

To begin with, the Compass and Sailing Chart should be assembled.

The 9 Chart pieces are to be treated as a Sudoku puzzle, albeit with symbols instead of numbers. The arrangement of pieces is shown in Diagram 1 (note that the placement of the skulls disambiguates the position of some of the pieces), and the completed puzzle shown in Diagram 2.



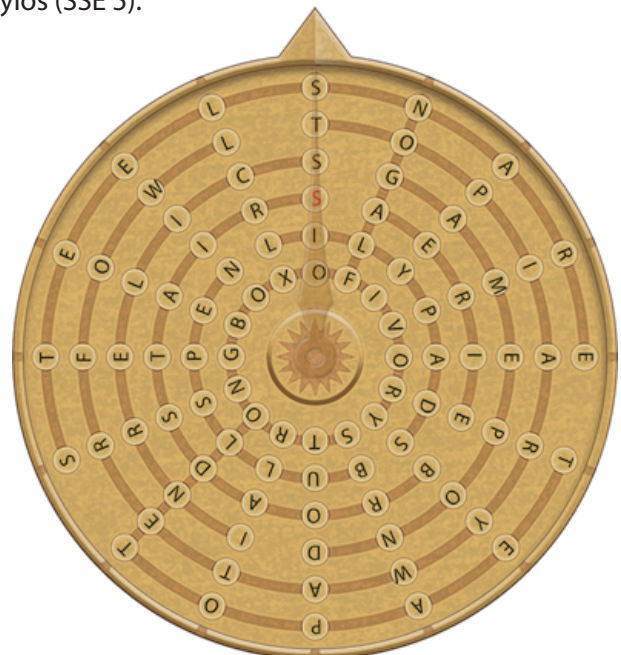
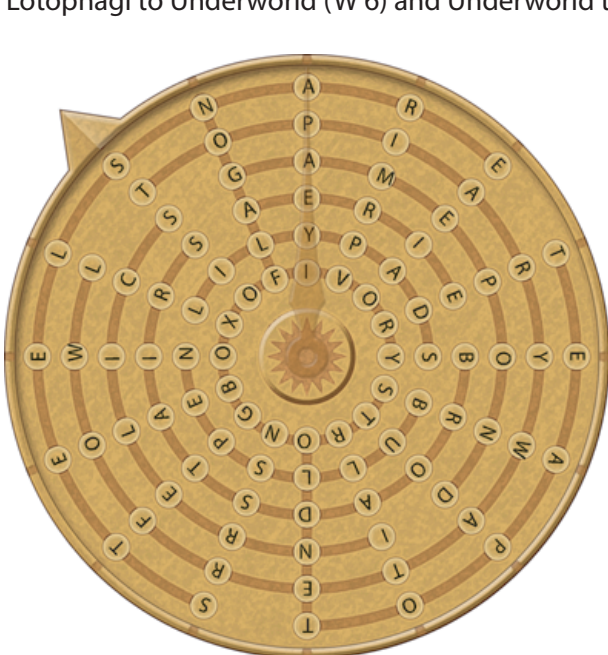
DIAGRAM 1



DIAGRAM 2

The shaded band, beginning in the upper left corner and reading clockwise, provides a route to be traced out on the map. The route begins Calypso to Lotophagi, Lotophagi to Underworld, Underworld to Telepylos, etc. Looking at the map, each step of the journey falls along one of the 16 compass directions, and is of a distance of between one and six units of distance per the scale on the map (reckoning by the dots at each location). Calypso to Lotophagi, for instance, is a journey North of 3 units. Lotophagi to Underworld is West 6 units, Underworld to Telepylos SSE 5 units, etc. Each step of the journey yields a letter from the Compass.

The Compass represents a grid that may be filled with the answers to the individual puzzles, as shown in Diagram 3. For each leg of the journey, orient the pointer on the compass in the direction of travel. Note that, per the compass instructions, the needle always remains pointing North. Then, find the letter reading along the needle corresponding to the distance of the leg. Diagram 4 shows the orientation and letter for Calypso to Lotophagi (N 3); Diagrams 5 and 6 show Lotophagi to Underworld (W 6) and Underworld to Telepylos (SSE 5).



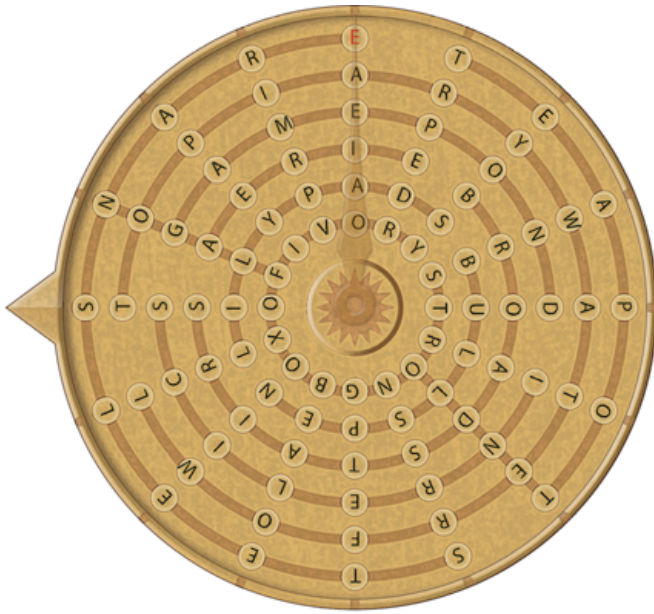


DIAGRAM 5

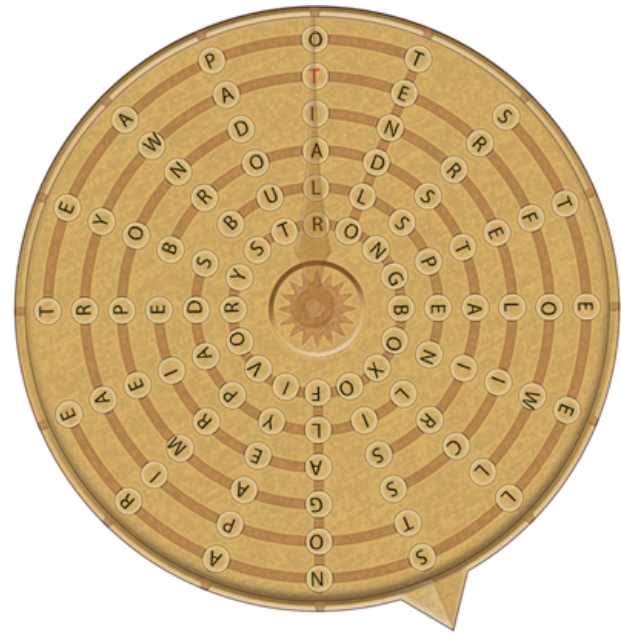


DIAGRAM 6

Letters found so far are S, E, and T. Continuing along the entire route indicated spells the message SET LINES BY ONE-WORD DACTYLS.

All of the introductory verses, just as *The Odyssey* itself, are written in dactylic hexameter. Each line consists of 6 metrical feet, each of which is either a spondee (two stressed syllables) or a dactyl (one stressed followed by two unstressed syllables), although per Homer the final foot is always a spondee. Each line contains exactly one dactylic foot which consists of one three-syllable word (in many cases, the only three-syllable word in the line). Lines should be alphabetized by that one word dactyl. To begin:

*Homely, hospitable **Aeolus**, master of all the perverse winds*

*Oddly uncaring, they **aimlessly** wander the island, their minds blank.*

*Woe to those brutish as **animals**! They have invited a harsh curse....*

***Beautiful** grottos and bright pools: home of Calypso, that fair nymph.*

*Eaters of live flesh, **cannibals** eager to gorge on your hot blood!*

*Seek out each spot of concealment; **carefully** search for what's cached there.*

*Traps are untended and fishing lines **carelessly** tangled and left slack.*

And so on. Note that the initial letters of the reordered verse now form an acrostic. This spells out the "ultimate riddle" and its solution, the final answer to *Are We There Yet?*:

HOW BEST TO PROCEED ON A JOURNEY OR EPIC POEM?

ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER.