

# JORDAN RIVER VALLEY - FACTS

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## WHERE IS THE JORDAN RIVER?

The Jordan River begins at the foot of Mt. Hermon. It flows through Lake Huleh and the Sea of Galilee. It ends in the Dead Sea. The name "Jordan" means "coming down." This is a good name because the Jordan River starts in a high mountain. It really travels down, down until it comes to the deepest spot in the whole earth.

## COULD I TAKE A BOAT DOWN THE JORDAN RIVER?

No, a boat trip down the Jordan River would be far too dangerous. Much of the river is just like water running down a steep hill full of large rocks. There are many sharp twists and turns. Often you cannot see what is around the next bend. It is very hot. There are mosquitoes that carry disease. Boats do not travel down the Jordan River.

## COULD I SWIM IN THE JORDAN RIVER?

It is too dangerous to swim in this river. This river travels very fast. The currents are strong. There are many rocks. Even a very good swimmer could be carried against the rocks and hurt badly.

## HOW LONG IS THE JORDAN RIVER?

If you would fly an airplane straight from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, it is 65 miles. But if you would follow all the twists and turns of the Jordan River, you would have to travel three times that far.

TURN CARD OVER

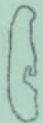
## HOW WIDE IS THE JORDAN RIVER VALLEY?

The Jordan River changes a great deal. When it first comes from the Sea of Galilee, it is in a narrow valley about 4 miles wide. Little by little it grows wider until it is twice as wide. There are trees and shrubs on the hills at the side. This is the prettiest part of the river. After awhile the hills are dryer on each side and there are only a few reeds at the side. The river is very muddy. About half way to the Dead Sea, the valley gets narrow with high cliffs on each side. Before long the valley flattens out again, getting wider and deeper as it goes on its way to the Dead Sea. When it enters the Dead Sea, the valley is three times as wide as it was at the beginning.

### IDEA FOR SHARING



Draw a map showing just the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Use a piece of dark string and measure the distance between the two seas. Fold over the string until you have measured a piece 3 times as long as the distance between the two seas. Cut the string. Use this long piece of string to make the river. You will have to make lots of bends and turns. This will show how many twists there are in the Jordan River.



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