

DEAR EDUCATOR,

We are excited to introduce you to an opportunity to use iconic features of the popular TV series *Survivor* to inspire learning and create classroom fun!

Developed by the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired, this free educational program supports skills that are essential to both *Survivor* castaways and students, as well as a family letter and interactive digital quiz.

We hope that you enjoy this program and will share it with other teachers.

TELL US: Visit [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-survivor](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/feedback-survivor) to let us know your thoughts on this program. We look forward to receiving your comments.

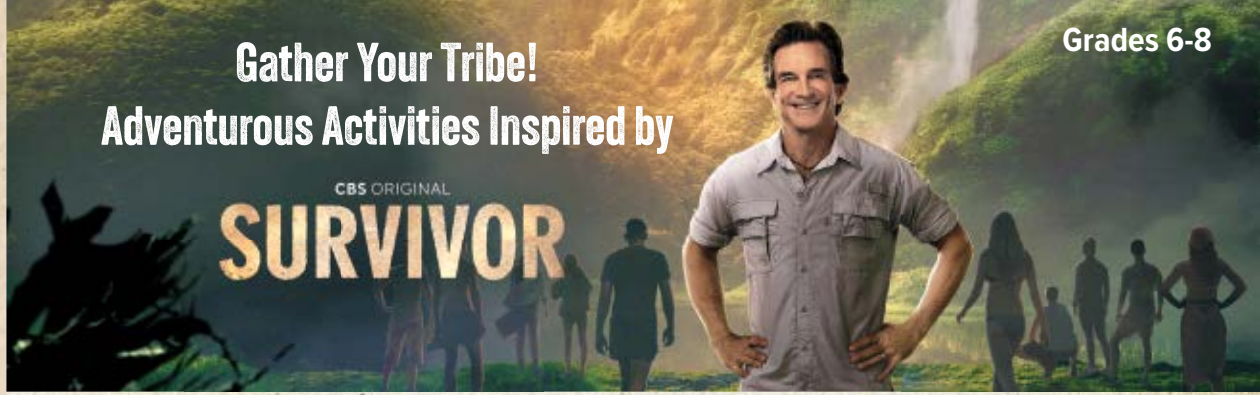
Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005, or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.



Gather Your Tribe! Adventurous Activities Inspired by

CBS ORIGINAL
SURVIVOR

TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 6-8

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This teacher's guide
- Four reproducible student activities

Additional resources available online at [ymiclassroom.com/survivor](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/survivor):

- A teaching kit for grades 3-5
- A community service challenge handout for teachers
- A reproducible family take-home letter in English and Spanish
- An interactive digital quiz
- A standards chart
- A feedback form

CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

Teamwork
Communication
Critical thinking
Problem solving

World geography
Researching a topic
Explanatory writing
Speaking and listening

HOW TO USE THE PROGRAM

Explain that *Survivor* is a reality show where castaways living on a remote island work as “tribes” to use survival skills, teamwork, and strategic thinking to win challenges and become the Sole Survivor, or final castaway. Divide your class into small groups or “tribes” to complete the activities. In addition, visit the program site at [ymiclassroom.com/survivor](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/survivor) for additional classroom and family resources.

SURVIVOR COMMUNITY SERVICE CHALLENGE!

Teamwork and community are key elements of *Survivor*. Gather your classroom tribe for a community service project at your school or in your local community. Teachers who upload a video or pictures of their classroom's community service project at [ymiclassroom.com/survivor-challenge](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/survivor-challenge) will be eligible to receive one of five *Survivor* immunity idols for their class. See the Community Service Challenge handout in this kit for details.

ACTIVITY 1: WHERE IN THE WORLD?

To introduce this activity, point out Fiji on a map or globe. Explain that it is an archipelago, a group or chain of islands clustered in a sea or ocean. Further share that Fiji is comprised of over 300 islands (about 200 of which are uninhabited) and that it is the site of the upcoming season of *Survivor*. Then distribute the activity sheet to students and have tribes complete it as directed. To assist younger students, help the class brainstorm a list of survival skills before they complete Part 2, then provide time for tribes to share their list of skills. Skills will vary but can include perseverance, problem-solving, creativity, communication, listening, physical fitness, and building skills.

Answers: Part 1: Answers will vary but could include the following: **1.** The climate is warm year-round. It has a hot, wet season and a drier, cooler season each year.



Survivor host Jeff Probst

2. Fiji has volcanic mountain ranges with steep cliffs. Lush, green valleys lie between the mountains. It also has coastal plains and plateaus.

3. The coral reefs of Fiji are home to hundreds of fish species and types of coral. Sea turtles, manta rays, sharks, and dolphins live in Fiji's waters as well. Over 100 species of birds and animals such as mongoose, iguanas, snakes, and bats are found on Fiji, as well as plants such as sugarcane, bananas, coconuts, and sweet potatoes.

4. *Survivor* has been filmed around the world in appealing warm-weather locations with beautiful beaches, including Malaysia, Australia, French Polynesia, Brazil, and Panama. Other factors that make Fiji a good option include its economy and people. **Parts 2 & 3:** Answers will vary.

ACTIVITY 2: RACE TO THE IDOL!

Explain that castaways on *Survivor* must try not to get voted out by their tribemates. One way to do that is to find a hidden immunity idol, which can keep a player safe from being voted out. Share that this activity challenges students to first solve a logic puzzle in Part 1 to find out where four immunity idols were hidden. In Part 2, students must unscramble synonyms for the words *strength* and *ability*, traits any successful player on *Survivor* needs to have, to spell a synonym for *tribe*. As an extension, have each tribe discuss this scenario: *You have just found a hidden immunity idol. Do you tell any of your tribemates, or do you keep it a secret?*

Answers: Part 1: Macy - in a hollow log; Max - buried in the sand; Tyrone - in a palm tree; Ava - under a rock. **Part 2:** power, might, energy, endurance, competence; synonym: community

ACTIVITY 3: WHAT'S YOUR SURVIVOR INSTINCT?

Share with the class that tribes on *Survivor* must build their own shelters, find food, and cope with severe weather, bugs, and other challenges. In addition, each individual castaway must work with their tribe as a team while also voting to send home their tribemates and protect themselves from being voted out. Ask students to brainstorm skills a castaway must have to win *Survivor*. Then have them complete the page as directed. Provide time at the end of the activity for tribes to share their answers and reasons with the class.

ACTIVITY 4: WHAT TO PACK?

Introduce the activity by sharing that past players of *Survivor* brought "luxury items" from home, such as a journal, a family photo, a special necklace, and even a skateboard! Give each student a copy of the activity sheet and have students complete it before meeting as a tribe to discuss their responses and share their answers with the rest of the class. As a fun extension, challenge each tribe to identify two items in the classroom that would be useful in playing *Survivor*. Remind them that they will not have access to electricity on the island! Have each tribe share their choices and how the items will help them win the game.

THERE'S MORE ONLINE!

Visit [ymiclassroom.com/survivor](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/survivor) for a **family letter** to share with parents and caregivers, as well as an **interactive digital quiz** that you can do as a class or students can do with their families to test their *Survivor* knowledge.

RESOURCES

[cbs.com/shows/survivor](https://www.cbs.com/shows/survivor)
[ymiclassroom.com/survivor](https://www.ymiclassroom.com/survivor)



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Gather your tribe and experience the excitement of the iconic reality television show *Survivor*! The show is filmed in Fiji, a country in the South Pacific Ocean made up of about 300 islands. About 200 are uninhabited. The castaways who compete for the “Sole Survivor” prize adapt to being stranded on a deserted island for 26 days with strangers with whom they must collaborate and compete.



PART 1: Work together with your tribe to research the answers to these questions about Fiji. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

1. What is the climate of Fiji? What would be challenging about surviving on a deserted island in this climate?

2. What is the terrain like in Fiji? How would this terrain challenge castaways of *Survivor*?

3. What types of plants and animals on Fiji might castaways be able to use for food or shelter?

4. Why do you think Fiji was chosen as a site of *Survivor*?



PART 2: As a tribe, identify five skills that would be essential to survive on one of Fiji’s uninhabited islands for a month. Describe the skills on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PART 3: As a class, brainstorm other locations that would be a great site for filming *Survivor*. Give reasons for each choice.

FAMILIES, would you like to spend 26 days in Fiji fending for yourself? Who would you want in your tribe?

RACE TO THE IDOL!

In *Survivor*, mental sharpness is a must if you want to win. Players must solve problems and even complete puzzles. Do you have the brain power to solve these puzzles?



PART 1: In the show, castaways (the players) collaborate as a tribe to accomplish lots of tasks and earn rewards. But they are also competing against each other for the win and have to vote their fellow castaways off the island. Finding an immunity idol hidden on the island can protect a player from being voted off.

Read the clues to figure out where each castaway found a hidden immunity idol. Put a ✓ in the grid to match each castaway to the location where they found their idol. (Hint: Put an X in each box that doesn't match a castaway.)

Location	under a rock	in a palm tree	buried in the sand	in a hollow log
Macy				
Max				
Tyrone				
Ava				

Clues:

- Ava did not find a hidden immunity idol on the beach.
- The hidden immunity idol Macy found was not on the ground.
- Tyrone reached high to get to the hidden immunity idol.
- Max had to dig to find a hidden immunity idol.
- Macy did not have to lift anything to find her idol.

PART 2: In addition to mental sharpness, *Survivor* castaways must be strong to do well in the physical challenges of the game. Unscramble each set of letters to form a word that relates to *strength* or *ability*. Write one letter in each box.

EROPW

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

GMTHI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NYEGER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ANCEDURNE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

MCOTNECEEP

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



List the letters that are circled at right:

Now, arrange these letters to spell a synonym for *tribe*.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

WHAT'S YOUR *SURVIVOR* INSTINCT?

How do you think you would manage fending for yourself in the uninhabited Fiji landscape? Think about it with your tribemates!



PART 1: As a tribe, discuss each question. Then write your tribe's answer and reasons for it.

1. You and your tribe are new to the island. What will you do to learn your way around?

Answer: _____

Reason(s): _____

2. Which of the following tasks should your tribe do first — build a shelter, start a fire, or go to get fresh water?

Answer: _____

Reason(s): _____

3. You need to transport water 100 feet from a river to your fire to boil it before drinking it. How will you do this?

Answer: _____

Reason(s): _____

4. Now that your shelter is built, you notice that a storm is forming out over the ocean. Your tribe only has time to do one thing before the storm hits your island. What do you do?

Answer: _____

Reason(s): _____

5. Your tribe, which is very hungry, has just won its first challenge. It must choose between one of two rewards — a lunch of burgers and fries or a fishing net and spear. Which do you choose?

Answer: _____

Reason(s): _____



PART 2: Which would be the hardest part of being a castaway on *Survivor*? Discuss this question with your tribemates. Then put a check next to the challenge that you (as a player) would find the most difficult. Write a reason for your choice on the back of this page.

___ missing loved ones

___ strategizing against tribemates

___ competing in difficult physical challenges

___ not sleeping well

___ being hungry and dirty

FAMILIES, ask each member of your family what they think would be the biggest challenge as a castaway on *Survivor*.

WHAT TO PACK?

Castaways on *Survivor* are sometimes allowed to bring two “luxury items” to their deserted island. These are things that remind them of home or add some fun. What luxury items would you pack in your *Survivor* bag?



PART 1: Read the rules about luxury items. Then list two luxury items you would bring from home if you were going to be on *Survivor* and explain how each item would help you in the game or during your time on the island.

Luxury Item Rules: No toothpaste, soap, hairbrushes, food, or wilderness tools are allowed.

Luxury Item #1

Luxury Item #2

How it will help me:

How it will help me:

PART 2: Look at the forbidden luxury items listed. Underline the one you would miss the most while on the island. On the back of this page, explain why you chose this item.

toothpaste and toothbrush

blanket

hairbrush

cell phone

pillow

snacks

book

change of clothes

FAMILIES, have each family member secretly write a luxury item they would bring from home. Then try to guess the item each person picked!

Gather Your Tribe!

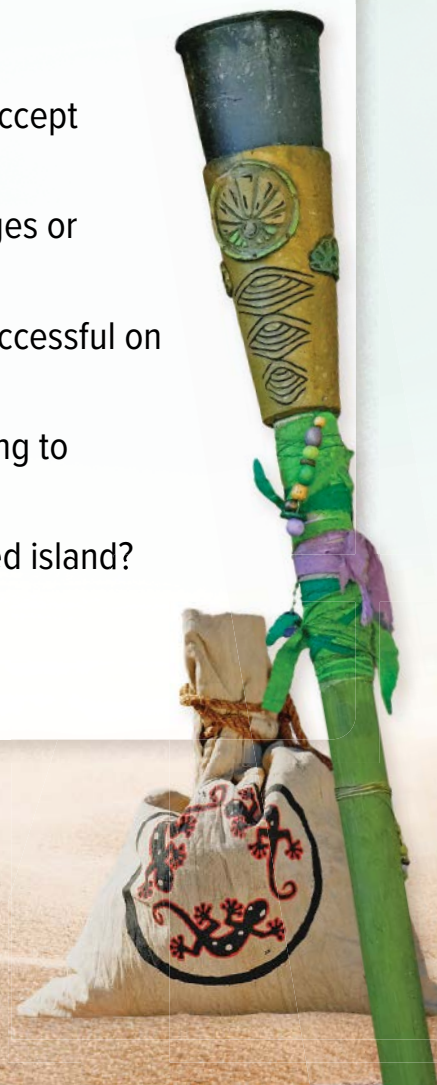
DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

Your child is participating in a classroom program from the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired that uses some of the famous elements of the iconic television series *Survivor* to help teach your student to build skills in language arts, teamwork, geography, communication, critical thinking, and more.

ENJOY *SURVIVOR* AS A FAMILY

Gather your own tribe at home to explore *Survivor* as a family. For fun, use the following prompts to talk about what your student is learning and your own *Survivor* instincts:

- What are the most important survival skills you might need to help your tribe? Why?
- Which do you think is tougher, puzzles or physical challenges?
- If you had the chance to be a castaway on *Survivor*, would you accept the challenge?
- If you were on *Survivor*, would you be better at physical challenges or challenges that involve solving a puzzle?
- Which of our family members do you think would be the most successful on *Survivor*? Why?
- What do you think would be the most difficult to deal with — trying to find your own food sources or not having a bed to sleep in?
- What tools do you think are the most useful to have on a deserted island?



Gather Your Tribe Community Service Challenge!

TEACHERS,

Your class could be eligible to receive a *Survivor* immunity idol for participating in the *Survivor* Community Service Challenge!

Community is a key element of the show *Survivor*. Castaways work together to build shelters, find food, solve puzzles, complete physical tasks, and encourage each other to power on.

We want to hear what your class is doing to show its community spirit. Just upload a video or photos of a class community service project to become eligible to receive one of five *Survivor* immunity idols for your class!

Here's how it works!

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Teachers must submit for their class. Just follow these three steps:

1. Go to ymiclassroom.com/survivor-challenge.
2. Fill out the submission form, then upload a video (30 seconds or longer) or photos (at least 3) to show how your class is giving back to the community. (Please follow your school's guidelines for sharing images of students.)
3. Submissions accepted only from grade 3 to 8 teachers at public, parochial, or private schools.

Timing

Send us your videos or images by May 5, 2025!

Looking for ideas?

What does your community need? How can your class help? Here are some ideas for a class community service project that might inspire your group:

- Host an outdoor schoolyard or park clean-up
- Run a book or food drive
- Read to or do puzzles with younger students
- Do puzzles at a local senior center

