

# Overview of the Divided Kingdom

1. Why were there two kingdoms? What do you know about them? What do you find interesting or important about them?

2. Draw and label the following nations on the map provided: Israel (red), Judah (blue), Syria (orange), Assyria (yellow), Babylon (orange), Egypt (purple).

Draw and label the following cities on the map provided: Samaria, Jerusalem, Damascus, Nineveh, Babylon (extra credit: Ramoth Gilead, Joppa, Tekoa, Lachish, Bethel, Dan).

3. What do you find interesting, surprising, or confusing about the provided timeline? How much time passes from the time when the kingdom divides until Israel's King Jehu? How much time passes from Israel's King Jehu until the destruction of Jerusalem? Which kings of Israel and Judah reign the longest? Which kings do you know the most about? Which kings do you know the least about?

4. What is a dynasty? Why do you think dynasties would have been important to ancient kings? How many dynasties did the northern kingdom of Israel have? How many dynasties did the southern kingdom of Judah have?

5. Find and read a few of the summaries at the beginning and end of most of the king's reigns in Kings and Chronicles. How are the summaries of Israel's kings different than the summaries of Judah's kings? How are the summaries in the books of Kings different than the summaries in the books of Chronicles? What is the typical outline for these summaries? Can you find any that deviate from this typical outline?
  
6. What do you notice about the kings of Judah who "did what was right"? Do you think it is appropriate / accurate to reduce a person's lifetime to a smiling or frowning face? Why or why not?
  
7. Are there any prophets on the timeline that you have never heard of before? How can it help us better understand the books of the Prophets if we know when, where, and why they were written?
  
8. How many of the kings of Syria, Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt are mentioned in the Bible? Do you think it is important for us to know about them? Why or why not?