



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Against the Waves: Headline Heroes

*An activity of "13-year-old boy swims for hours to save his family..."*

Read "13-year-old boy swims for hours to save his family stuck out at sea" (page 6, *What's Up* March 2026). This article tells the true story of a 13-year-old who swam for hours in rough seas to get help and save his family after they were swept far from shore.

1. Below are the events from the story, jumbled up. Number them from 1 to 8 in the correct order.

Event	Order
Austin reached shore and called emergency services.	
The family drifted further and further from land.	
Austin tried to use the kayak, but it was damaged and took in water.	
Austin and his family went into the water with paddleboards and a kayak.	1
Joanne decided Austin should go for help.	
The wind picked up and everything changed quickly.	
Searchers found Joanne and the younger children at sea.	
Austin swam for hours in the rough ocean.	

2. Complete the table below. The first example has been done for you.

Cause	Effect
The wind picked up suddenly.	<i>The family drifted out to sea.</i>
The family lost control of the boards and kayak.	
Joanne could not leave the younger children alone.	
The kayak was badly damaged.	
Austin kept going despite being exhausted.	
Austin gave emergency services details about the equipment.	

3. Imagine you are a reporter covering this news. Write a newspaper article with a great headline that features this heroic act. Follow the guidelines to fill in the newspaper template and create your article.

### Step 1: Identify the most newsworthy thing in the story.

Which would be your choice of focus? Select one.

- A brave rescue
  A teen swam for help  
 A family in danger at sea
  A dramatic survival story

### Step 2: Write a suitable headline.

Ask yourself. Do you want it:

- Clear and direct? E.g. "Teen Swims for Hours to Save Family"  
 Dramatic and emotional? E.g. "Daring Teen Battles Waves to Reach Shore"  
 Short and Punchy? E.g. Boy vs the Ocean

**Step 3: Use “Headline Language” (Newspaper Style)**

Headlines sound different from normal sentences. They:

- Use the present tense (even if the event happened in the past e.g. “Teen Swims ...”)
- Use strong action verbs (e.g. battles, fights, survives, races, saves, endures, etc.)
- Are short and easy to read.

**Step 4: Write your article, describing the events that took place**

Here are some helpful words:

- People words: teen, boy, 13-year-old, swimmer, family
- Action verbs: saves, battles, endures, fights, survives, races, reaches
- Sea danger words: rough seas, strong winds, drift, freezing waters, waves
- Emotion words: brave, daring, heroic, determined, relentless

**Step 5: Include a photo (you can sketch it) with a caption underneath.**

- Describe what the reader sees.
- Explain what is happening.

4. Share your newspaper report with your classmates.



