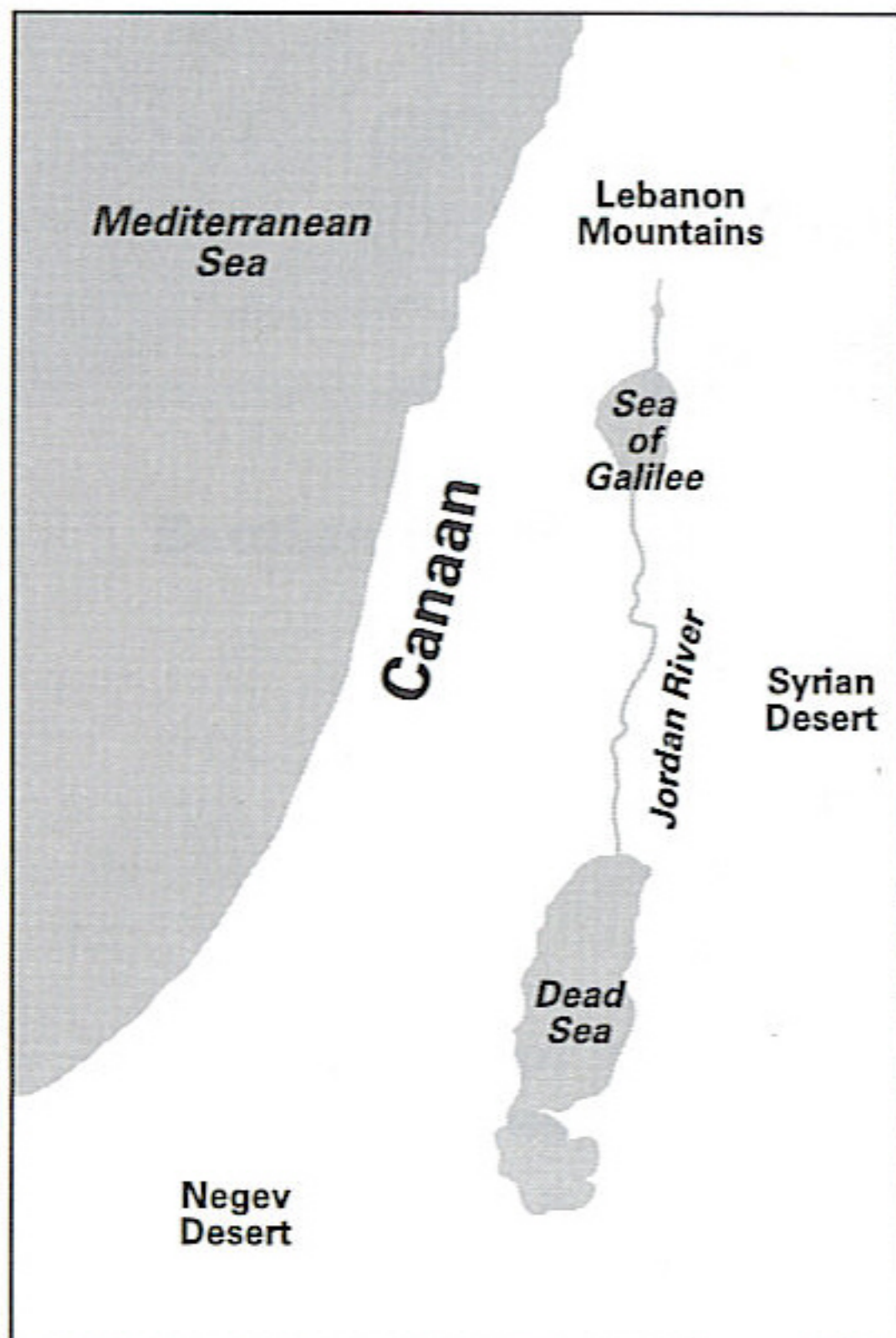


## Information About Settlement in Canaan



The earliest people in Canaan settled near the Jordan River. The Jordan River supported an abundance of animal life and vegetation. Originally, hunters were attracted to Canaan around 8000 B.C.E. because of the plentiful supply of animals, plants, and water. Over time they built villages and began to farm along the banks of the Jordan River. Farmers grew grains and vegetables using simple tools and animal-drawn plows. One of the largest of these villages was Jericho, a walled city known for its great wealth. **On the map, place five dots along the Jordan River to represent some of the first farming villages that developed in Canaan.**

However, besides the Jordan River valley and the coast near the Mediterranean Sea, the topography of Canaan made it difficult for settlers in the region to farm. Canaan was a small area with a varied landscape. It included fertile plains, grassy slopes, rocky hills, and arid deserts. This landscape encouraged the practice of herding. As a result, most people living in Canaan were herders rather than farmers. Herders lived in tents while following their flocks of sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys, and camels. They wandered along the edges of the Syrian and Negev Deserts and into the rolling hills of the Jordan Valley in search of new pastureland. Leading a nomadic lifestyle was difficult, and herders were usually very poor. **On the map, use crosshatching to indicate the limited areas where farming took place in Canaan. Then, draw a simple visual of a sheep in those areas of Canaan where herding was practiced.**

Although there were limited mineral resources in Canaan, the region was located at the center of numerous land and sea routes. Traders traveled along these routes to Canaan, where they exchanged goods with other merchants from faraway areas. Gold and spices, for example, were brought to Canaan from Arabia across the Negev Desert. With more difficulty, traders from the Lebanon Mountains floated timber down the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Canaan. **On the map, draw symbols and lines to show how gold and timber were brought to Canaan.**