



Which Way Did They Go?

Direction Sheet: Leader

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

Participants can use dry-erase markers or 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 5-letter 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

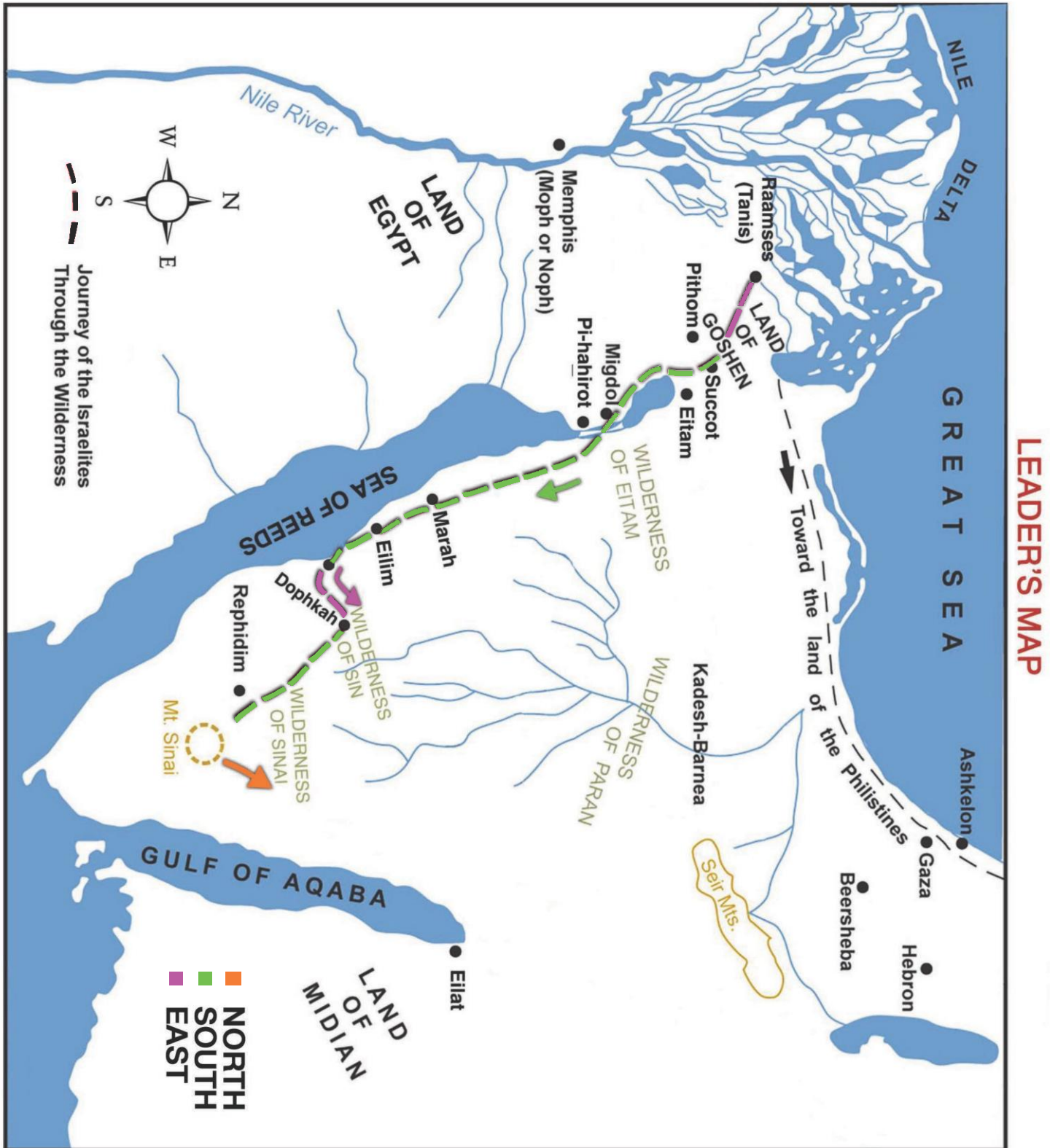
1 5-Letter lock (to be used as a directional lock)
1 Map with the Israelites' route out of Egypt – for the leader
1 Map without the Israelites' route out of Egypt – for the participants
Dry-erase markers or toothpicks
Travelogue verses from *Bemidbar* (Numbers)

Prepare in advance

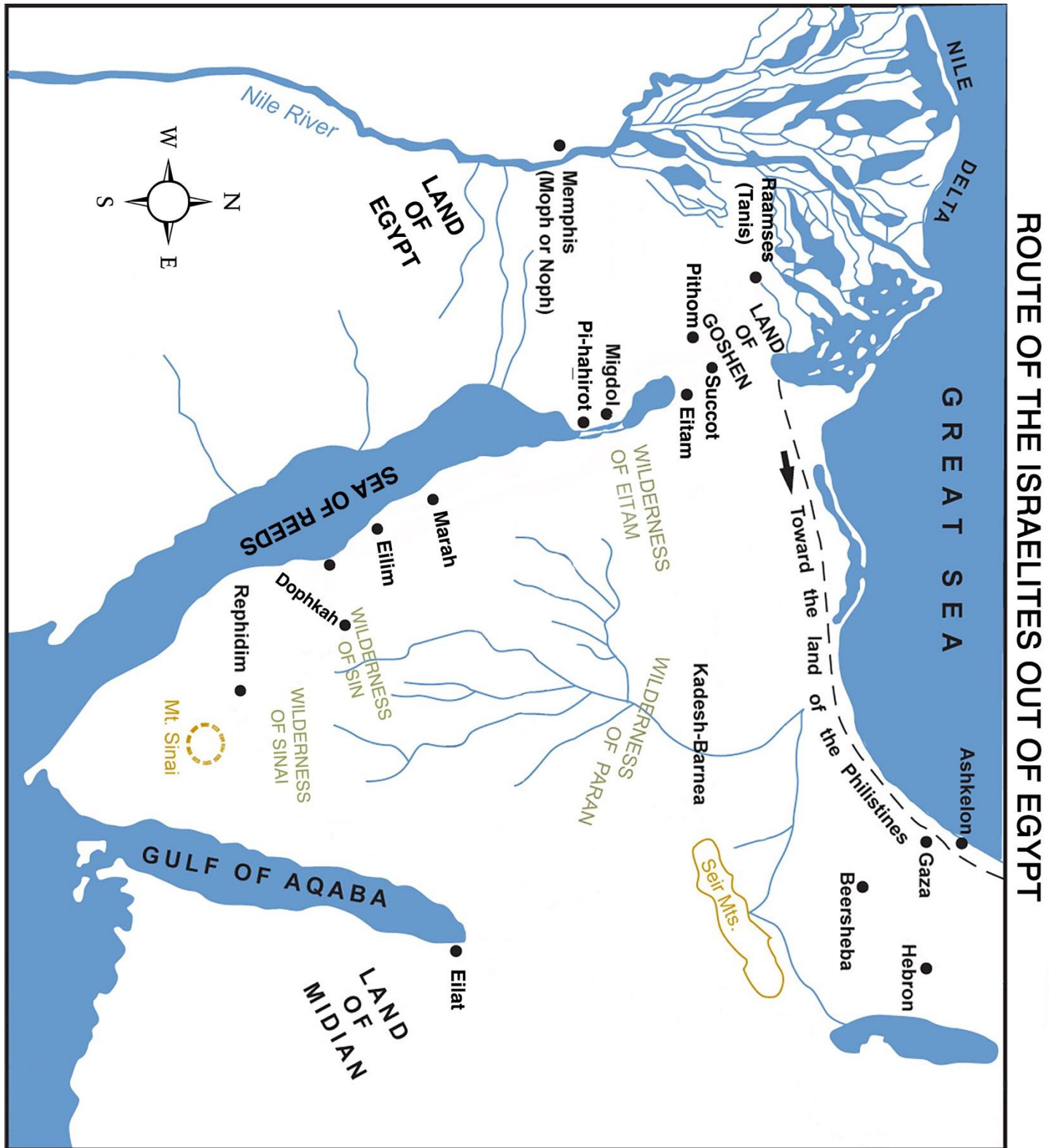
Set the 5-letter (directional) lock to E-S-E-S-N. These directions will be the equivalent of East, South, East, South, North. Place the lock on the box. Make sure participants know how to use the 5-letter lock before they begin solving the puzzle.

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

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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 dry-erase marker or toothpicks to lay out the route.

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

	במדבר לג:א-טו	<i>Bemidbar</i> (Numbers) 33:1, 5-15
Which direction did <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> go? _____	אֵלֶּה מַסְעֵי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָצְאוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְצִבְאָתָם בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן	¹ 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.
Which direction did <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> turn? _____	וַיֵּסְעוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִרַעְמִסִּס וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּסֻכּוֹת	⁵ <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> journeyed from Raamses and encamped at Succot.
	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִסֻּכּוֹת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֵתָם אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה הַמִּדְבָּר	⁶ They journeyed from Succot and encamped at Eitam which is at the edge of the wilderness.
	וַיֵּסְעוּ מֵאֵתָם וַיָּשֻׁב עַל־פִּי הַחִירָת אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי בַעַל צְפוֹן וַיַּחֲנוּ לִפְנֵי מִגְדֹּל	⁷ They journeyed from Eitam and turned about toward Pi-hahiroth which faces Ba'al-tzephon; they encamped before Migdol.
	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִפְּנֵי הַחִירָת וַיַּעֲבְרוּ בְּתוֹךְ־ הַיָּם הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיֵּלְכוּ דֶּרֶךְ שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים בְּמִדְבַר אֲתָם וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמֶרֶה	⁸ 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.
	וַיֵּסְעוּ מִמֶּרֶה וַיָּבֹאוּ אֵילִמָּה וּבְאֵילִם שְׁתֵּים עָשָׂרָה עֵינֹת מַיִם וְשִׁבְעִים תְּמָרִים וַיַּחֲנוּ־שָׁם	⁹ They journeyed from Marah; they came to Eilim, and in Eilim there were 12 springs and 70 date-palms. They encamped there.



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Which direction did <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> turn? _____	¹⁰ They journeyed from Eilim and encamped by the Sea of Reeds.	יַיִסְעוּ מֵאֵילִם וַיֵּחַנוּ עַל־יַם־סוּף
	¹¹ They journeyed from the Sea of Reeds and encamped in the wilderness of Sin.	יַיִסְעוּ מִיַּם־סוּף וַיֵּחַנוּ בְּמִדְבַּר־סִין
	¹² They journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and encamped at Dophkah.	יַיִסְעוּ מִמִּדְבַּר־סִין וַיֵּחַנוּ בְּדֹפְקָה
Which direction did <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> turn? _____	¹³ They journeyed from Dophkah and encamped at Alush.	יַיִסְעוּ מִדֹּפְקָה וַיֵּחַנוּ בְּאַלוֹשׁ
	¹⁴ They journeyed from Alush and encamped at Rephidim, and there was not water there for the people to drink.	יַיִסְעוּ מֵאַלוֹשׁ וַיֵּחַנוּ בְּרֶפְיִדִם וְלֹא־הָיָה שָׁם מַיִם לָעָם לְשָׁתוֹת
	¹⁵ They journeyed from Rephidim and encamped in the wilderness of Sinai.	יַיִסְעוּ מִרֶפְיִדִם וַיֵּחַנוּ בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי

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