

# MURDER MYSTERY “SURVIVOR ISLAND” TREASURE HUNT PROBLEM SOLVING EXERCISE



**Purpose:** To work together as a team to solve a problem.

- Each team will work to solve the mystery of Survivor Island by answering the following questions:
  - Who found the treasure?
  - What happened to the treasure?
  - Who has the treasure now?

**Required materials:** Packet of clues for each group.

## **Instructions:**

1. Each group distributes an equal number of clues to each person in the group.
2. Clues are to remain in front of the person that they were given to for the remainder of the activity. At no time should all the clues be given to one or two people.
3. Members of the group must share the information with other group members by reading the clues aloud.
4. Given the information, members are to try and solve the problem.

### Cast of Characters:

- **Dr. Fivus Finkus** – Expert on all aspects of Survivor Island. Geologist for Xxon Corporation.
- **Miss Ima Beantee** – The island’s librarian and historian who was educated at Oxford University – young and available.
- **Mr. Mark “Muscle Man” Silvers** – a 25 year old local bodybuilder who works for the only taxi service on the island.
- **Mayor Thomis Alyer** – Local politician who privately has searched for a hidden island treasure for years. On the record has denied its existence to keep tourists from flocking to the island.
- **Mrs. Shirley Alyer** – Aerobic instructor and wife of the mayor. Was known to want to leave the island for greener pastures if she has the chance.
- **Mrs. Bobbie Bear** – Retired zoologist and local know-it-all and busy body.

**Clues:** (Cut the clues below into strips and place them in sealed envelopes. Each group/team needs to receive one sealed envelope with all of the clues in it. The clues below are in random order).

**An unclaimed jet ski was found on the dark side of the cove parked behind large branches of driftwood.**

**Dr. Finkus had been searching for the treasure for 25 years, according to retired zoologist, Bobbie Bear, who observed Dr. Finkus activities for the past five years through binoculars.**

**The bodybuilder and part-time taxi driver, Mark Silvers, was on duty the night of October 31 when Miss Ima Beantee anxiously called for a taxi to the local airport.**

**It was obvious from the condition of Dr. Finkus that he had experienced a ghostly event after discovering the blood stains outside of his beach house.**

**Dr. Finkus’s jaw was hanging down and his face was white.**

**Mrs. Alyer was no where to be found when the news reached the mayor.**

**Mayor Alyer was frantic thinking that his lovely but somewhat neurotic wife could be involved.**

**The taxi driver stated to the police that he did not see Miss Ima Beautee actually get on the last plane to leave Survivor Island that night.**

**Blood stains leading from the jet ski outside Dr. Finkus's beach house on Blackbeard's Cove matched several island inhabitants' blood type including Miss Beautee and Mrs. Bear.**

**Mrs. Bear spread the news that she saw Miss Ima Beautee gripping a leather satchel as she left her beach house.**

**Dr. Finkus's speed boat was missing from the dock. The boat was capable of reaching Mexico in just two hours.**

**Mark Silvers' taxi records did not match the mileage on his odometer.**

**Mrs. Alyer made two calls to a location in the Bahamas between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**Miss Beautee's computer was found washed up on the shore of the cove near Dr. Finkus's beach house.**

**An unclaimed jet ski was parked on the dark side of the cove on Survivor Island behind old driftwood.**

**A book bag was located nearby with a small shovel inside.**

**The legend of "Survivor Island" told the story of a renegade pirate who stole the treasure from Blackbeard the Pirate and hid it in Blackbeard's own hide-a-way cove.**

**The island was privately owned by the exceptional business organization Future Business Leaders of America- Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL).**

**FBLA-PBL owned all of the salvage rights for the island and five miles around it.**

**Miss Beautee had been a guest of Dr. Finkus on his speedboat the weekend prior to the strange events of October 18.**

**They had been comparing Miss Beautee's notes on the island's history and Dr. Finkus's 25 year treasure hunting diary.**

**Mrs. Bear was sure that Miss Beautee was involved as she was jealous of her brains and ravishing ice queen-like beauty.**

**Miss Beautee's cousin, Mr. Cletis Abusinesswiz is a board member for FBLA-PBL, Inc., the island's owner.**

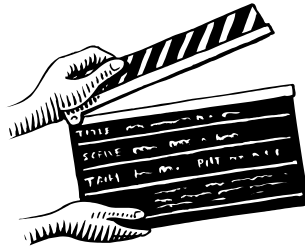
**Answers:**

1. Who found the treasure? **Dr. Finkus and Ms. Beautee figured it out the weekend prior. They were supposed to go back and get it together but Ms. Beautee double-crossed Dr. Finkus and went back on her own in the speedboat to dig up the treasure.**
2. What happened to the treasure? **It was stolen from Ms. Beautee. She would have never left the island without her computer, as she is a historian and it contained her life's work.**
3. Who has the treasure now? **Mark Silvers. The taxi records did not match. He took the jet ski and followed Miss Beautee and killed her when she returned to Dr. Finkus's dock with the boat and the treasure in her satchel.**

**Post-Activity Discussion Points:**

1. What steps did you use to solve the problem?
2. Where there several ways to solve the problem?
3. Are there problems in your daily life that may be solved by more than one method?
4. Did someone step forward to be a leader? How did that happen?
5. Comment on the fact that everyone reached the same conclusion (as they eventually all do); however, each group could have used a different process.

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