

3-D Map-Making – Jerusalem-Dead Sea Region

Jerusalem is central to the Bible story. It is literally “a city set on a hill.” By making a 3-D map, students will be able to visualize the elevated position of Jerusalem and much more. They will better understand Biblical expressions such as, “Let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,” and “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho.”

The Jerusalem-Dead Sea map project is made with *two sets* of contours: one set for the western side of the Dead Sea, and the other set for the eastern side. This allows students to see how the land drops off from the central high lands to the Dead Sea and then rises sharply again on the east.

Materials:

- Jerusalem-Dead Sea Contour Map:
 - A 200-meter (\approx 660-feet) interval map is provided on the second page.
 - A 100-meter (\approx 330-feet) interval map is provided on the third page.
 - A completed 100-meter interval map is shown on the last page.
- Photocopier and cardstock.
- Pencil.
- 3/16” foam board (available at art stores and online). Cardboard or poster board of comparable thickness also works.
- Knife (e.g., X-Acto knife).
- Glue.
- Color paints and paint brush.

Procedure:

1 – Enlarge the Jerusalem-Dead Sea map to fill an 8-1/2” x 11” piece of paper.

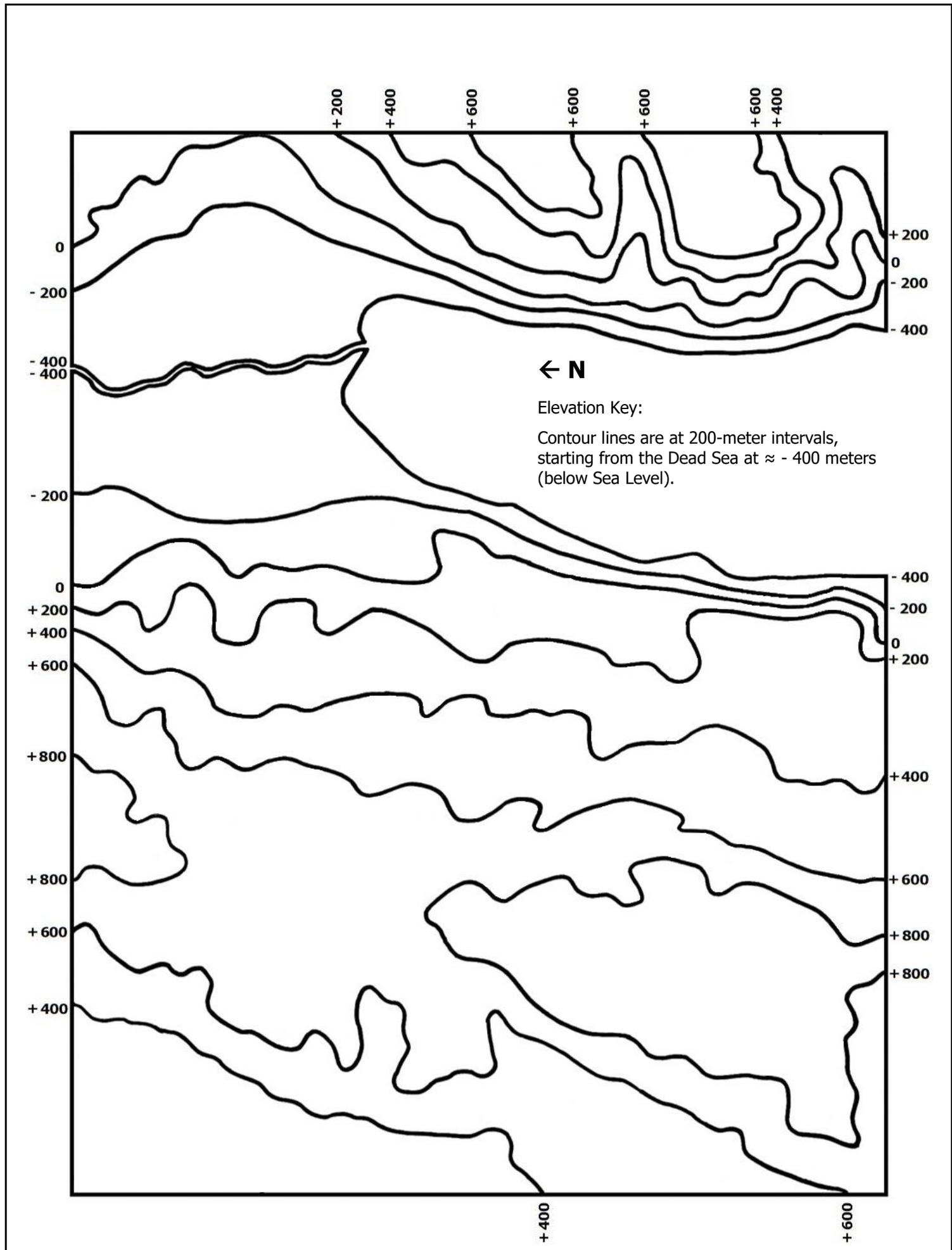
Print enough copies of the enlarged map on 8-1/2” x 11” cardstock to have one copy for each contour. Cut out the contours for both sides of the Dead Sea to serve as templates and label them by elevation.

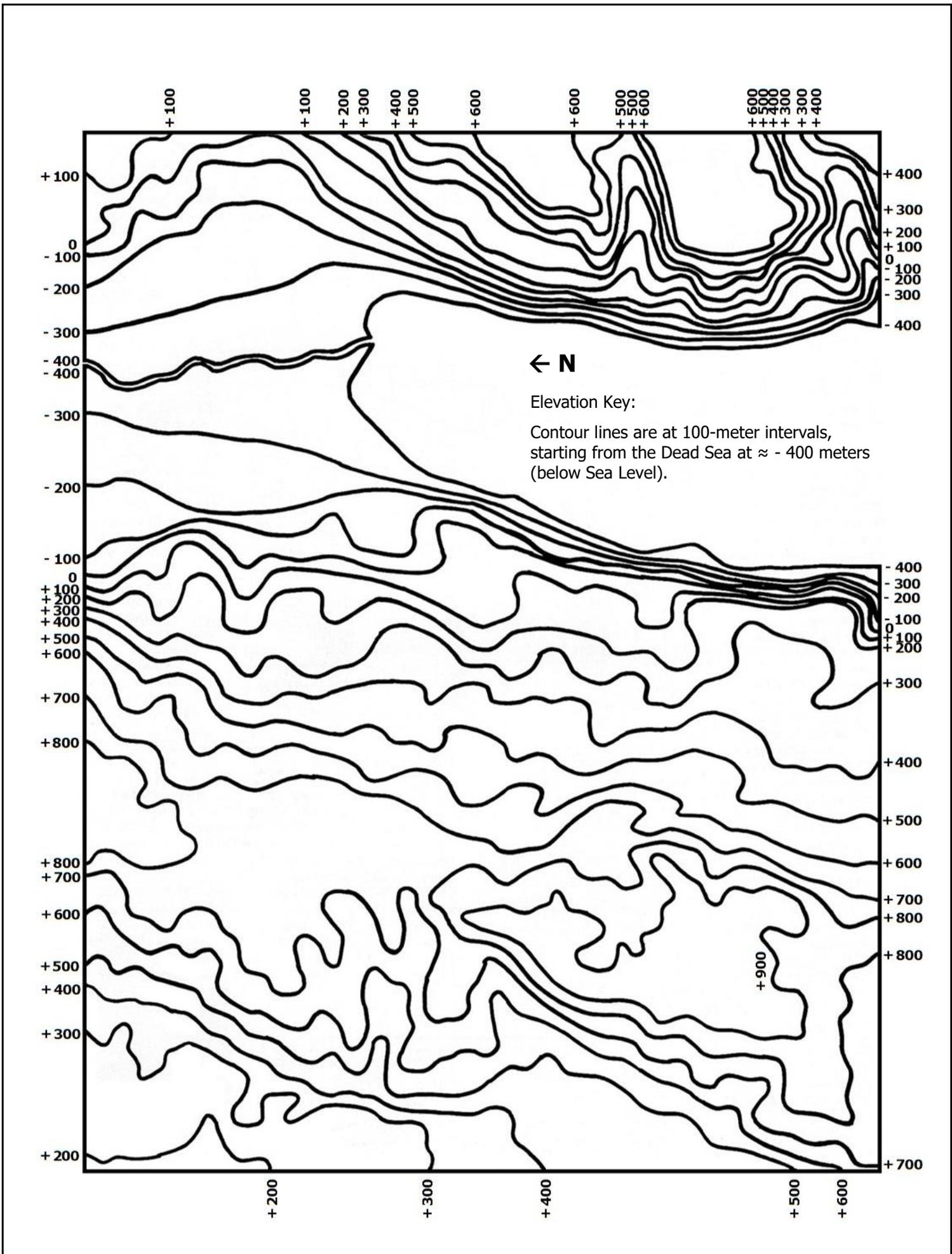
2 – Use the templates to trace each contour on a piece of foam board.

3 – Cut out the foam board contours with the knife and stack them on a rectangular base to create the 3-D map. Glue the contours in place.

4 – Paint the contours. For example, blue for water, and shades of green, yellow, orange, red, and brown for successively higher elevations. Alternatively, you can start with different colors of 3/16” foam board, also available online, and eliminate the painting step.

5 – Add an elevation key.





Using the map

1. Reading a contour map can be educational and fun. What is the land like when contour lines are far apart? What is it like when they are close together? Is the land flat or steep on either side of the Jordan River? Is it flat or steep on either side of the Dead Sea?

When contour lines cross a river or stream bed they always curve upstream. Using this fact as a clue, find two wadis (dry stream beds) that are on the east side of the Dead Sea. Which way does water flow in these wadis during the rainy season? Can you spot another wadi on the western side of the Dead Sea near the bottom of the map?

2. Use the map to gain a fuller appreciation of these Bible passages:

"They went up through the Negev (the South) and came to Hebron" – Numbers 13:22.

"Then the Israelites travelled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho" – Numbers 22:1.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho" – Luke 10:30.

Here are a few more passages with geographic details. Look them up and compare them with the 3-D map. Re. Jerusalem – 1 Kings 12:28; 2 Kings 12:17; Ezra 1:3 and 5; Matthew 20:17-18. Re. Hebron – Genesis 37:14 (a valley!); Joshua 10:36 and 11:21; Judges 16:3; 2 Samuel 2:3 and 2:32 (How far did Joab travel that night?). Re. Engedi – Ezekiel 47:8-10 (big changes are in store!). Re. Jericho – Numbers 33:48; Deuteronomy 34:1 and 3; Joshua 4:13.



Jerusalem-Dead Sea Region Contour Map with 100-meter Contour Interval
Made with colored poster board