue canvas |  |  |
| Book, Plants of the Desert |  |  |
| Rearview mirror |  |  |
| Large knife |  |  |
| Flashlight (four battery size) |  |  |
| One jacket per person |  |  |
| One transparent plastic group cloth (6 X 4 ft) per person |  |  |
| .38 caliber loaded pistol |  |  |
| One 2-quart plastic canteen per person, full of water |  |  |
| Accurate map of the area |  |  |
| Large box of kitchen matches |  |  |