

UNIT 20



1. PRE-READING

Look at the picture.

- Who are these men?
- What kind of work do they do?
- Why are they smiling?
- Where is Costa Rica on the map?



A Long Fishing Trip

On January 24, 1988, Joel Gonzalez kissed his wife goodbye. Joel is a fisherman, and he was going on a short fishing trip. "I'll see you in a week," he said. But Joel did not see his wife in a week. He did not see his wife again for a long, long time.

Joel left his house and went to the harbor in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. He got on a fishing boat. Four other fishermen were on the boat, too. The boat left the harbor, and the men began to fish.

The first few hours on the ocean were not unusual. Then there was a terrible storm. The storm continued for 22 days. When the storm finally stopped, the men checked their boat. Their fishing nets were gone. The engine and the radio didn't work. There was no food, and there was no fresh water.

Without their nets, the men couldn't fish. But they could reach out of the boat and catch big turtles. The men didn't want to eat raw turtle meat, so they needed a fire for cooking. They tore down the boat's wood cabin and made a fire with pieces of the cabin.

They needed protection from the sun and rain, so they built a simple roof. The roof held rainwater, too. The men could drink rainwater from the roof.

For the next five months the men ate turtles—

when they caught them. They drank rainwater when it rained. Often there was no food and water, and the men were hungry and thin. Sometimes they thought, "We are going to die soon."

Joel wrote a letter to his wife. "My dear Edith, Joel wrote. "If I die, I hope someone will send this letter. Then you will know how I died. I was the best in life—a great woman and beautiful children. I love you, Edith. I love you."

In June it didn't rain for a long time, and the men ran out of water. They were thin and weak, they thought, "We are going to die now." They took their best clothes, lay down, and closed their eyes. After a while it began to rain. The men stood up and licked the water from the roof. Then all the men began to cry.

Ten days later, on June 15, a Japanese fishing boat found the men. They were 4,000 miles¹ from Costa Rica.

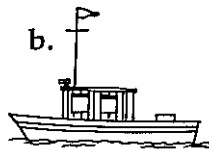
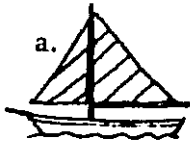
Nobody sent Joel's letter to his wife. He showed it to his wife himself. Joel will always keep the letter. The letter, he says, helps him remember. "On the ocean I realized that I love my wife and children very, very much. My family is everything to me. I don't want to forget that."

¹6,437 kilometers

2. VOCABULARY

Think about the story and answer the questions.

1. Is a *harbor* for boats or for cars?
2. Do fishermen catch fish with *nets* or with *bags*?
3. Are *turtles* plants or animals?
4. Is *raw* meat cooked or uncooked?
5. The men tore down the boat's *cabin*. Which boat has a cabin—the boat in picture a. or the boat in picture b.?



6. It didn't rain for a long time, and the men *ran out of* water. Did they have a lot of water or did they have no water?

3. COMPREHENSION

UNDERSTANDING REASONS

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. ____ The men left Puntarenas | a. to help him remember that family is everything to him |
| 2. ____ The men reached out of their boat | b. to fish in the ocean. |
| 3. ____ Then the men tore down the boat's cabin | c. to tell her how he died. |
| 4. ____ Joel wrote his wife a letter | d. to catch turtles. |
| 5. ____ Joel will keep his letter | e. to make a fire with the wood |

UNDERSTANDING PRONOUNS

Look at the pronouns. What do they mean? Draw a line to your answer. Circle the word or words.

In January 1988 five fishermen went on a fishing trip. When ¹they on the ocean there was a storm. ²It lasted for 22 days.

After the storm the men checked their boat. First, ³they checked the fishing nets. ⁴They were gone. Next ⁵they checked the engine. ⁶It didn't work. Finally, ⁷they checked the radio. ⁸It didn't work either.

For the next five months the men ate turtles—when ⁹they caught them. They drank rainwater—when ¹¹they had ¹²it. Often the men were hungriest, and ¹³they thought, "¹⁴We will die."

In June a Japanese fishing boat found the men. ¹⁵They were 4,000 nautical miles from Costa Rica.

MAKING INFERENCES

Read the sentences below. Some of the sentences are true, and some are false. If a sentence is true, circle T. If a sentence is false, circle F. Which sentence from the story helped you? Copy the sentence.

1. Joel Gonzalez is single. T (F) Joel Gonzalez kissed his wife goodbye.

