



The Art & Science of Survival

***Essential Question(s):** How have humans survived and thrived in the world's toughest environments?*

*“Survival can be summed up in three words: **never give up**. That's the heart of it really. Just keep trying.”*

Bear Grylls



YOUR MISSION

What does it really take to survive?

Over the next six weeks, we will explore survival from lots of different perspectives. We'll investigate how humans survive extreme environments, how our bodies keep us alive, how plants and animals adapt, how early humans survived, and how communities respond when disaster strikes.

We'll also look towards the future. As our climate changes and communities experience events such as heatwaves, wildfires, floods, droughts and other emergencies, what knowledge and skills might help us become more prepared and resilient?

Along the way you will:

- conduct experiments and practical challenges
- learn outdoor and survival skills
- read survival literature
- investigate real-world crises
- study human biology and ecology
- explore early humans and civilisation
- debate big philosophical questions
- research, write, design, build and problem-solve
- learn how to work effectively as a team

And everything is leading towards one final challenge...

ESCAPE THE WOODS

At the end of the project, you will participate in an outdoor survival experience in teams of 5–6 that we're calling - **Into the Wild: Escape the Woods**.

Everything you learn over the term could help you escape.

Expect puzzles involving knowledge, practical skills, problem-solving, communication and teamwork.



SURVIVAL MANUAL



Your portfolio is your survival manual. Everything connected to *Into the Wild* belongs here.

That could include:

NOTES • WRITING • DIAGRAMS • MAPS • RESEARCH • DATA • EXPERIMENTS •
SKETCHES • DESIGNS • REFLECTIONS • FEEDBACK

Keep it **dated, titled and organised**.

And here's the important part:

YOU WILL NEED YOUR PORTFOLIO FOR THE FINAL CHALLENGE.

The better you manage your portfolio, the better chance you have to survive.

OTHER ADVENTURES

 **SURVIVAL SEMINARS:** Each week we'll investigate a real-world survival story or crisis and tackle a big philosophical question together.

 **NATURE JOURNALING & SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION:** Slow down, observe the natural world closely, and learn to record what you see through drawing, annotation and scientific illustration.

 **BUSHCRAFT RESIDENTIAL:** Put your survival learning into action during our overnight Bushcraft Adventure, developing practical outdoor skills and working together in the wild.

 **SURVIVAL STORIES:** Read and discuss survival novels, exploring how characters respond to danger, isolation, difficult decisions and the challenge of staying alive.

 **FRIDAY WORKSHOPS - ORIENTEERING & FIRST-AID:** On Friday mornings, you will participate in workshops on First Aid & Orienteering to develop your map-reading, navigation, emergency first aid, teamwork and problem-solving skills.



OUR SURVIVAL JOURNEY



Week	Topic	Big Question
Week 1	 Survive Together	What do humans actually need to survive?
Week 2	 Master the Elements	How can science help us survive our environment?
Week 3	 Food & Water	Why are food and water worth protecting?
Week 4	 The Survival Machine	How is the human body built for survival?
Week 5	 Survival of the Fittest?	Is the strongest always the most likely to survive?
Week 6	 From Survival to Civilisation	How did humans go from surviving to building civilisation?

SKILLS/STANDARDS

- I can explain how living things depend on each other and their environment to survive.
- I can use scientific investigation skills to ask questions, make predictions, gather evidence and explain results.
- I can explain how heat, energy and materials affect survival in different environments.
- I can investigate mixtures and use separation techniques, such as filtration, to solve practical problems.
- I can use maps, geographical information and evidence to understand different environments and hazards.
- I can use historical evidence to explore how early humans survived and how communities developed over time.
- I can read a range of survival texts, understand key ideas and use evidence to support my responses.
- I can communicate, collaborate, manage my time and show stickability when solving difficult problems.

VOCABULARY

- ☐ Survival
- ☐ Resilience
- ☐ Resource
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Hazard
- ☐ Risk
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Combustion
- ☐ Insulation
- ☐ Filtration
- ☐ Mixture
- ☐ Purification
- ☐ Ecosystem
- ☐ Interdependence
- ☐ Adaptation
- ☐ Biodiversity