Men rescued after writing 'HELP' in the sand

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Three men were rescued from a remote desert island in adventure-book style on Thursday. The three sailors became marooned on the tiny, uninhabited island of Fanadik in the South Pacific Ocean after their boat capsized. The island is several hundred kilometres north of Papua New Guinea. Even though they lost their vessel at night, the men managed to swim for nearly three kilometres to reach land. They remained on the island for three days and believed they were modern-day castaways. They wrote the word 'HELP' in the sand using palm leaves so they might be spotted by a plane. Their prayers were answered when a U.S. Coast Guard plane spotted their message on the beach.

A Coast Guard spokesman spoke about the rescue. He said: "Our combined efforts, coupled with the willingness of many different resources to come together and help, led to the successful rescue of these three men in a very remote part of the Pacific." Once the men were found, their families were notified and they were put on a boat back to the island of Pulap, from where they had initially set out to sea. The Coast Guard said none of the men was injured. The rescue is one of many the U.S. Coast Guard has undertaken recently. Officials say that in the last two weeks, they have coordinated seven search-and-rescue missions in the South Pacific, saving the lives of 15 people.

Sources: *The Guardian* / *USA Today* / *Washington Post*

Writing

We should be taught survival skills at school. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rescued / desert island / sailors / uninhabited / castaways / palm leaves / prayers / spokesman / resources / remote / initially / coast guard / recently / missions

True / False

a) Three men wrote an adventure book about being rescued. T / F

b) The men ended up on the island after their boat capsized. T / F

c) The men swam for almost three kilometres to get to the island. T / F

d) The US Coat Guard found the men on the island. T / F

e) The Coast Guard said many people were unwilling to join the rescue. T / F

f) The men were flown straight back to the USA. T / F

g) One of the men had a broken leg. T / F

h) The Coast Guard saved 15 people in the same area in the past 2 weeks. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	rescued	a.	noticed
2	marooned	b.	overturned
3.	capsized	c.	distant
4.	reach	d.	readiness
5.	spotted	e.	saved
6.	combined	f.	get to
7.	willingness	g.	at first
8.	remote	h.	stranded
9.	initially	i.	worked together
10.	coordinated	j.	joint

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) How lucky do you think the men are?

c) What stories do you know about people marooned on desert islands?

d) What would you do if you were marooned on a desert island?

e) Is it better to have to survive on a desert island, a jungle or a desert?

f) How do you think the men felt?

g) What do you think the men did for three days?

h) What three adjectives best describe this story?

Phrase Match

1.	rescued from a remote		a.	rescue missions
2	after their boat		b.	land
3.	reach		c.	part of the Pacific
4.	palm		d.	lives of 15 people
5.	Their prayers		e.	capsized
6.	a very remote		f.	notified
7.	their families were		g.	leaves
8.	set out		h.	were answered
9.	search-and-		i.	to sea
10.	saving the		j.	desert island

Discussion – Student B

a) What job does the coast guard do?

b) How important are coast guards?

c) What bad things might the men have thought about?

d) Have you ever been very lost?

e) What movies have you seen about castaways?

f) Should we be taught survival skills at school?

g) What's the most remote place you've ever been to?

h) What questions would you like to ask the rescued men?

Spelling

1. rescued from a <u>eoetmr</u> desert island

2. The three sailors became <u>oamodnre</u>

3. after their boat <u>sizdceap</u>

4. they lost their <u>vleses</u> at night

5. modern-day <u>awstacsya</u>

6. Their <u>ysrepra</u> were answered

7. Our <u>bendcimo</u> efforts

8. many different <u>errcsesuo</u>

9. their families were <u>idtoienf</u>

10. they had <u>nlliaytii</u> set out

11. none of the men was <u>uijrnde</u>

12. search-and-rescue <u>nssmiois</u>

Role Play

Role A – A mobile phone
You think a mobile phone is the most important thing to survive on a desert island. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): matches, a knife or a blanket.

Role B – Matches
You think matches are the most important things to survive on a desert island. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a mobile phone, a knife or a blanket.

Role C – A knife
You think a knife is the most important thing to survive on a desert island. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): matches, a mobile phone or a blanket.

Role D – A blanket
You think a blanket is the most important thing to survive on a desert island. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): matches, a knife or a mobile phone.

Speaking – Survival tools

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things you need to survive on a desert island at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a mobile phone
- matches
- a blanket
- a knife
- a cup
- a torch / flashlight
- a diary
- a guitar

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. f	5. a
6. j	7. d	8. c	9. g	10. i

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d T	e F	f F	g F	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.