

“My Wanderings in the Desert of Middle School”

Project Goal: To relate the experiences of the Israelites during the Exodus and Sinai journey to your own life. To understand their journey, and yours, as a time of transformation.

This project will have two parts, a map and a written essay.

Map Requirements:

- a detailed, hand-drawn map of your own life-journey during 6th grade, with at least 5 landmarks, labels, and a route (Use map 2, “The Exodus from Egypt” in the Catholic Youth Bible as an example. Do not copy it exactly!)
- a key for your map
- map should be fully colored, using colored pencils or crayons (Not markers!)
- map should be neat and fill the page
- map should be titled
- your name and today’s date should be on the front either near the title or in a corner of the map

Essay Requirements:

- Describe your “wanderings in the Desert of Middle School,” using the experiences of the Israelites as metaphors.
- Identify several ways that your middle school journey is one of transformation.
- Explain various ways that God has been with you on this journey.
- Describe a minimum of 5 “landmark” events or experiences that are also identified on your map.
- Essay needs to describe your “route” from the end of 5th grade through your current experiences in 6th grade. It may also talk about what you expect to happen from now through your graduation from 8th grade.
- The final copy should be neatly written, with correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. (You should write a rough draft first, and have an adult help you edit it before writing the final copy!)
- Essay length should be 3 to 5 detailed paragraphs. They should be organized in a logical way.
- Essay should have a title.
- Essay should have your name and the due-date in the top right hand corner.



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Brainstorm Guide:

List the kinds of experiences the Israelites had as they moved through the desert. Next to each one, see if you can write down a time in 6th grade that you have had a similar experience.

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Pick (circle) at least 5 of these that you want to include in your essay and on your map.

List at least 3 ways that you have been (or are being) transformed during 6th grade. (These could be spiritual changes; academic changes; your growth in the way that you relate to others – classmates, teachers, parents, friends; growth in your confidence level or independence, etc.)

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List 3-5 ways that God has been with you on this journey. You may want to refer to specific events you listed in your first section of this brainstorm guide.

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