

# FLANNEL BOARD FRIDAY

## PART 4 ISRAEL AND THE RED SEA

### The Parting of the Red Sea

When it comes to the parting of the Red Sea, Scripture reveals that, "...Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided" (Exodus 14:21). In other words, it took half a day for the waters of the Red Sea to part.

### Jell-O Water

When Israel crossed the Red Sea, Moses wrote a song about the power of God. In this song, Moses says, "At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea" (Exodus 15:8). The Hebrew word for congealed is qapha (kaw-faw), which means to thicken, condense, or curdle.

### So Many People

The Bible explains that Israel started crossing the Red Sea as soon as the waters started to pile up (Exodus 14:24-25a). Perhaps step by step, the people followed the parting waters. If this is the case, it would have taken 10-12 hours for the entire nation of Israel to cross the Red Sea.

## EVEN MORE TO THE STORY

### Did You Know?

- The Red Sea may get its name from the seasonal blooms of the *Trichodesmium erythraeum* (Sea Sawdust) near the water's surface.
- The Red Sea is warm enough to visit throughout the year, with an average water temperature of 66° Fahrenheit.
- Like the Dead Sea, the Red Sea is easy for people to float in because of the high saline concentration. In fact, the Red Sea is 35% saltier than any other sea.

### Quick Fact

Researchers at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research and the University of Colorado at Boulder used computer modelling to run a virtual experiment concerning the parting of the Red Sea. Their testing determined that a strong east wind, blowing overnight, could have driven back the waters on a coastal lagoon in northern Egypt long enough for the Israelites to walk across the exposed mud flats before the waters would rush back into place.

### Questions to Ponder

- Nothing in this story was the "usual" way to deliver a people from oppression. Why do you think God went out of his way to deliver His people in this way?  
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- What do you think about the sea being congealed? Why did Moses' song say that this was done by wind from the nostril of God? Does that seem odd to you?  
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- What has God done for you that you could sing about? What words will best fit the victories God has accomplished in your life?  
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