

READING

In the following text six parts of sentences have been removed. Fill in each gap with the right missing part. There are two extra parts.

- A They were saved!
- B The boat caught fire
- C The next day they returned
- D They cut the tops off their plastic fuel containers
- E They dropped the only signal flare into the water.
- F They continued to catch turtles and seabirds
- G The first meal they had was a sea turtle that surfaced for some air
- H There was no more fresh water

Mexican fishermen

by Christine Vrey

Early on 28 October 2005, three Mexican fishermen, Lucio Rendon, Salvador Ordonez and 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 preparing their shark-fishing equipment, they celebrated and prepared for the big catch that was coming in the following day. 1 to where they thought they had left their expensive fishing equipment, but it was gone. They spent the next couple of hours, and all their fuel looking for it. By the time they had run out of petrol, they were too far away from shore to row back. The winds and the sea current swept them out into the wide ocean.

They had supplies for about four days, but after this time had passed, they became increasingly aware of their growing thirst. 2, 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. By that night definite moisture could be felt in the air, and by the fourth day without water, a light drizzle started falling. 3, rinsed 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." 4. They lifted it out of the water, cut its head off and drank its blood. Then they shared the flesh and ate it raw.

5. They caught 103 turtles by the time they were rescued, and after a few months, they made hooks from nails and screws and used the shellfish that started building up on the hull of the boat as bait to catch small fish. Then they used the small fish as bait to catch larger fish. They salted and dried some of their meat to save it for times when they couldn't fish. It is believed that the only reason that the men did not get scurvy, was because of the large amounts of fish which, if eaten raw, contains small amounts of vitamin C.

The men drifted until 9 August 2006, when they were spotted on the radar of a Taiwanese fishing boat. The boat investigated and came across the three very skinny, but healthy men.

6 Spending over nine months lost at sea had landed them in 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

bait – food put on hooks to catch fish

current – a movement of water in a particular direction

drizzle – light rain

drift – to move slowly in water or air

hull – the frame of a ship, most of which goes under the water

scurvy – a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C

saviour – a person who saves someone