# Look Closer:
# Canaan's Rivers and Seas

**At a Glance:**
This map activity introduces the New Church concept that there is a relationship between the physical features of the land of Canaan and spiritual ideas. The land of Canaan as a whole pictures the king-dom of heaven. Its rivers and seas picture the sources of true ideas in our lives. Students will learn the location of significant rivers and bodies of water and will learn how to draw a free-hand map of Canaan.




**Supplies Needed for Each Student:**

- *Canaan's Rivers and Seas* student page
- blank map to complete
- pencil or pen
- *Draw the Land of Canaan Freehand* directions
- blank pieces of paper (to draw freehand maps) or boards
- *optional*: blue pencils or markers to shade the bodies of water
- *optional:* a large contour map of the land of Canaan to show students

**Teacher Preparation:**
- Read and become familiar with Canaan's Rivers and Seas student page.
- Cut the *Draw the Land of Canaan Freehand* directions in half.
- Practice drawing a freehand map of Canaan.

**Directions:**
1. Today we will look at one river and several bodies of water in and around the land of Canaan.
2. Read the *Canaan's Rivers and Seas* student page with the class.
3. Distribute the blank maps. Using the *Teacher Copy*, help students identify and then label the Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and the Jordan River.
4. *Optional:* Shade the bodies of water blue.
5. Using the *Draw the Land of Canaan Freehand* directions, teach students how to draw a quick free-hand map of the land of Canaan.
6. Give students time to practice drawing maps on blank pieces of paper or on a board or wall chart. Challenge them to draw the map from memory.

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# Canaan's Rivers and Seas

> Rivers signify the understanding of truth and intelligence because waters signify truths. The understanding is a receptacle and collection of truths, as a river is of waters. In addition, thought from the understanding, which is intelligence, is as it were a stream of truth. It is from the same origin—that is, from the spiritual meaning of waters, which denote truths—that a fountain signifies the Word and the doctrine of truth, and that pools, lakes, and seas, signify gathered concepts of truth (*Apocalypse Explained* 518:3).

## Water

Water is as important for our bodies as it is for the world around us. It falls as rain or snow, collects into streams and rivers, and eventually flows out into the ocean. During this journey water cleans particles of dust from the air and washes harmful substances from the earth. It dissolves nutrients in the soil, enabling plants to develop leaves and flowers and eventually to form fruit.

Water corresponds to true ideas from the Word. Just as we use water to remove dirty or harmful substances from our skin, true ideas in the Word enable us to see and remove unclean thoughts and feelings that harm our spiritual life. True ideas can also teach us how to use our talents and abilities in a life of useful service.

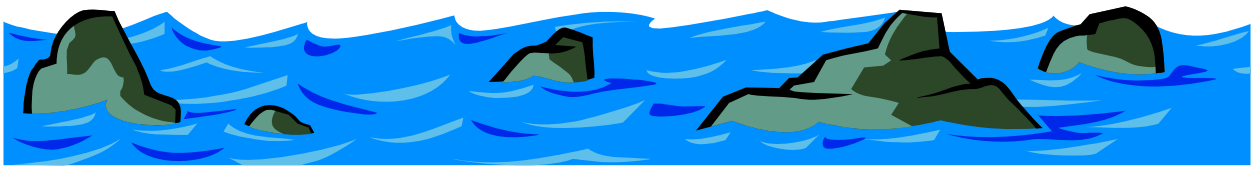
Sometimes water falls as snow or freezes into ice. This pictures times when we hear true ideas from the Word but feel no interest in doing them. They are like cold hard facts that pile up in our minds. If our minds are warmed by our desire to do something good and useful at a later time, the icy truths can then melt and flow like a stream into our thoughts (see *Apocalypse Explained* 644, 411).

## Rivers and Seas

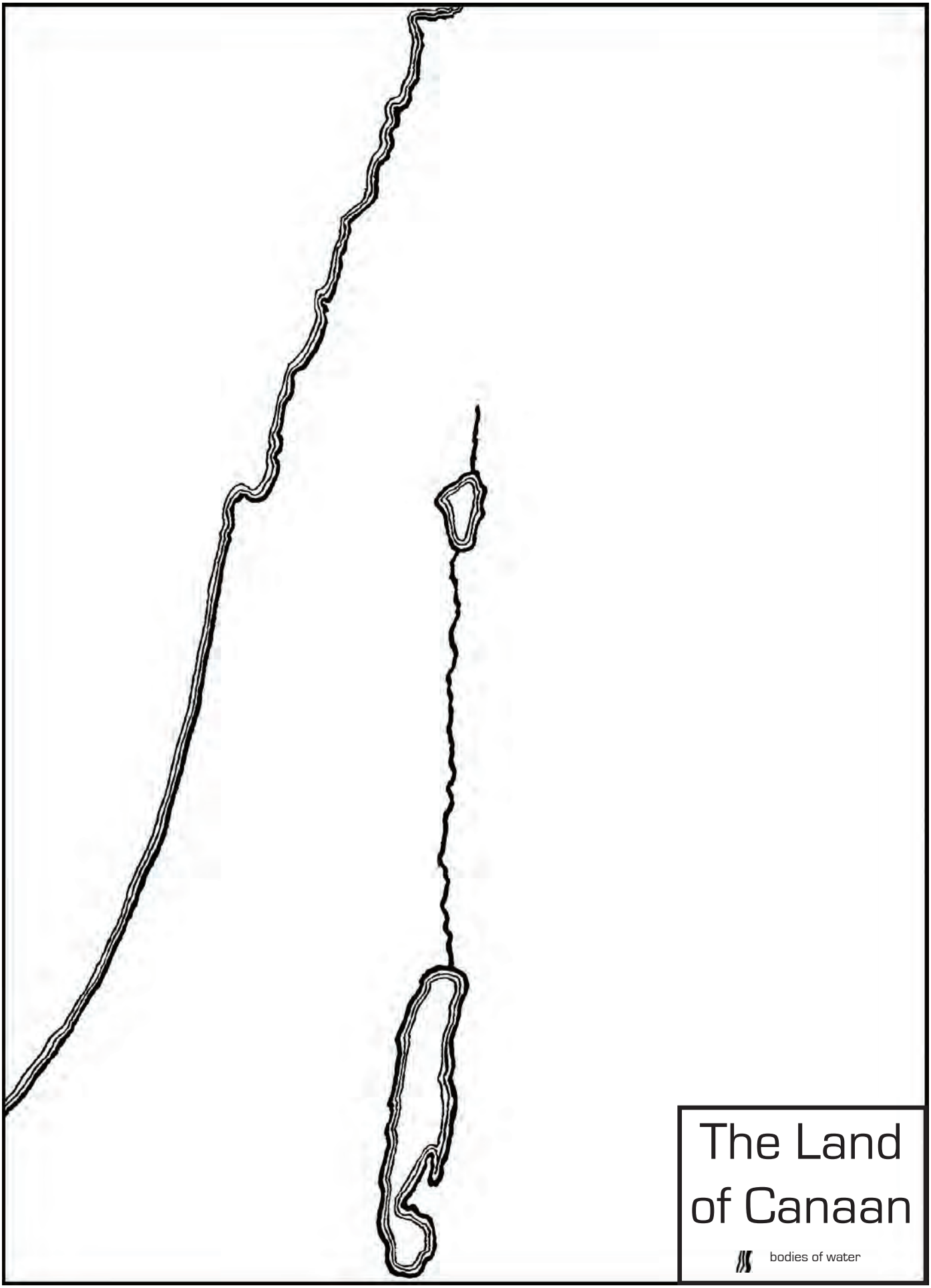
The river Jordan is often mentioned in the Word. It forms the eastern boundary of the land of Canaan. Jesus was baptized there before beginning His ministry. The children of Israel crossed the Jordan River before entering the Promised Land. This river symbolizes true ideas in the literal sense of the Word. Crossing this river involves learning from the Word so that we can learn how to live a heavenly life.

The Mediterranean Sea, or the Great Sea forms the western boundary of the land of Canaan. Although weather made the sea undependable at times, shipping on the Mediterranean Sea connected the children of Israel with the known world. Much of Jesus' ministry took place around a smaller heart-shaped inland sea: the Sea of Galilee. This is where Jesus walked on water, calmed the storm, gathered His disciples and taught from a boat. The Sea of Galilee stands for the natural world and the kinds of knowledge that enable us to function in it. It is where our daily lives take place and where the Lord meets and ministers to us.

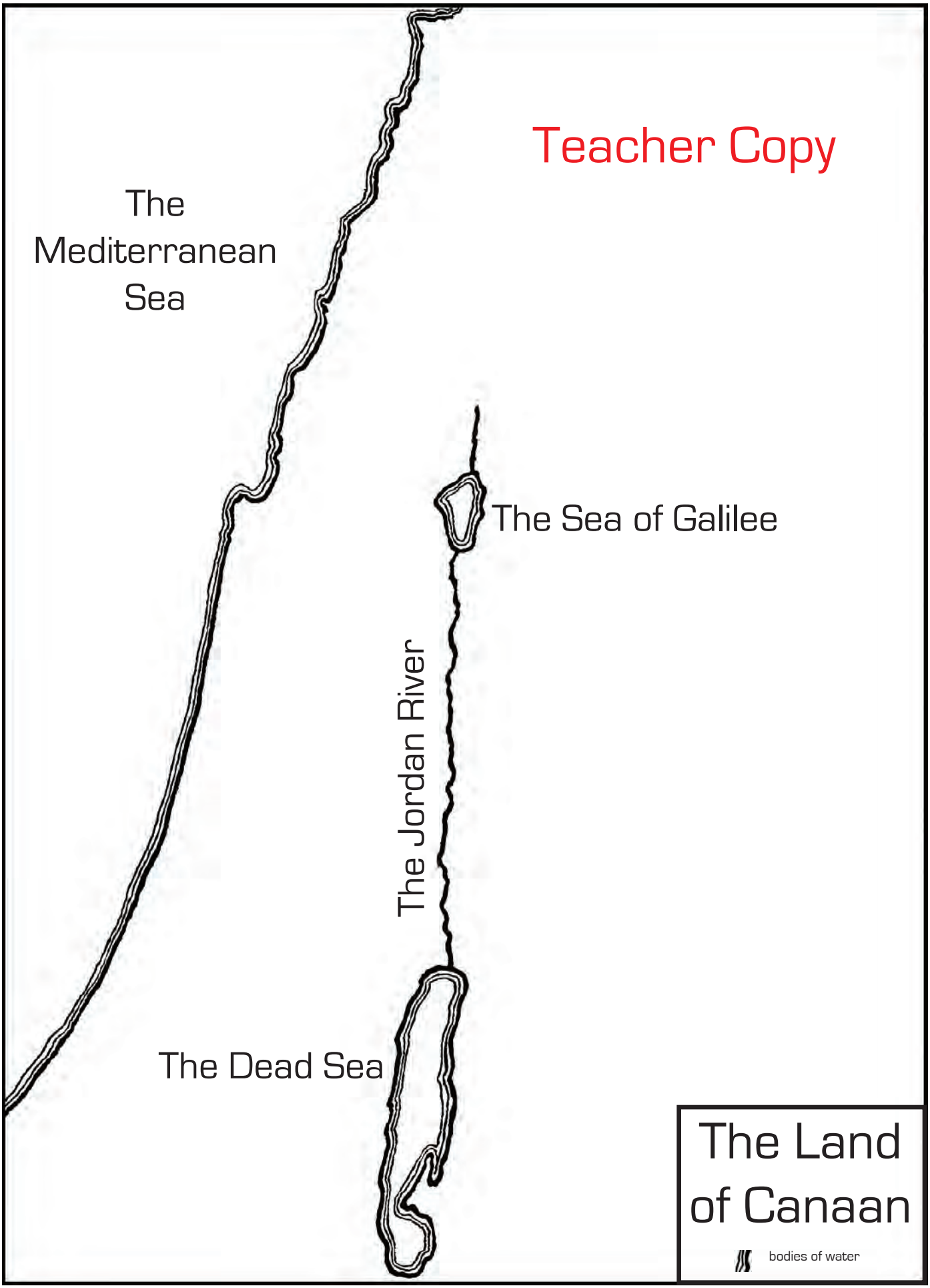
The Dead Sea is the lowest point on our planet. Water enters the sea from the Jordan River but only leaves by evaporation, making it extremely salty and impossible to sustain life. This lifeless sea pictures false ideas (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1666).



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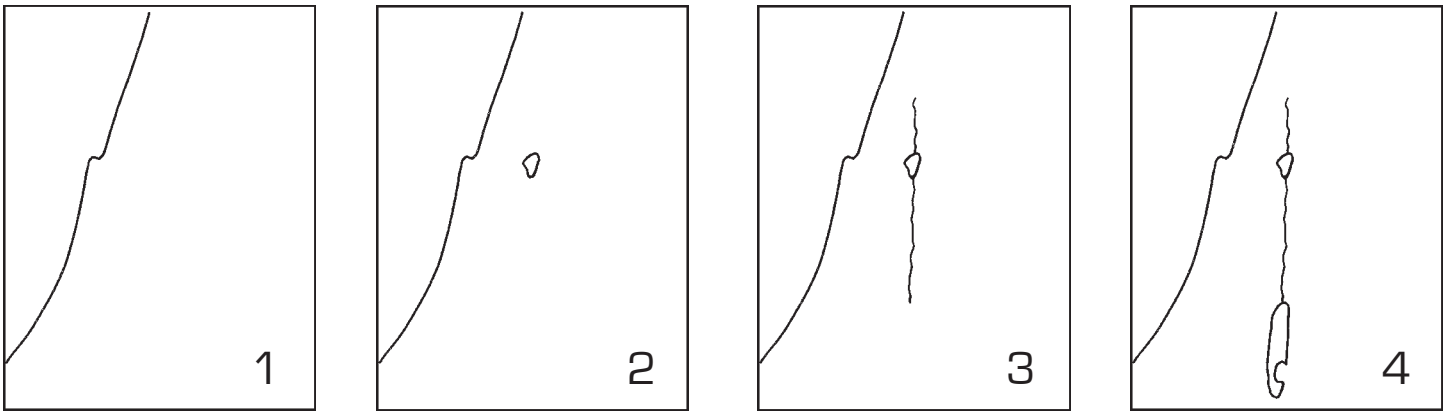

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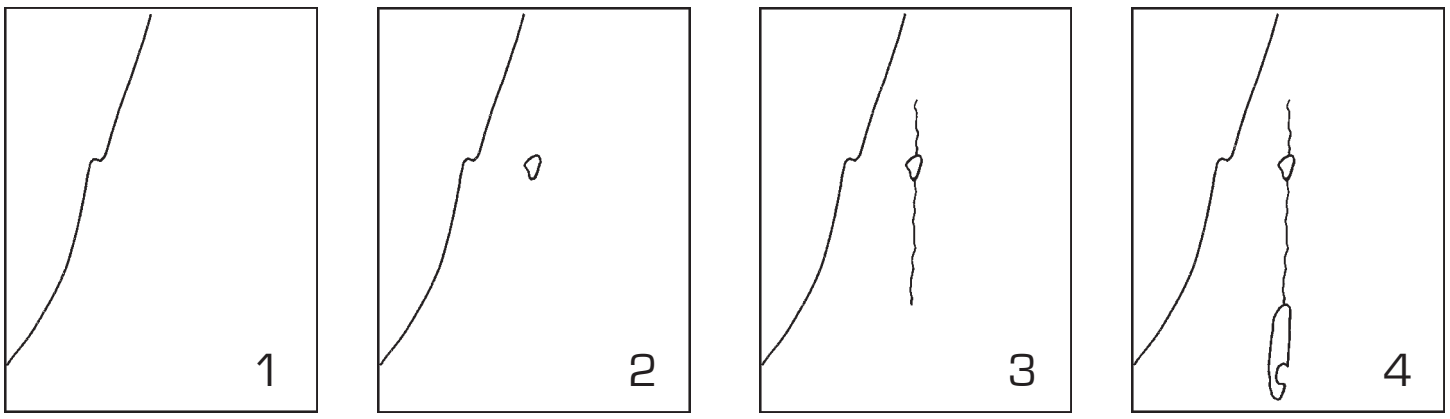
# Draw the Land of Canaan Freehand

1. Start by drawing the Mediterranean coastline. Begin at the top of the page, just to the left of the center. The small bump is Mount Carmel. It is a little less than half way down the coast.
2. Add the sea of Galilee. It is shaped like a human heart and lies directly across from Mount Carmel in the middle of the page.
3. Add the Jordan River. It goes right down the middle of the page.
4. Add the Dead Sea. It looks like a pickled cucumber with a bite out of it.
5. Practice a few times and try drawing the map from memory!




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