

Four children survive in Amazon jungle for 40 days

12th June 2023



An uplifting story has popped up in our news feeds. Four children who were missing and feared dead after a plane crash a month ago have been found alive and well. The siblings, aged 13, nine, four and a one-year-old baby, were on

a plane that crashed in the Amazon jungle in Colombia on May the first. The children's mother, the pilot and co-pilot perished in the crash. Before the plane disappeared, the pilot issued a mayday alert, citing engine failure. Moments later, it disappeared from radar screens. The children had been missing for 40 days when members of Colombia's military found them. A news agency said people from the Huitoto indigenous group in the jungle aided the soldiers' search.

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro said news of the children's discovery was "a joy for the whole country" and a "magical day". He added: "They were alone. They themselves accomplished an example of total survival which will remain in history. These children are today the children of peace and the children of Colombia." Colombia's Civil Aviation Authority issued a statement regarding how the children survived. It believes the siblings escaped the wreckage and trudged through the jungle in search of help. The children belong to the Huitoto group. Their knowledge of what is edible in the jungle and their experience of the terrain probably gave them a better chance of survival.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) / [sky.com](https://www.sky.com)

Writing

We should all learn survival skills instead of being on our smartphones. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

uplifting stories / news feeds / plane crash / siblings / pilot / radar / military / jungle / discovery / joy / magical / survival / history / wreckage / peace / edible / terrain

True / False

- 1) The eldest of the children in the story is a teenager. T / F
- 2) One of the children's parents did not survive the plane crash. T / F
- 3) The pilot of the airplane alerted authorities of engine failure. T / F
- 4) The children were found by tourists who were trekking in the jungle. T / F
- 5) Colombia's said magic was used to find the children. T / F
- 6) Colombia's president said the children would remain in geography. T / F
- 7) The children knew what to eat and what not to eat in the jungle. T / F
- 8) The children's knowledge of the jungle helped them survive. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. popped up | a. native |
| 2. perished | b. achieved |
| 3. alert | c. assisted |
| 4. indigenous | d. delight |
| 5. aided | e. warning |
| 6. joy | f. land |
| 7. accomplished | g. appeared |
| 8. issued | h. trekked |
| 9. trudged | i. died |
| 10. terrain | j. put out |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) When was the last time your country experienced joy?
- c) What was the most magical day you've ever had?
- d) What's the toughest thing you've had to survive?
- e) What would you eat in the jungle?
- f) How would you cope with 40 days in the wild?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the rescuers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. An uplifting story has popped | a. chance of survival |
| 2. found alive | b. failure |
| 3. the pilot issued a | c. radar screens |
| 4. engine | d. the wreckage |
| 5. it disappeared from | e. up in our news feeds |
| 6. news of the children's discovery | f. edible in the jungle |
| 7. the siblings escaped | g. mayday alert |
| 8. trudged through the jungle | h. was a joy |
| 9. knowledge of what is | i. and well |
| 10. gave them a better | j. in search of help |

Discussion – Student B

- What uplifting stories have you heard recently?
- How good is it to read uplifting stories?
- Why is the news full of negative, depressing stories?
- What do you know about the Amazon jungle?
- How do you think the children survived for 40 days?
- What are your survival skills like?
- What do you think of flying?
- What advice do you have for the children?

Spelling

- The ingslbsi, aged 13, nine, four
- the pilot and co-pilot eiprdseh in the crash
- the pilot issued a daymya alert
- ntciig engine failure
- members of Colombia's multiiyr found them
- the Huitoto nudsiinoeg group
- aedmclsphoic an example
- civil iaotnvai authority
- escaped the wegcrake
- redgdut through the jungle
- what is ebedli in the jungle
- their experience of the rartnie

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – A Map

You think a map is the most essential item needed in a survival situation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a blanket, a radio or medicine.

Role B – A Blanket

You think a blanket is the most essential item needed in a survival situation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a map, a radio or medicine.

Role C – A Radio

You think a radio is the most essential item needed in a survival situation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a blanket, a map or medicine.

Role D – Medicine

You think medicine is the most essential item needed in a survival situation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): a blanket, a radio or a map.

Speaking – Survival Items

Rank these with your partner. Put the survival items we need most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| • A map | • Chocolate |
| • A whistle | • Medicine |
| • A blanket | • A radio |
| • A plastic sheet | • A torch |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.