

READING

Read the text and do the exercise.

Mexican fishermen

by Christine Vrey

Early on 28 October 2005, three Mexican men, Lucio Rendon, Salvador Ordonez, Jesus Eduardo Vivand, set out in a 7.5-metre-long boat on a three day shark-fishing trip from the port of San Blas Nayarit, Mexico. After they placed their shark-fishing equipment, they celebrated and prepared for the big catch. But the next day, when they returned for their catch, they couldn't find their expensive equipment. They spent all their fuel looking for it. When they realized they had no fuel left, they were too far away from shore to row back. The winds and the current swept them out into the wide ocean.

They had food and water supplies for four days. After that they had no more fresh water, and they had run out of food. For three days they drank and ate nothing. On the third day, the men were so thirsty that they drank some sea water, but this only made them feel sick. That night they could feel moisture in the air, and on the fourth day without water it started raining lightly. They cut the tops off their plastic fuel containers, washed them with sea water and, when the rain came down more heavily, they were able to fill four fuel bottles, giving them 200 litres of fresh water.

Food was not so easy. Lucio said, "We only ate twice in November. Hunger like I had never before imagined." The first meal they had was a sea turtle that surfaced for some air. They lifted it out of the water, cut its head off and drank its blood. Then they shared the flesh and ate it raw. They continued to catch turtles and seabirds (they caught 103 turtles by the time they were rescued), and after a few months, they were able to use small fish to catch larger fish. They salted and dried some of their meat to save it for times when they couldn't fish.

On 9 August 2006, the men were spotted on the radar of a Taiwanese fishing boat. They were saved! After they spent over nine months lost at sea, they entered the record books as the longest sea survival ever. They were found about 320 km from the North coast of Australia, and had drifted over 8850 km across the Pacific Ocean. By the 25 August, they were back at home, where their town's people believed their survival to be a miracle – a miracle that happened to three men, whose names mean saviour (Jesus and Salvador) and light (Lucio).

Adapted from <http://listverse.com/2012/02/16/top-10-sea-survivors/>

Glossary

moisture – very small drops of water in the air

raw – uncooked

saviour – a person who rescues someone

Write short answer to the questions below.

1 Where do Lucio, Salvador and Jesus come from?

2 What were they looking for the second day but couldn't find?

3 How did they feel when they drank sea water?

4 What was their first catch?

5 What did they use as bait to catch large fish?

6 How many days did it take them to get home after being rescued?
