

- Israel was the centre of the Roman Empire
- It took about 5 days to walk to Jerusalem from Capernaum
- The Sea of Galilee was also known as Lake Tiberias.
- The Sea of Galilee is about the same size as the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Sea of Galilee had whales and sharks as well as other fish.

**True  
or  
False?**

**Think  
about  
it**

Why was the land of Israel important to the Roman Empire?

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Why did the people of Israel dislike the Romans?

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What is the difference between 'arranged' marriage and 'forced' marriage?

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What is the dictionary definition of *synagogue*

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Addy and Cleo migrated. What does *migrate* mean?

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What is the dictionary definition of *prejudice*?

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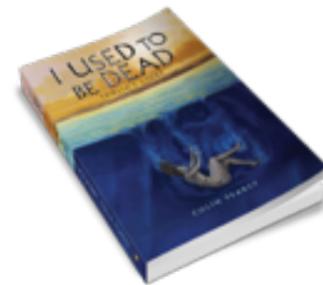
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**Look  
it  
up**

# Capernaum

**The world of Tahlia Bet Jairus in 28 A.D.**

Before you read the book, 'I used to be  
dead'.

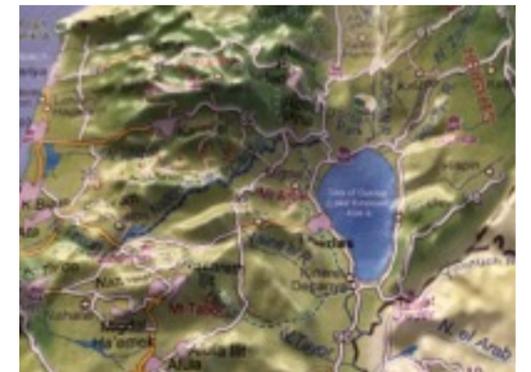


**Tahlia** was an ordinary girl who lived 2,000 years ago in a very different world from yours. This booklet will help you understand her world.

As you read the book, keep thinking about the differences between Tahlia's village and your home and neighbourhood; things like food, clothes, shopping, school and work.

**Do you think Tahlia and her friends, Cleo, Addy and Okky would understand your world?**

**Where is Capernaum?**



Capernaum is in **Galilee**, a region in northern Israel with a large freshwater lake. Throughout history the lake has had different names; it's been called The Sea of Galilee, Kinneret, Gennesaret, or Lake Tiberias. It's about 13km wide and 21km long.

**Can you find it on a map?**  
**Hint: Look on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea.**

**Capernaum could have looked like this.**

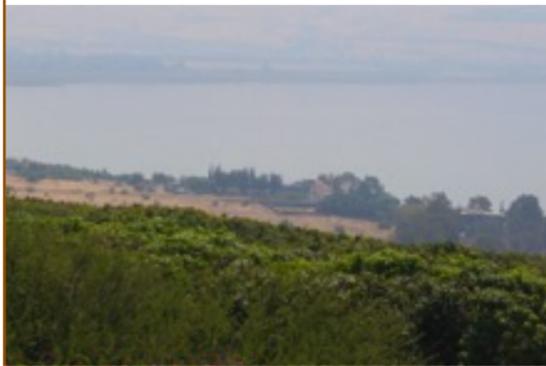


You can see a more detailed map in the book. Colin Pearce the author, and Daniel Sarantidis the illustrator based this map on photographs taken during Colin's visit to Capernaum. Some things are just the way they were 2,000 years ago: It's next to Lake Galilee. It's near the hills. The synagogue and the house of St. Peter are still visited by pilgrims and other tourists.

# Worth knowing

## Some facts about Tahlia's town

### A town by a lake



1.

Capernaum [ka-PER-nay-um] was home to about 1500 people—fishing families, farm workers, merchants and tradespeople. Being a Jewish town it had a large synagogue, which was built for the people by the commander of the local Roman garrison.

Apart from the town's value as a food producer and a small safe dock for boats, it was also a stopping point on the famous Via Maris, the road built by the Romans. It ran from Egypt, and then further north it branched west to Greece and Rome and east to Persia and Asia. It was also a centre for collecting taxes from travellers.

3. Capernaum is famous because of events and people who lived there between 28 and 31 AD.

To start with Jesus Christ (the one Tahlia calls *Vox Miraculous*) chose it as his home when he left his childhood town, Nazareth, a little to the west in the hills. Many of Jesus' closest followers came from Capernaum. The first were two brothers, fishermen named James and John (or as Tahlia knows them; Jacov and Jani). The next were also brothers and fishermen; Simon, and Andrew (Shimon and Andreas). Matthew, a tax collector came from Capernaum too. Jesus was very disappointed that not many people accepted him in spite of all the miracles they saw him do for them.

About fifty years after Tahlia's story, the Roman General Vespasian and his son Titus laid waste to Northern Israel including Capernaum. It lay abandoned for nearly 2,000 years. Archaeologists have only been discovering exciting things about the town in the last 150 years.

### Always fresh



2.

The Sea of Galilee was – and still is – a lake, filled with water from two sources. The Jordan River flows into it from the melting snow in the northern mountains.

The lake empties south into the Jordan River which continues its way through the desert to the famous Dead Sea. It is 'dead' because of the extreme heat year round. That causes evaporation so the Dead Sea is full of silty, salty water and nothing can live in it.

The lake is also fed from springs located near its centre, so it is always being refreshed.



The Capernaum synagogue, as it now stands, was built in the second century AD on the foundations of the original structure which the Romans destroyed.

### List these words in alphabetical order:

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Capernaum | Baker     |
| Galilee   | Synagogue |
| Jerusalem | Fishing   |
| Tahlia    | Abba      |

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### Fill in the missing word

1. The town Capernaum is situated on the ..... shore of Lake Galilee.
2. Capernaum is no longer .....  
.....
3. Capernaum had about ..... residents, most of whom were involved in ..... and .....
4. Capernaum also featured a large .....  
.....
5. There is a large church built over the ruins of what archaeologists believe was once the home of .....  
.....

Use the following words: fishing, synagogue, Simon Peter, north western, farming, 1500, occupied.



The remains of a first century fishing boat found buried and partly preserved in the silt of the lake in 1986