



# Which Way Did They Go?

## Direction Sheet: Leader

Participants will chart the route that the Israelites took on their journey out of Egypt.

There are two sets of directions available. The travelogue given in *Shemot* (Exodus) gives more details about events while the one from *Bemidbar* (Numbers) focuses more on the route taken. Think about which one (or if giving both) is most appropriate for your Seder participants. Participants can use toothpicks to lay out their route on the map.

Some helpful hints that can be offered as participants work through the map to solve the directional lock:

- a) Let participants know that this puzzle is for the directional lock.
- b) Point out that they need to focus on four directions: north, south, east, and west. While "southeast" might seem like an option here, participants must choose the best of the four main directions

## Materials needed

1 Directional lock

1 Map with the Israelites' route out of Egypt – for the leader

1 Map without the Israelites' route out of Egypt – for the participants

Toothpicks

Travelogue verses from *Shemot* (Exodus)

AND/ OR

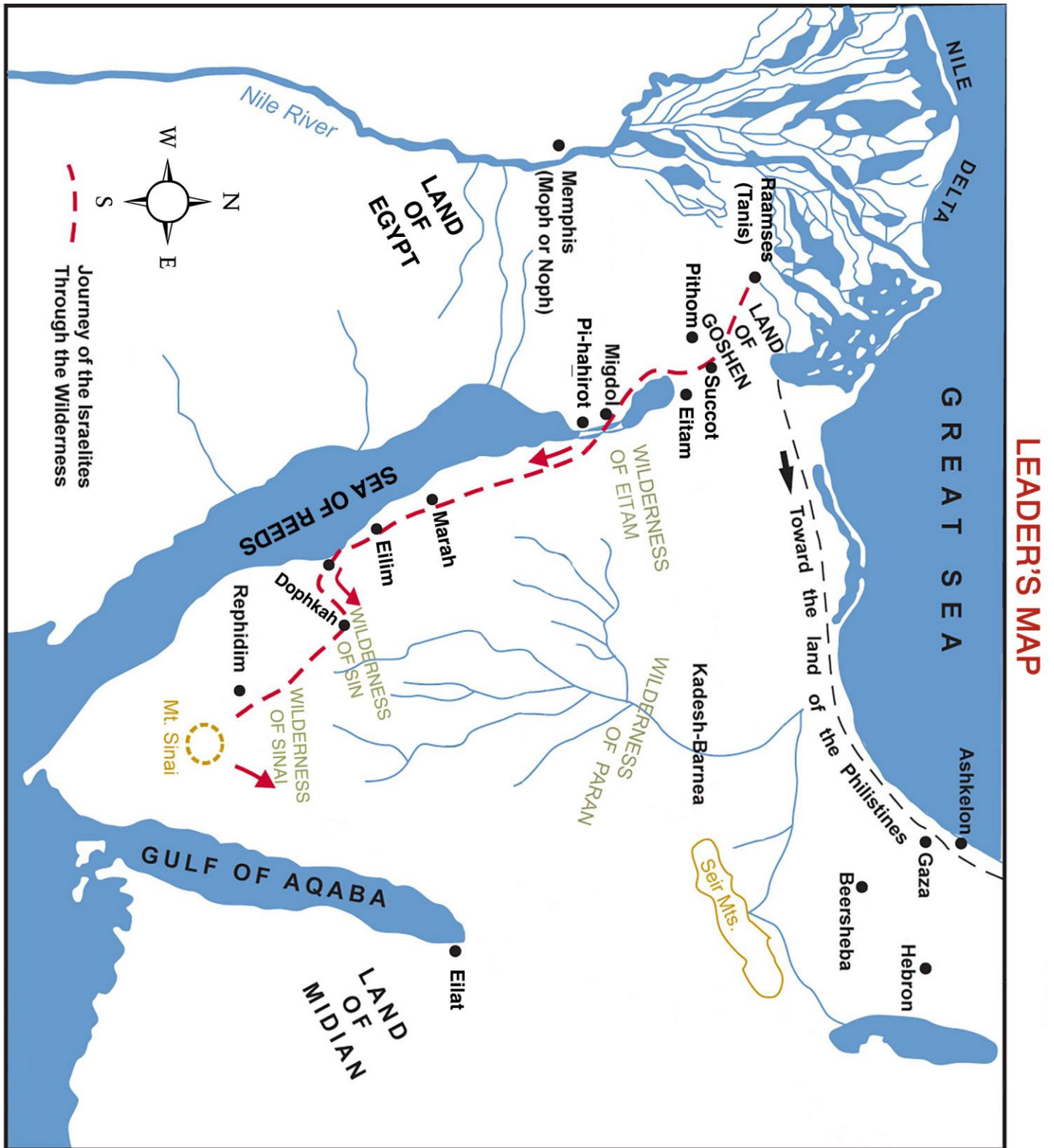
Travelogue verses from *Bemidbar* (Numbers)

## Prepare in advance

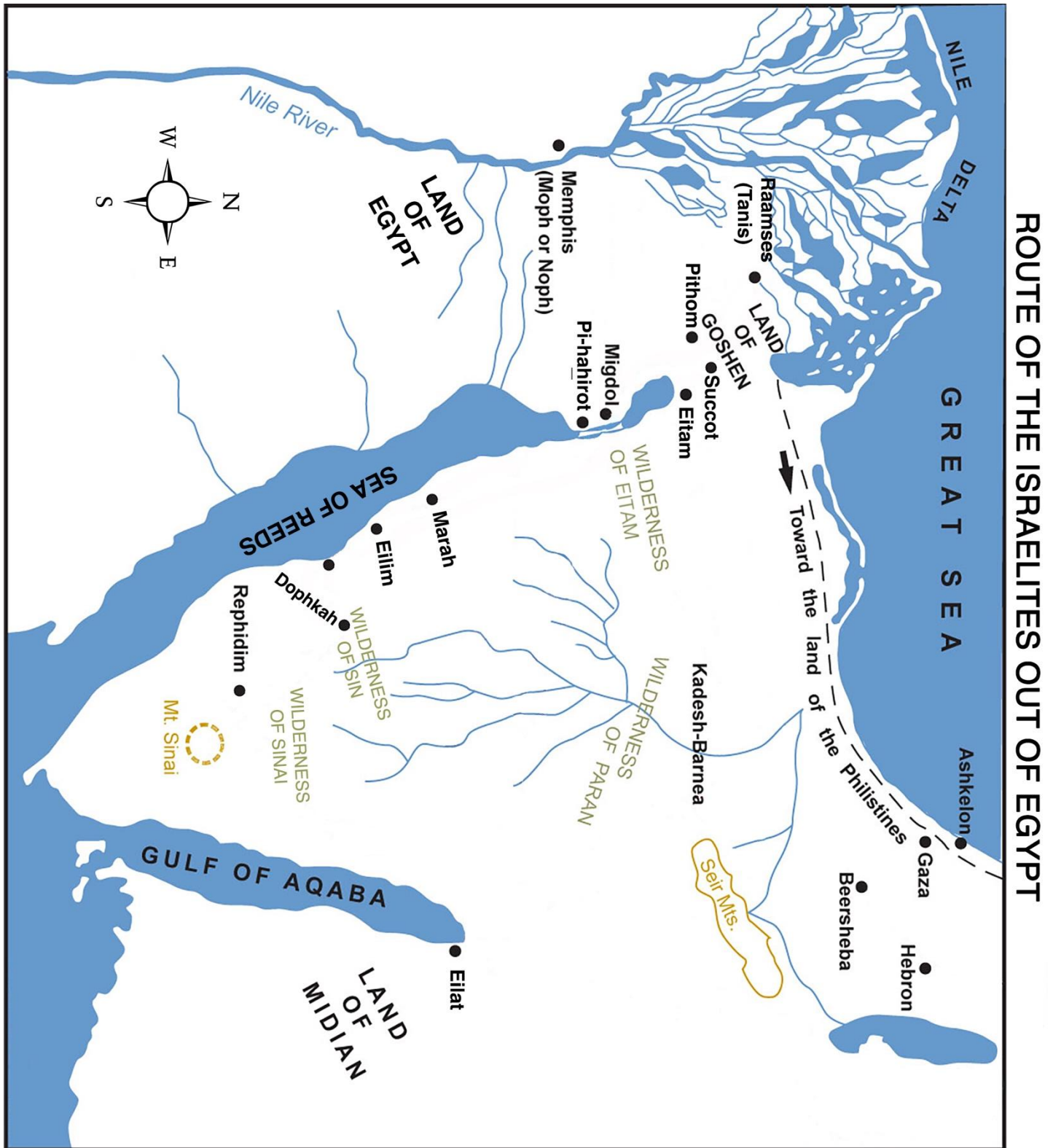
Set the directional lock to ↓ → ↓ ↑ (down, right, down, up). These directions will be the equivalent of South, East, South, North. Place the lock on the box. Make sure participants know how to use the directional lock before they begin solving the puzzle.

Remember, gather everything you need for this puzzle and put it into a large, numbered envelope.

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Note: Many of the locations along the route cannot be placed with certainty. The provided map gives one accepted theory.

<b><i>Bemidbar</i> (Numbers) 33:1, 5-15</b>	<b>במדבר לג:א-טו</b>
<sup>1</sup> These are the journeys of <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> when they went out from the land of Egypt according to their troops in the charge of Moshe and Aharon.	<sup>א</sup> אלה מסעי בני־ישראל אשר יצאו מארץ מצרים לצבאתם ביד־משה ואהרן:
<sup>5</sup> <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> journeyed from Raamses and encamped at Succot.	<sup>ה</sup> וַיֵּסְעוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִרַעְמֵסֶס וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּסֻכּוֹת:
<sup>6</sup> The journeyed from Succot and encamped at Eitam which is at the edge of the wilderness.	<sup>ו</sup> וַיֵּסְעוּ מִסֻּכּוֹת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֵיתָם אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה הַמִּדְבָּר:
<sup>7</sup> They journeyed from Eitam and turned about toward Pi-hahiroth which faces Ba'al-tzephon; they encamped before Migdol.	<sup>ז</sup> וַיֵּסְעוּ מֵאֵיתָם וַיִּשָּׁב עַל־פִּי הַחִירֹת אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי בַעַל צְפוֹן וַיַּחֲנוּ לִפְנֵי מִגְדֹּל:
<sup>8</sup> They journeyed from P'nei-Hahiroth and they passed through the sea to the wilderness; they went a three-days' journey into the wilderness of Eitam and they encamped at Marah.	<sup>ח</sup> וַיֵּסְעוּ מִפְּנֵי הַחִירֹת וַיַּעֲבְרוּ בְּתוֹךְ־הַיָּם הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיֵּלְכוּ דֶּרֶךְ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים בְּמִדְבָּר אֶתֶם וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמָרָה:
<sup>9</sup> They journeyed from Marah; they came to Eilim, and in Eilim there were 12 springs and 70 date-palms. They encamped there.	<sup>ט</sup> וַיֵּסְעוּ מִמָּרָה וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵילִמָּה וּבְאֵילִם שְׁתֵּי־עֶשְׂרֵה עֵינֹת מַיִם וְשִׁבְעִים תְּמָרִים וַיַּחֲנוּ־שָׁם:



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<sup>10</sup> They journeyed from Eilim and encamped by the Sea of Reeds.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מֵאֵילִם וַיַּחֲנוּ עַל־יַם־סוּף:
<sup>11</sup> They journeyed from the Sea of Reeds and encamped in the wilderness of Sin.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִיַּם־סוּף וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִדְבַּר־סִין:
<sup>12</sup> They journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and encamped at Dophkah.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִמִּדְבַּר־סִין וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּדֹפְקָה:
<sup>13</sup> They journeyed from Dophkah and encamped at Alush.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִדֹּפְקָה וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֻשׁ:
<sup>14</sup> They journeyed from Alush and encamped at Rephidim, and there was not water there for the people to drink.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מֵאֻשׁ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּרֶפְדִּים וְלֹא־הָיָה שָׁם מַיִם לָעָם לְשָׁתוֹת:
<sup>15</sup> They journeyed from Rephidim and encamped in the wilderness of Sinai.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִרֶפְדִּים וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִדְבַּר־סִינַי:

Which direction did *B'nei Yisrael* travel next? (Remember that they need to end up in the Promised Land.)



## Which Way Did They Go?

When *B'nei Yisrael* (the Israelites) left Egypt, they traveled for two months until they reached Mount Sinai, where they would receive the Torah three days later. If one looks at a map, this route seems strange if the idea was to arrive in the Promised Land since there was a much more direct route. In fact, the text of the Torah even indicates that God led *B'nei Yisrael* on a roundabout route for a specific purpose. Use the *pesukim* (verses) provided to follow *B'nei Yisrael*'s route out of Egypt and to Mount Sinai. Use the toothpicks to lay out the route.

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שמות יב:לז	<i>Shemot</i> (Exodus) 12:37
וַיֵּסְעוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵרַעְמֶסֶס סִכְתָּה כָּשָׁשׁ־מֵאוֹת אֶלֶף רַגְלֵי הַגְּבָרִים לְבַד מִטָּף:	<i>B'nei Yisrael</i> journeyed from <b>Raamses</b> to <b>Succot</b> , about 600,000 men on foot, aside from children.

שמות יג:יז	<i>Shemot</i> 13:17
וַיְהִי בְשַׁלַּח פָּרְעָה אֶת־הָעָם וְלֹא־ נָחַם אֱלֹהִים דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים פֶּן־קָרוֹב הוּא כִּי יִנָּחֵם הָעָם בִּרְאֵתָם מִלְחָמָה וְשָׁבוּ מִצְרָיִמָּה:	It came to pass when Pharaoh sent the people God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines although it was close because God said, "Lest the people will have a change of heart when they see the war, and they will return to Egypt."

שמות יג:יח	<i>Shemot</i> 13:18
וַיֹּסֶב אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָעָם דֶּרֶךְ הַמִּדְבָּר יַם־סוּף וַחֲמִשִּׁים עָלוּ בְנֵי־ יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם:	God led the people roundabout, by way of the wilderness at the <b>Sea of Reeds</b> (aka the Red Sea). Now <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> went up armed <b>out of the land of Egypt</b> .





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שמות יג:כ	<i>Shemot</i> 13:20
וַיִּסְעוּ מִסֹּפֶת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֶתֶם בְּקֶצֶה הַמִּדְבָּר:	They set out from <b>Succot</b> , and encamped at <b>Eitam</b> , at the edge of the wilderness.

שמות יד:ב	<i>Shemot</i> 14:2
דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּשֻׁבוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ לִפְנֵי פִי הַחִירֹת בֵּין מִגְדֹּל וּבֵין הַיָּם לִפְנֵי בַעַל צָפֹן נֶכְחוּ תַחְנוּ עַל-הַיָּם:	Tell <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> to turn back and encamp before <b>Pi-hahiro</b> t, between <b>Migdol</b> and <b>the sea</b> , before <b>Ba'al-tzephon</b> ; you shall encamp facing it, <b>by the sea</b> .

שמות יד:ט	<i>Shemot</i> 14:9
וַיִּרְדְּפוּ מִצְרַיִם אַחֲרֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁיגוּ אוֹתָם חֲנִים עַל-הַיָּם כָּל-סוֹס רֶכֶב פָּרָעָה וּפָרָשָׁיו וַחֲלִילוֹ עַל-פִּי הַחִירֹת לִפְנֵי בַעַל צָפֹן:	The Egyptians chased after them; and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his warriors overtook them encamped by the sea, near <b>Pi-hahiro</b> t, before <b>Ba'al-tzephon</b> .

שמות יד:כא	<i>Shemot</i> 14:21-22
כ <sup>א</sup> וַיִּט מֹשֶׁה אֶת-יָדוֹ עַל-הַיָּם וַיִּזְלַף יְיָ אֶת-הַיָּם בְּרוּחַ קָדִים עֲזָה כָּל-הַלֵּילָה וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת-הַיָּם לַחֲרָבָה וַיִּבָּקְעוּ הַמַּיִם: כב <sup>ב</sup> וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם בַּיַּבָּשָׁה וְהַמַּיִם לָהֶם חוֹמָה מִיְמִינָם וּמִשְׁמָאלָם:	<sup>21</sup> Then Moses held out his arm over the sea and YHVH drove back the sea with a strong east wind all that night, and turned the sea into dry ground. The waters were split, <sup>22</sup> and <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> went <b>into the sea</b> on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.





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<i>Shemot</i> 14:29	שמות יד:כט
But <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> had marched through <b>the sea</b> on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.	וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵלְכוּ בִּיבֹשָׁה בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם וְהַמַּיִם לָהֶם חֹמָה מִיְמִינָם וּמִשְׁמָאלָם:

<i>Shemot</i> 15:22	שמות טו:כב
Then Moshe caused Israel to set out from the <b>Sea of Reeds</b> . They went out into the wilderness of <b>Shur</b> ; they traveled three days in the wilderness and found no water.	וַיֹּסַע מֹשֶׁה אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּם־סוּף וַיֵּצְאוּ אֶל־מִדְבַּר־שׁוּר וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁלֹשֶׁת־יָמִים בַּמִּדְבָּר וְלֹא־מָצְאוּ מַיִם:

<i>Shemot</i> 15:23	שמות טו:כג
They came to <b>Marah</b> but they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; that is why it was named Marah [from the Hebrew word for bitter].	וַיָּבֹאוּ מֶרְתָּה וְלֹא יָכְלוּ לִשְׁתּוֹת מִמֶּיֶם מִמֶּרְה כִּי מָרִים הֵם עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ מֶרְה:

<i>Shemot</i> 15:27	שמות טו:כז
And they came to <b>Eilim</b> , where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date-palms; and they encamped there beside the water.	וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵילִמָּה וְשָׁם שְׁתֵּי־עָשָׂר עֵינֹת מַיִם וְשִׁבְעִים תְּמָרִים וַיַּחֲנוּ־שָׁם עַל־הַמַּיִם:



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<i>Shemot</i> 16:1	שמות טז:א
They set out from <b>Eilim</b> ; the whole community of <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> came to the wilderness of <b>Sin</b> , which is between <b>Eilim</b> and <b>Sinai</b> , on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt.	וַיֵּסְעוּ מֵאֵילִם וַיָּבֹאוּ כָּל-עֵדַת בְּנֵי- יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-מִדְבַּר-סִין אֲשֶׁר בֵּין- אֵילִם וּבֵין סִינִי בְּחַמְשָׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי לְצֵאתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:
<i>Shemot</i> 17:1	שמות יז:א
The whole community of <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> journeyed from the wilderness of <b>Sin</b> by stages according to what YHVH would command. They encamped at <b>Rephidim</b> , and there was no water for the people to drink.	וַיֵּסְעוּ כָּל-עֵדַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּדְבַּר-סִין לְמַסְעֵיהֶם עַל-פִּי יְיָ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּרִפְדִּים וְאֵין מַיִם לְשִׁתָּת הָעָם:
<i>Shemot</i> 19:1-2	שמות יט:א-ב
<sup>1</sup> On the third new moon after <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> had gone out from the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the wilderness of <b>Sinai</b> . <sup>2</sup> They journeyed from <b>Rephidim</b> , they entered the wilderness of <b>Sinai</b> and encamped in the wilderness. Israel encamped there against the mountain.	<sup>א</sup> בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי לְצֵאת בְּנֵי- יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה בָּאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינִי: <sup>ב</sup> וַיֵּסְעוּ מִרִּפְדִּים וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינִי וַיַּחֲנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיַּחֲנֶה-שָׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶד הָהָר:

Which direction did *B'nei Yisrael* travel next? (Remember that they need to end up in the Promised Land.)