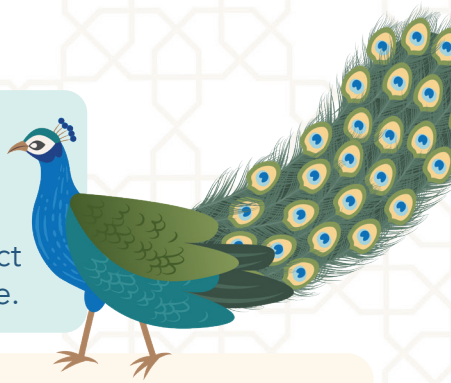
Thomas' Journey

Instructions:
Plot Thomas' journey from Jerusalem to India by following the story. Connect the route with a dotted line.

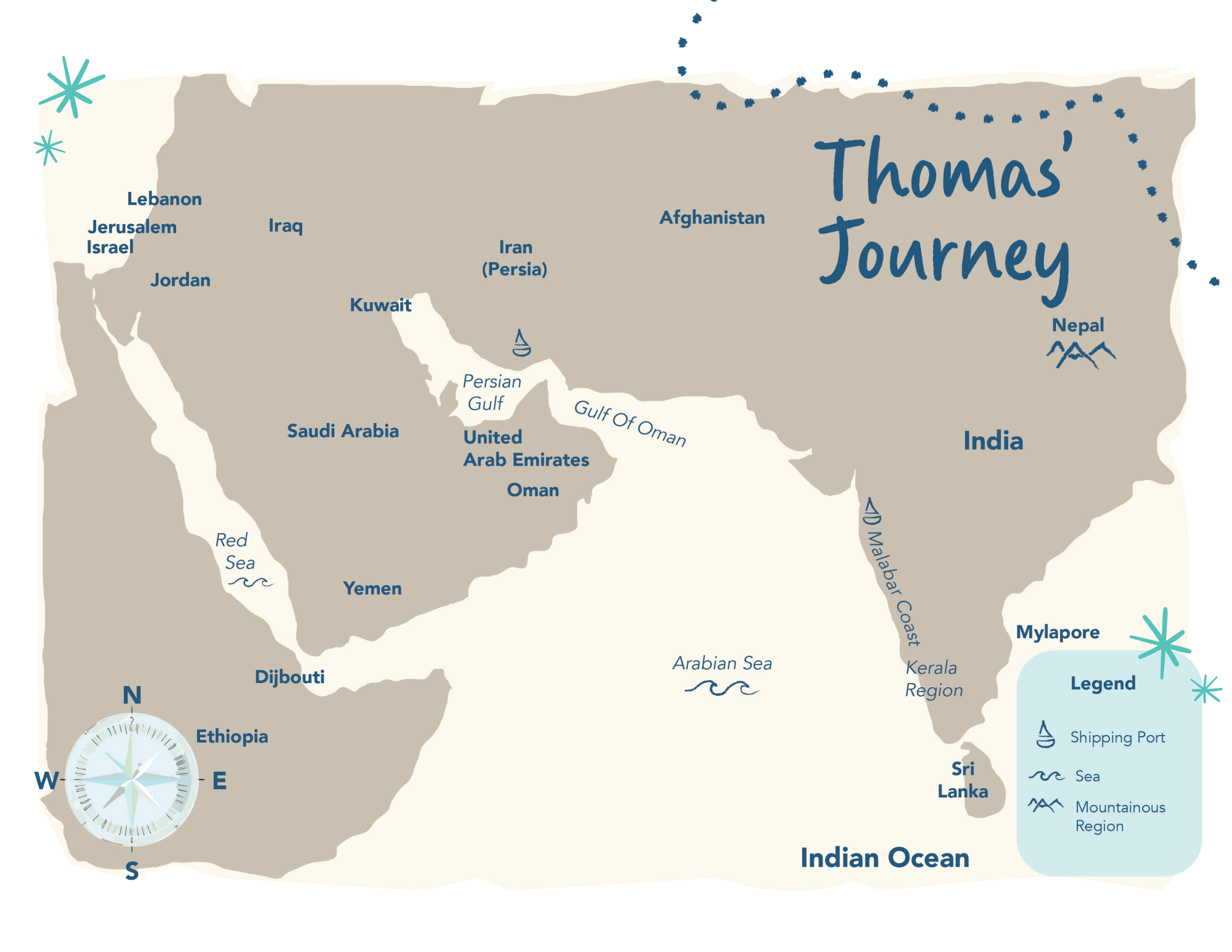


Directions and History

- Thomas was one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. Around AD 50 to 52, Thomas took a journey that would change the people of India forever.
- He started in **Jerusalem**, the home of the Jewish people. As Thomas was a Jew, he would have left the familiarity of his culture to share the Gospel with people who had never heard it before.
- From Jerusalem, he travelled to **Persia**, which is present-day Iran. In the first century, most people walked or had animals for travelling.
- Thomas' journey continued by boat from a port along the **Persian Gulf** in southwest Persia. He sailed through the Gulf and entered the Indian Ocean. From there, he landed in western India along the **Malabar Coast**. The Malabar Coast was a world-renowned hub for the spice trade, and even today this remains true.
- Along the Malabar Coast, in the Kerala region, Thomas evangelized and established seven churches. As many of these churches continue to stand today, the communities still experience the effects of this disciple's faithfulness.
- Thomas continued his way eastward, spreading the Good News wherever he went.
- Culturally, most people in India were Hindus. People were worshipping many gods and goddesses. The idea of monotheism – meaning worshipping one God – was foreign to these people.
- Thomas arrived in **Mylapore**, which lies on the east coast of India. While there, He confronted Hindu priests who had been performing a ritual. Thomas challenged the priests and vividly showed God's power to them. However, in their anger, the priests speared Thomas to death for his message.
- In present-day Mylapore, there is a monument to honour Thomas' legacy of faith. Many believers in India today credit their faith to Thomas' missionary work.

Discussion Points:

1. How long do you think it took Thomas to arrive in India from the day he left Jerusalem?
2. With Hindus believing in many gods, and Jews believing in one, there was a potential roadblock for Thomas as he shared the Good News. In your opinion, would Thomas need to change his strategy of evangelism for Hindus? What areas of Scripture would he need to explain first?
3. Thomas took a difficult journey to a foreign land to preach the Good News of Christ to the people of India. Little did this disciple know that he would never return home, as he was martyred for his message. If Thomas had known his life would end in India, do you think he still would have decided to go?


Thomas' Journey
Lebanon
Jerusalem
Israel
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Iran
(Persia)
Afghanistan
Nepal
Persian
Gulf
Gulf Of Oman
Saudi Arabia
United
Arab Emirates
Oman
India
Red
Sea
Yemen
Malabar Coast
Mylapore
Arabian Sea
Kerala
Region
Dijbouti
Ethiopia
N
W
E
S
Sri
Lanka
Indian Ocean
Legend
Shipping Port
Sea
Mountainous
Region