

UP, UP AND AWAY SCENARIO

You are a member of Hot Air Balloon Exploring Post 533 and have been an active explorer for three years. You and a friend decide to balloon from California to the Eastern seaboard. The exploring post is sponsoring your flight to promote the "Sky Sailors".

You and a friend launch from San Diego, California and rise to 25,000 feet to catch the jetstream. You must fly eastward where your flight path will take you directly over the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Your speed varies from 40 mph to 100 mph and the flight is quite smooth.

It is peaceful and magnificent at 25,000 feet. As you approach the Rockies you notice the weather changing. It is getting icy and you begin to lose altitude. You can't drop below 12,000 feet or you will risk crashing into a mountain peak. You've already dropped 400 of your 500 pounds of sand. You are losing altitude at 100 feet a minute.

You are quite concerned. The terrain is much too rough to land. Your only hope for survival is to climb to a higher altitude. The ice is building on the surface of the balloon and gondola. You attempt to raise the balloon by increasing the temperature of the air inside the balloon, but the regulator malfunctions. You continue losing altitude and the peaks are within ten minutes. You must gain altitude or you and your friend will surely die if you crash in the wilderness.

Your last hope is to remove as much weight as possible from the gondola in hopes the balloon will climb to 12,000 feet. You look around the gondola and find the following fifteen items:

1. Bedroll and raincoat
2. Dufflebag of extra clothing
3. Compass
4. Flashlight
5. Five-gallon metal container of water
6. Quart jar of jellybeans
7. Storage battery
8. 100 lbs. of sand in bags
9. Portable toilet
10. Aircraft radio # 1 (with weak batteries)
11. Aircraft radio # 2 (with dead batteries)
12. CB radio # 1
13. CB radio # 2
14. C-Rations
15. Lighting system which works off the storage battery

UP, UP AND AWAY ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

The following narrative provides a step-by-step process for implementing this activity. The primary purpose is to help students understand and believe in the power that exists within a group when all members are actively involved. The activity should go as follows:

1. Individuals use critical thinking skills to rank the fifteen items.
2. Teams use critical thinking and communication skills in order to rank the fifteen items.
3. When the students have finished, read the correct rankings which were provided by expert balloonists. As you read the rankings and lead the class into a discussion of how they ranked each item and why, you will notice some disagreement with the rankings; however, take caution not to engage in too much discussion of the rankings because that's not the important part or focus of the activity.
 1. 100 lbs. of sand in bags
 2. Portable toilet
 3. CB radio # 1
 4. Aircraft radio # 2 (with dead batteries)
 5. Lighting system which works off the storage battery
 6. CB radio # 2
 7. Storage battery
 8. Aircraft radio # 1 (with weak batteries)
 9. Five-gallon metal container of water
 10. Dufflebag of extra clothing
 11. Bedroll and raincoat
 12. Compass
 13. Flashlight
 14. C-Rations
 15. Quart jar of jellybeans

Why keep the quart jar of jellybeans? You can pour out the jellybeans and put water in the jar. You need to get rid of the 5-gallon metal container because of its weight. The jellybeans could also provide energy if necessary.

4. Major concepts to stress:
 1. The importance of working together in a group when critical thinking is necessary
 2. The importance of communicating clearly and openly
 3. The importance of listening and learning from each other
 4. Tough decisions must be made when survival is the focus.

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

TASK ONE: INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT

All of the items in the gondola are standard supplies; however, if you don't remove something, you will surely crash into the Rockies. Having assessed your situation, you determine which item should be removed first, second, and so forth through the fifteenth item. You should individually rank the fifteen items listed in Column 1 and place your rankings in Column 2. Place the number 1 by the item you believe can be thrown overboard first; the item you rank as 15 should be the most important to your survival.

| Column 1 Gondola Items | Column 2 Individual Ranking | Column 3 Team Ranking | Column 4 Experts Ranking |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Bedroll and raincoat | | | |
| 2. Dufflebag of extra clothing | | | |
| 3. Compass | | | |
| 4. Flashlight | | | |
| 5. Five-gallon metal container of water | | | |
| 6. Quart jar of jellybeans | | | |
| 7. Storage battery | | | |
| 8. 100 lbs. of sand in bags | | | |
| 9. Portable toilet | | | |
| 10. Aircraft radio # 1 (with weak batteries) | | | |
| 11. Aircraft radio # 2 (with dead batteries) | | | |
| 12. CB radio # 1 | | | |
| 13. CB radio # 2 | | | |
| 14. C-Rations | | | |
| 15. Lighting system which works off the storage battery | | | |

TASK TWO: GROUP ASSESSMENT

Now, you and your team have the opportunity to work together and come to a consensus about the items. Rank the items listed in Column 1 and record them in Column 3 just like you did in TASK ONE.