

1.2 Student Handout (Packing for a River Trip)

Packing for a River Trip

Name _____

Period _____

INTRODUCTION: You and your partner are adventurous travelers who have always dreamed of experiencing the Grand Canyon up close by taking a rafting trip down the Colorado River. You finally scheduled the trip and it is **happening next month!** On the inflatable raft, you have your clothing, a table, a set of wooden oars, and all your food in coolers and dry boxes. You and your partner are both wearing your life jackets. You have an additional **20 square feet** of available space on the raft to pack the remainder of the gear each of you will want to have with you.

The National Park Service (NPS) requires all river trips in the Grand Canyon to pack certain gear (see shaded boxes in the following table). If you choose to launch your trip without any of the required gear and are later inspected by NPS, you will each be fined \$500.

You and your partner will use the gear you pack to survive **two weeks** in the canyon and have the trip of a lifetime. The clock is ticking, and the river awaits – what gear will you decide to pack for this exciting adventure?

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP A: Study the table and highlight or circle the gear you want to pack on your raft. Each piece of gear will take up 1, 2, 3, or 4 square feet. You may pack multiples of any piece of gear.

STEP B: Name your raft. Each square on the raft grid represents 1 square foot. Label the grid to indicate how you have allocated the 20 square feet to the gear you have selected.

STEP C: Discuss the debrief questions below and be ready to share your responses with the class. You may make notes under the questions.

Debrief Questions

1. What prevented you from packing all the gear on the list?
2. Did you pack all the NPS–required gear on your raft? Why or why not?
3. Did your packed raft include multiples of any pieces of gear? If so, which ones and why? If not, why not?
4. If you had one additional square foot of space on your raft, what would you have done differently?
5. If you had worked alone, would you have made different choices? Explain.

GEAR	FEET ²	GEAR	FEET ²
Shade Structure (poles, stakes, and shade cloth)	4	Game Kit (deck of cards and board games)	1
Kitchen Kit (propane, lighter, stove, cooking utensils, pots, pans, oven mitts, and dish soap)	4	Camp Kit (camera, headlamp, book, and two pairs of comfy shoes)	1
REQUIRED One Toilet System			
Advanced Toilet System (like being at home, toilet paper included)	3	Primitive Toilet System (higher yuck factor, toilet paper included)	1
Camp Lounge Kit (two chairs)	3	Meal Kit (two bowls, two plates, two cups, and two sets of cutlery)	1
Tent (includes poles, rainfly, tent body, and stakes)	2	Field Game Kit (horseshoes, frisbee, and football)	1
Large Outdoor/Patio Umbrella	2	Tarp (stakes and cording)	1
Comfort Kit (two full-sized pillows and solar-powered lantern)	2	Water Treatment Kit (filtration system, backup filters, and iodine drops)	1
Sleep Kit (one sleeping bag and one sleeping pad)	2	Communication Kit (satellite phone and rechargeable solar batteries)	1
REQUIRED Raft Emergency Kit (extra set of oars, air pump, repair kit, and throwable floatation device)	2	Rescue Kit (rope and pulley system to get a raft unstuck)	1
Cold Weather Kit (cold weather apparel, e.g., gloves, large coats, long underwear, hats, and hand warmers)	2	Toiletry Kit (two toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hairbrush, tissues, sunscreen, and lip balm)	1
REQUIRED Safety Kit (extra life jacket, river map, first aid kit, signal mirror, and ground panels – to indicate landing zone for a helicopter)	1	Luxury Toiletry Kit (shampoo, conditioner, comb, razor, shaving gel, deodorant, and lotion)	1
Survivalist Kit (camp knife, ax, and fishing gear)	1	Shower Kit (portable shower and towel)	1
Dishwashing Kit (two buckets, dish scrubby, dish soap, and dish gloves)	1	Entertainment Kit (cell phone – with movies and music downloaded – portable charger, speakers, and headphones)	1