

Stories of Ocean Survival (C)

Instructions: Read your story of extreme survival and complete the table below the text. You will have to retell this story to another group but you can only use the information from the table to help you tell the story. You can't read directly from the original text.

In 1942 Poon Lim was a Chinese sailor working on a British ship in the South Atlantic Ocean. The ship was sunk by a German submarine. Poon was the only person on the ship to survive. He managed to get on a 2.5 meter wooden boat with some food and water. In a few days he was out of supplies. He collected rainwater using his life jacket as an improvised bowl. He used the wire from a flashlight to make a fishhook. Later he used a nail from the boat to make a hook to catch bigger fish. One time a storm hit his boat and the saltwater contaminated all of the rainwater he had collected. He was near death but he caught a seabird and drank its blood to survive. After 133 days he landed on the coast of Brazil.

He received a medal from the British Royal Navy and immigrated to the United States. He died in 1991 at the age of 72.

Who, When, and Where?	Cause of the Emergency?
...Poon Lim, 1942, South Atlantic Ocean	...German submarine sunk his British ship
Survival Strategies?	Their Rescue and What Happened Next?
...- Used life jacket to collect rainwater - Made fishhooks from a flashlight wire and a nail	...After 133 days at sea, he reached the coast of Brazil and was rescued. He received a medal from the British Royal Navy and later moved to the United States.

Additional Discussion Questions

Instructions: If you have time, discuss these questions with your partners.

- What do you think is the most surprising detail of the story?
Poon Lim's survival for 133 days at sea and his ability to use limited resources creatively, like turning a flashlight wire into a fishhook and drinking seabird blood, are remarkable.
- Have you heard of similar stories to this one?

Other sea survival stories include Louis Zamperini in *Unbroken* or the story of the *Essex*, the whaling ship that inspired *Moby-Dick*. Each story highlights endurance and resilience.

- Beside the ocean, where do you think would be a difficult place to survive? What strategies could you use?

Surviving in a desert or a snowy mountain would also be challenging. In the desert, finding water sources and shelter from extreme heat would be essential, while in cold climates, staying warm and finding food would be top priorities.

Group Share

Instructions: When your partners tell their story, take notes in the table below. After all the groups tell their stories, try to identify similarities between the three stories.

Details of Story A	Details of Story B
Similarities Between Stories A, B, and C	