

The Tabernacle Story

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 7 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
- 7 3 mil Laminating Film

DIRECTIONS

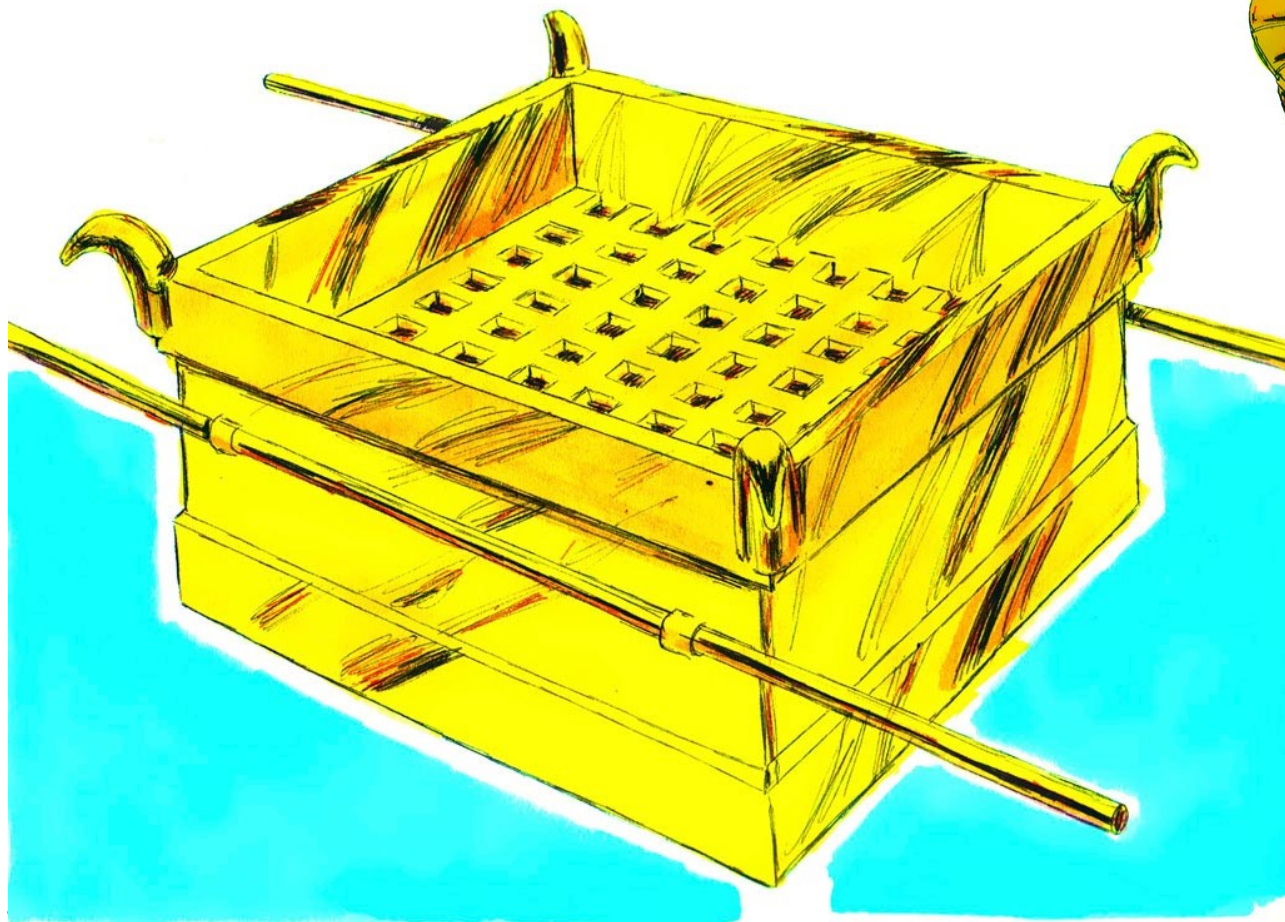
- Print pages 2-15 two-sided and laminate them.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story on the back during class.



God gave Moses instructions to build a Tabernacle. Tabernacle means “tent” or “sanctuary” and this was a sacred place where God would dwell among His people. The Israelites were to bring their sacrifices here.

The whole courtyard was about 150 feet long and 75 feet wide. There were 20 posts down the longer sides and ten posts down the shorter sides. Each post was made of wood with a bronze base, silver hooks and silver top. Finely twisted linen curtains were made to go between these posts. The curtains were 7 ¹/₂ feet tall and there was only one entrance.

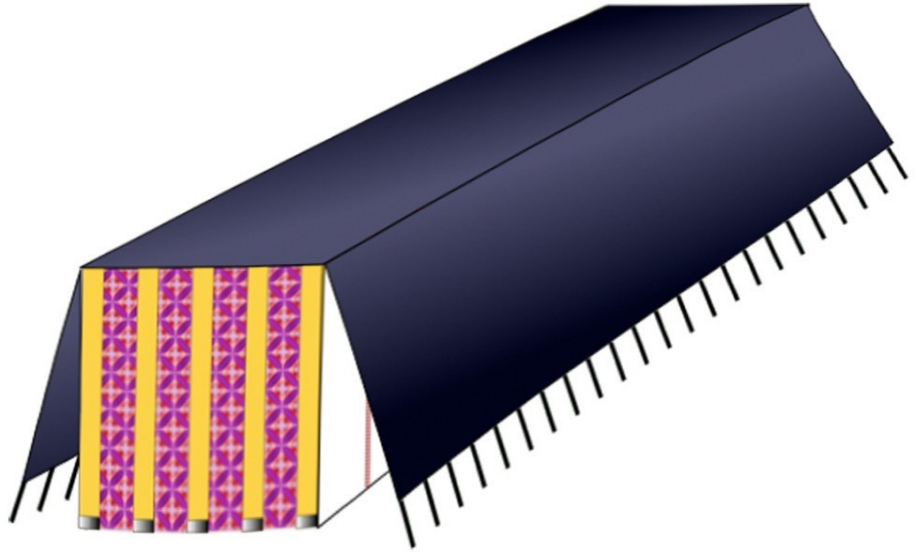
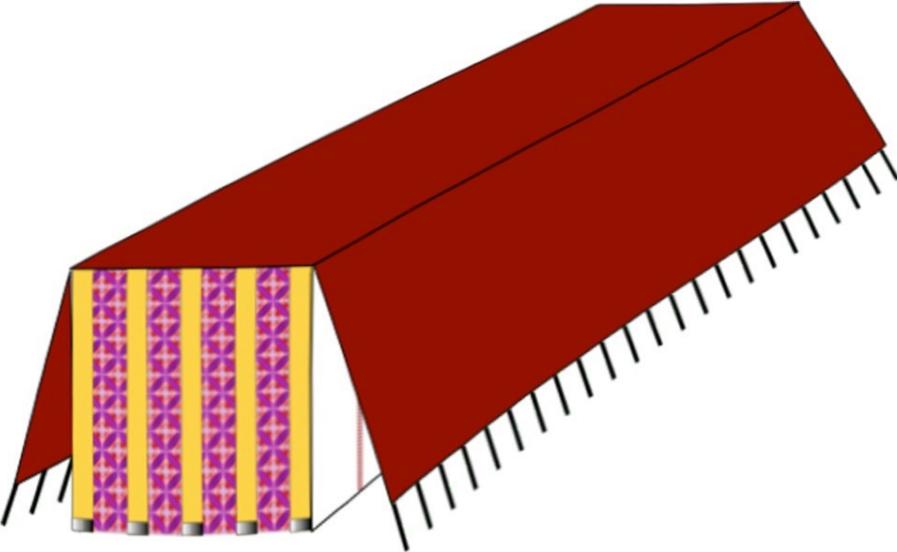
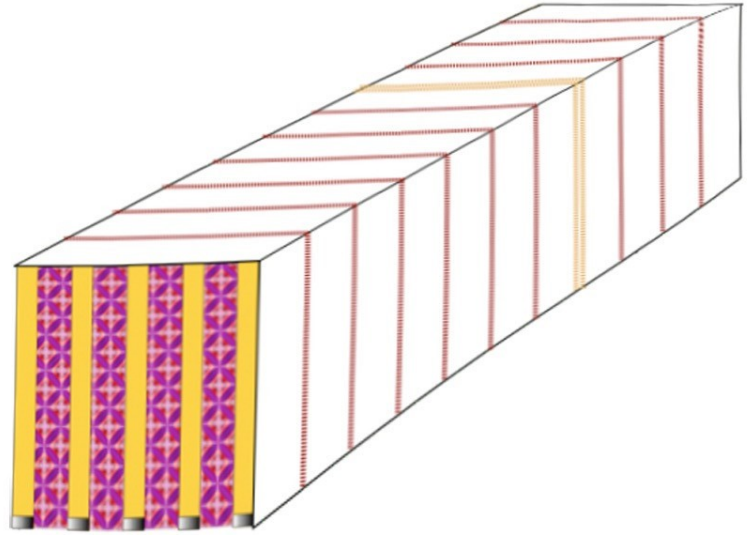
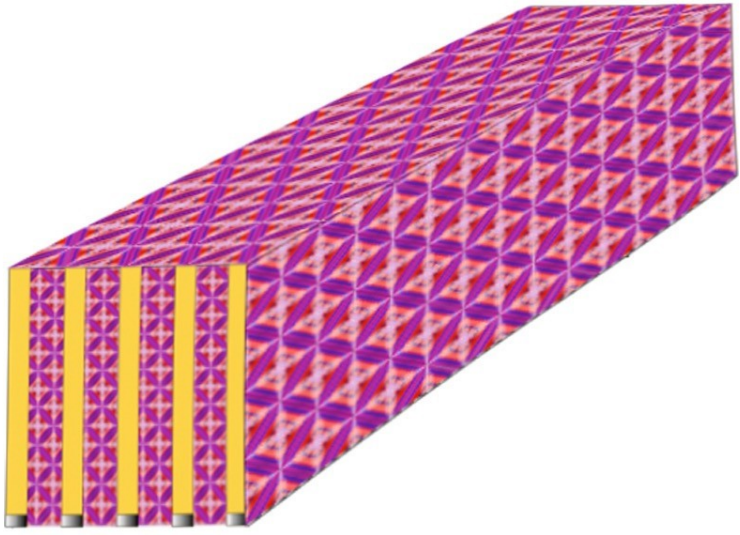
The entrance of the Tabernacle was always to be facing east. Curtains of finely embroidered blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen were made for the entrance.



Inside the courtyard, was the bronze altar and laver.

The square altar was made of acacia wood covered with bronze. At each corner was a bronze horn and animals were sacrificed on the bronze grating inside. It was carried with long poles.

The laver, or basin, was a large bowl filled with water located halfway between the altar and the Tabernacle. The laver was made entirely of bronze. The priests washed their hands and feet in it before entering the Holy Place to serve God.



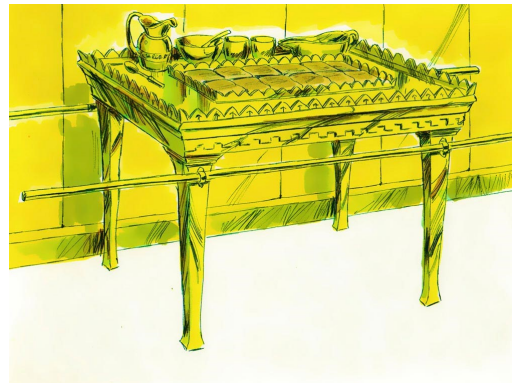
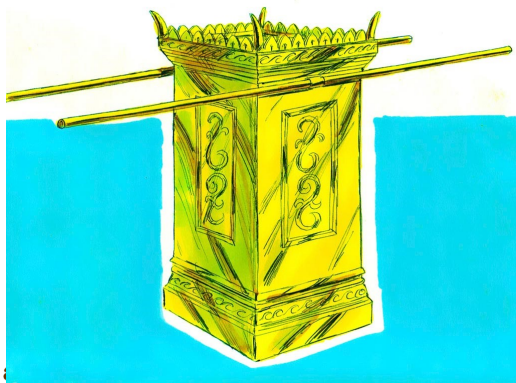
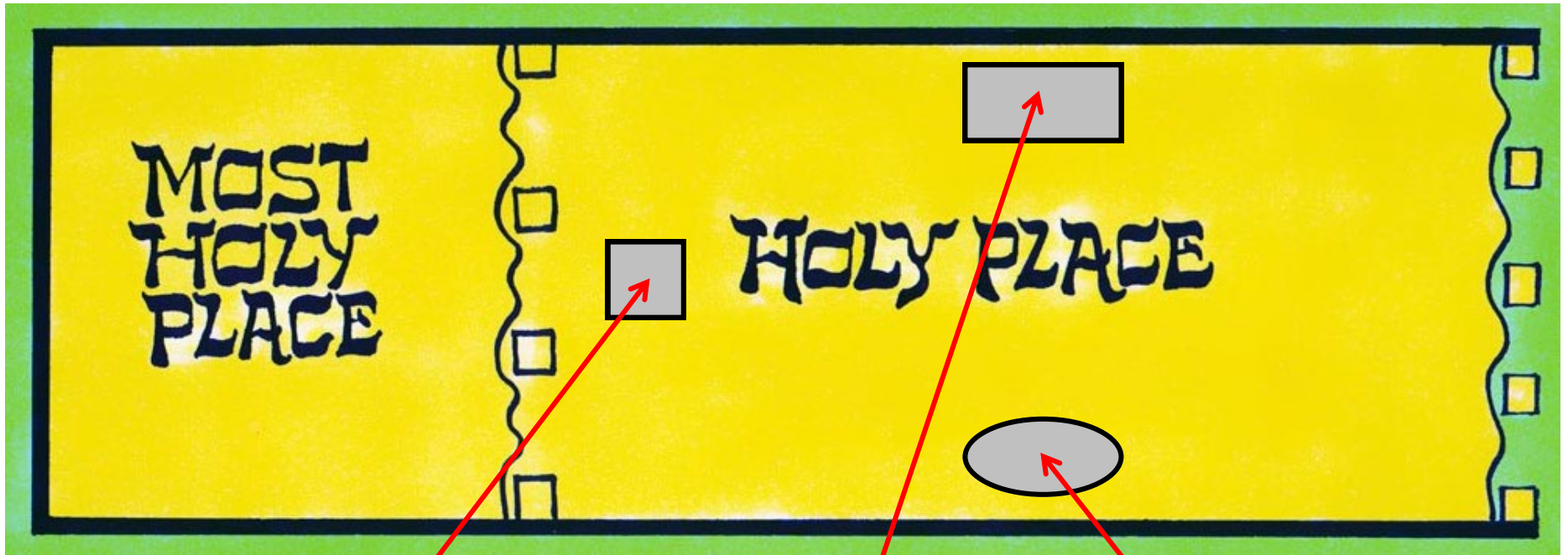
The Tabernacle itself had four coverings. The first covering consisted of finely twisted linen, woven together with blue, purple and scarlet material.

Over this first tent covering there was a slightly larger covering made of goats' hair.

The third covering was made of ram skins dyed red. It was the first of the two weatherproof coverings.

The last covering was made of waterproof badger skins.

Under these four coverings and supporting these curtains, the walls of the tabernacle were made out of boards of acacia wood overlaid with gold.



Inside the Tabernacle was divided into two sections. The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

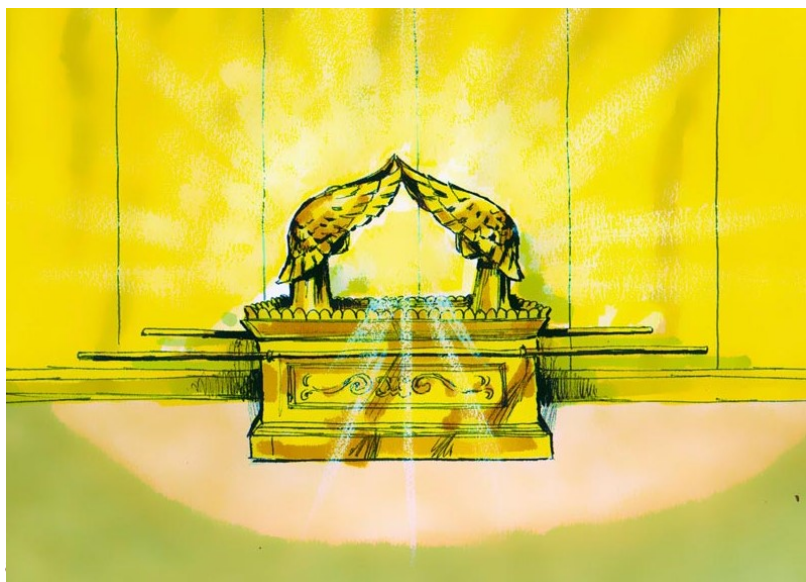
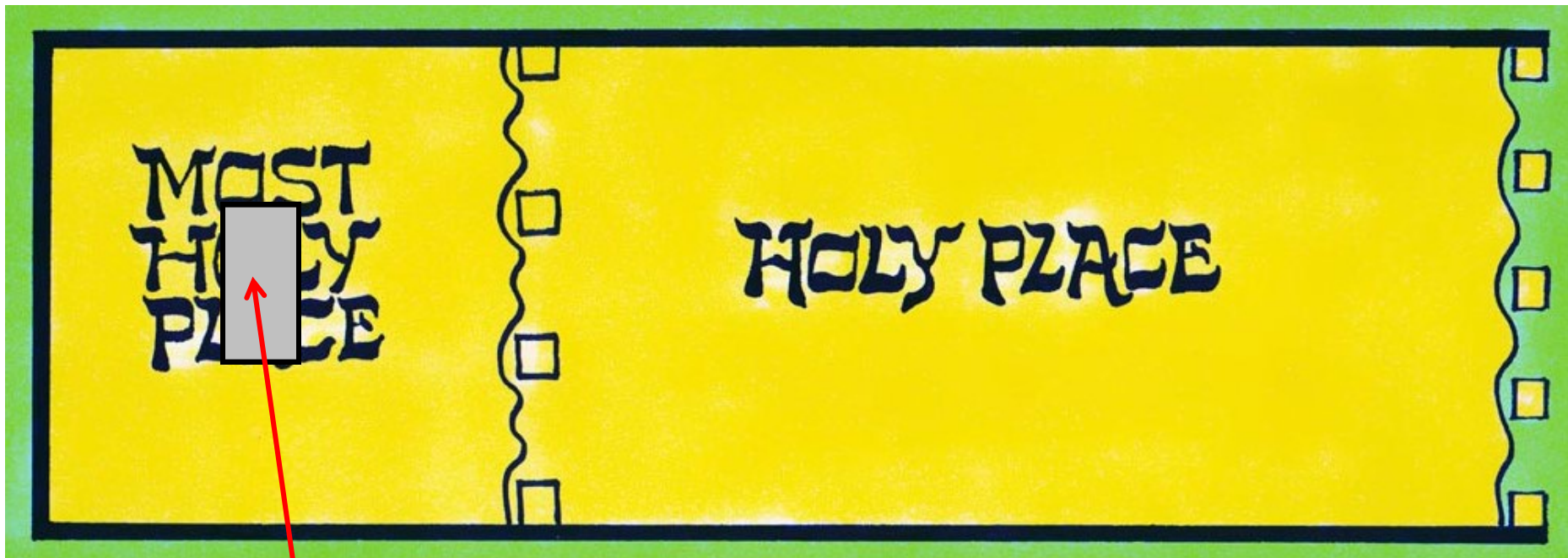
In the Holy Place there were three things.

The golden lampstand stood on the left hand side. It was hammered out of one piece of pure gold. The lampstand had 7 branches, each designed like an almond branch containing buds and flowers. At the top of each branch were seven lamps holding olive oil and wicks. The priests were instructed to keep the lamps burning continuously.

The table of showbread was a small table made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. It stood on the right hand side across from the lampstand and it had poles to carry it. Each week twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table to represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

The altar of incense was in front of the entrance to the Most Holy Place. It was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold and had four horns protruding from its four corners. God commanded the priests to burn incense on the altar every morning and evening. The incense was to be left burning throughout the day and night as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. The incense was made from 4 precious spices: stacte, onycha, galbanum, and frankincense.

Who was allowed inside the Holy Place? *Priests*



Behind the Holy Place was the Most Holy Place. The entrance to this sacred place was through a curtain known as the veil. The veil was made of fine linen and blue, purple and scarlet yarn with figures of angels embroidered into it.

The Most Holy Place only had one piece of furniture in it...the Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark of the Covenant had a cover, or mercy seat, on top of it. It was made of acacia wood and covered with gold inside and out. On top of the mercy seat were two angels facing each other. Their outstretched wings spread over the mercy seat. The Ark was carried by poles and it had a special cover to place over it when it needed to be moved on their travels.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant were three objects. One we will learn about later this quarter. Can you name the others? *a pot of manna, the 10 commandments, Aaron's rod that budded*

Who was allowed to go into the Most Holy Place? *only the high priest (Aaron)*



Manasseh



Asher



Dan



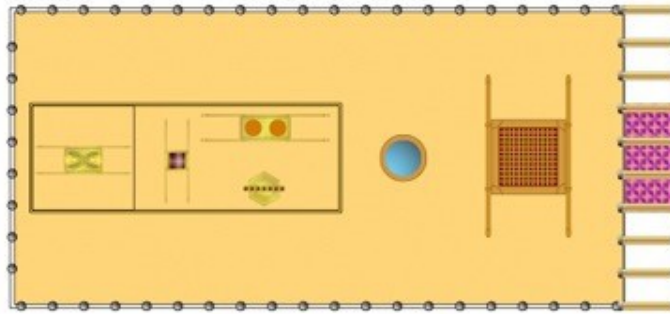
Naphthali



Issachar



Ephraim



Judah



Benjamin



Gad



Reuben



Simeon



Zebulun

Outside the Tabernacle, the Israelites camped in their twelve tribes. Numbers 2 tells us the order that God told them to camp around the Tabernacle.

On the east side, towards the rising sun, were the tribes of Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

On the south side, were the tribes of Reuben, Simeon and Gad.

On the west side, were the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin.

On the north side, were the tribes of Dan, Asher and Naphtali.

What tribe did I not mention? *The Levities*



Manasseh



Asher



Dan



Naphthali



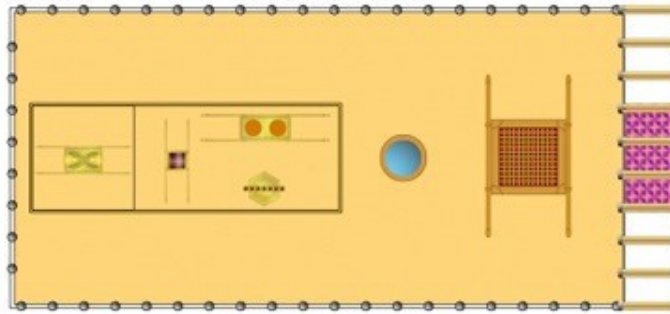
Issachar

Merari



Ephraim

Gershon



Moses



Judah

Aaron



Benjamin

Kohath



Gad



Reuben



Simeon



Zebulun

The Levites were supposed to camp between the Israelites and the Tabernacle. The Levites were divided into different families and camped around the Tabernacle in this order:

Moses, Aaron and their families were on the east side.

The Kohath families were on the south side.

The Gershon families were on the west side.

And the Merari families were on the north side.

We will learn more about the duties of the Levites in our next lesson.