

Battle Scene Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to set up the scene after David's fight with Goliath and have the students work backward like detectives, examining the evidence to fill in what happened in their Battle Reports (Class Notes).

Choose the option that best fits your space, class, and time:

Option 1:

You will show an illustration of the battle scene and pass out Evidence Cards or hide them for students to collect.

Option 2:

If you have the room, you will create an actual "crime scene" of the event for students to visit and collect Evidence Cards.

Option 1

Materials

- ☐ Battle Scene Illustration (next page)
- ☐ Evidence cards (following pages)

Instructions

Print one copy of the Battle Scene Illustration to show during the lesson introduction. Print and cut out one set of Evidence Cards to either pass out to students or hide around the room for students to collect.

Discussion

Today, you have a detective mission to view a battle scene and see if you can figure out what happened there. I'll show you a picture of the scene then you'll collect/receive some Evidence Cards that we'll use to solve the case. Show the Battle Scene Illustration and discuss. Pass out Evidence Cards or have students collect them then continue with the lesson.

Option 2

Materials

- ☐ Battle Scene Illustration (next page)
- ☐ Evidence Cards (following pages)
- ☐ Footprint pictures (following pages)
- ☐ Masking tape or chalk to create Goliath outline
- ☐ Measuring tape or meter stick
- ☐ One smooth stone in a plastic "evidence" baggie
- ☐ Optional: crime scene tape or yellow streamers and tape for barrier

Instructions

Print one copy of the Battle Scene Illustration for your reference. Print and cut out one set of Evidence Cards and one or more sets of Right and Left Footprint pictures.

Before class, in another room, hallway, or outdoors, use the Battle Scene Illustration and measuring tape to create a tape/chalk outline of a headless giant on the ground. Make sure it is about 9 feet (2.75 meters) from feet to shoulders. Place the stone in an evidence baggie next to the outline. Lay down the footprints so they are moving away from the body.

Hide Evidence Cards in the area for students to find but place cards #5–7 next to the evidence they match (footprints, stone, and body outline).

Optional: attach crime scene tape/yellow streamers to chairs, walls, or other objects to mark off the area.

Discussion

Today, you'll be detectives and investigate a battle scene to see if you can figure out what happened there. You'll need to carefully examine everything you see and search for Evidence Cards at the scene. There are 7 cards to collect. After you find one, you may help others find the rest, but don't keep more than one card. Then we'll come back to class to review the evidence together. Lead students to the scene. Give students time to look around and collect all the Evidence Cards then lead them back to class and continue with the lesson.



Card #1

Evidence: Tents and supplies were found in two camps on both sides of the valley where the body was found.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:3

And the [REDACTED] stood on the mountain on the one side, and [REDACTED] stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. (ESV)

Card #2

Evidence: Several Israelite soldiers said they were terrified of a giant.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:4

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named [REDACTED] of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

1 Samuel 17:24

All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, [REDACTED] from him and were much [REDACTED]. (ESV)

Card #3

Evidence: Fresh crumbs of bread and pieces of cheese were found near the supplies in one camp.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:17–18

And Jesse said to [REDACTED] his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten [REDACTED], and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. Also take these ten [REDACTED] to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them.” (ESV)

Card #4

Evidence: A servant of the Israelite king said a young man volunteered to fight the giant.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:32–33

And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and [REDACTED] with this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “You are [REDACTED] to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a [REDACTED], and he has been a man of war from his youth.” (ESV)

Card #5

Evidence: Footprints matching those leaving the body were also found at a nearby brook.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:40

Then he took his [redacted] in his hand and chose five smooth [redacted] from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His [redacted] was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. (ESV)

Card #6

Evidence: One smooth stone was found by the body.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:49

And David put his hand in his bag and took out a [redacted] and slung it and struck the Philistine on his [redacted]. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his [redacted] to the ground. (ESV)

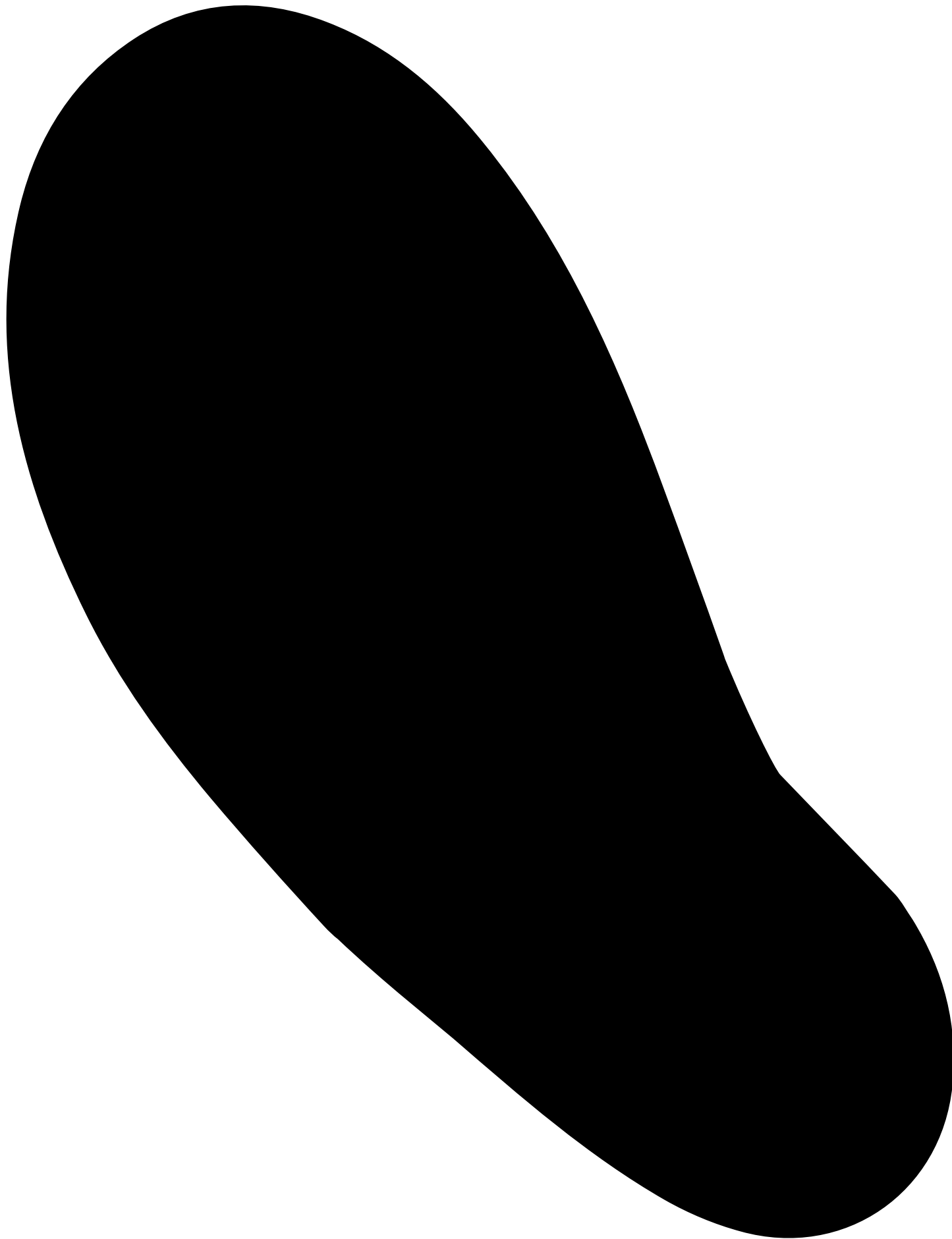
Card #7

Evidence: The outline of a giant body (without a head) was found in the valley.

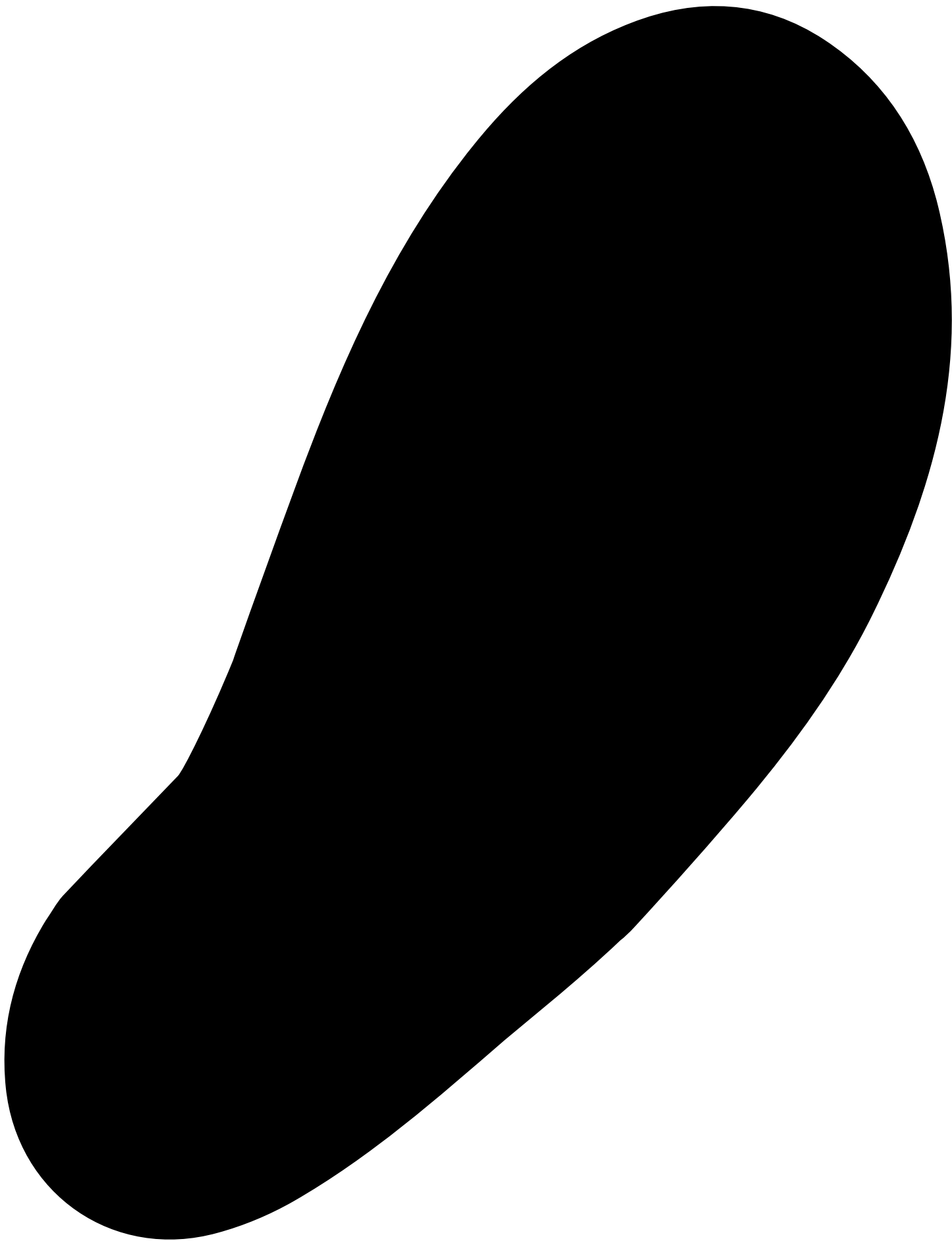
Support: 1 Samuel 17:51

Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his [redacted] and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off [redacted] with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was [redacted], they fled. (ESV)

Evidence Cards: *Print and cut out one set.*



Left Footprint: *Print and cut out two or more footprints to place at the scene.*



Right Footprint: *Print and cut out two or more footprints to place at the scene.*