

## Survival Study Topic



These are strange times that we are living in but we (as a human race) have seen other difficult events in the course of history and we will survive this! This is an important message for children who may be feeling very bewildered and scared by current events so giving them an opportunity to develop an area of study based on the theme of survival could help mitigate some of this.

There are also some very useful mental health guidance sheets for children which may help if your child is anxious:

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2)

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/11160/supporting-schools-and-colleges.pdf>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51887051>

Some possible areas to explore (although you may well think of others) are:

- Writing a diary/journal to capture what is going on and the impact on daily life. This could be what people in the future use to learn about today! Link to other diary writers, e.g. Zlata Filipovic ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zlata%27s\\_Diary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zlata%27s_Diary)) Anne Frank (<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/who-was-anne-frank/>) and Samuel Pepys (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7d7gwx/articles/zhgxcqt> and <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/samuel-pepys>)
- Exploring stories of survival e.g. 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, 'Robinson Crusoe' by Daniel Defoe. Also think about survival experts and their books/ programmes e.g. Bear Grylls, Steve Backshall and real life stories of survival, e.g. 'Survivors' by David Long and 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill.
- Writing adventure stories based on a polar or desert expedition or a shipwreck on an island.
- Investigating other examples of human survival e.g. refugees, tribal groups, people caught up in natural disasters.
- Learning about survival skills, e.g. what do you need to survive? What would you take on an expedition? Navigation - learn points of the compass. You could link to early explorers and navigating by the stars.
- Researching different emergency services, including:  
Coastguard (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/19877189> and <http://mca-kids-zone.dft.gov.uk/coastguard-station-slideshow.html>)  
RNLI (<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/lower-primary> and <https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/upper-primary>)  
Mountain Rescue (<https://www.mountain.rescue.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do>)
- Finding out about animals and their survival – how do they adapt to where they live? How do they survive in harsh environments like deserts and on mountains? Why are some

animals extinct? Link this to geography and different climates and biomes.  
(<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/animals/>)

- Writing your own survival guide to help others to cope with self-isolation. What are your top tips? What can you do to stay fit and healthy and stop yourself from getting bored? Make up an exercise routine or dance to teach your family. Send an older relative or neighbour a card or letter to let them know you are thinking about them.
- Investigating materials. Which materials are best at keeping us warm and dry? How could you test your prediction? Can you build a shelter in your home or garden?
- Finding out about current climate concerns and how we can help the planet survive.  
(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zshp34/>)  
(<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/what-is-climate-change/>)  
(<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/conservation-tips/>)
- Painting: how can we use colour to convey mood and atmosphere? You could look at 'Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gogh, 'The Tragedy' by Pablo Picasso, 'The Circus #3' by Jim Dine, The Waterlily series by Claude Monet. How do these paintings make you feel? Can you find any other good examples of artists using colour to convey mood and atmosphere? Can you create your own picture or painting using colour in this way?

Here are some books on survival that you might enjoy reading:

