

A sea  
of knowledge



Information: Before & Now. Friend or Foe?

# Natural Disasters





In conditions of a prolonged heat wave, a fire starts in a mountainous forest location. The fire breaks out in the afternoon in an extremely inaccessible area, as a result of which the Fire Department cannot immediately contain it and bring it under control.

It burns uncontrollably for a few hours and destroys a forest area, causing significant destruction while threatening the neighbouring village and an archaeological monument.



In the afternoon, when the fire started, some residents of the neighbouring village claimed that shortly before they became aware of it, they heard explosions and are asking for an arson investigation. Others claim that climate change is responsible for the fire, as temperatures are unusually high for the season and region.

Headlines such as the following circulate through the internet:

*"Careless farmers light up their fields. Immediate danger of uncontrolled fires."*

*"First signs of climate change. After a record high temperature of 43 degrees Celsius, the pine forest turned to ashes."*





The local community is upset. At school, you will have an opportunity to attend a presentation of the newly established General Secretariat of Forests under the Ministry of Environment and Energy (AI).



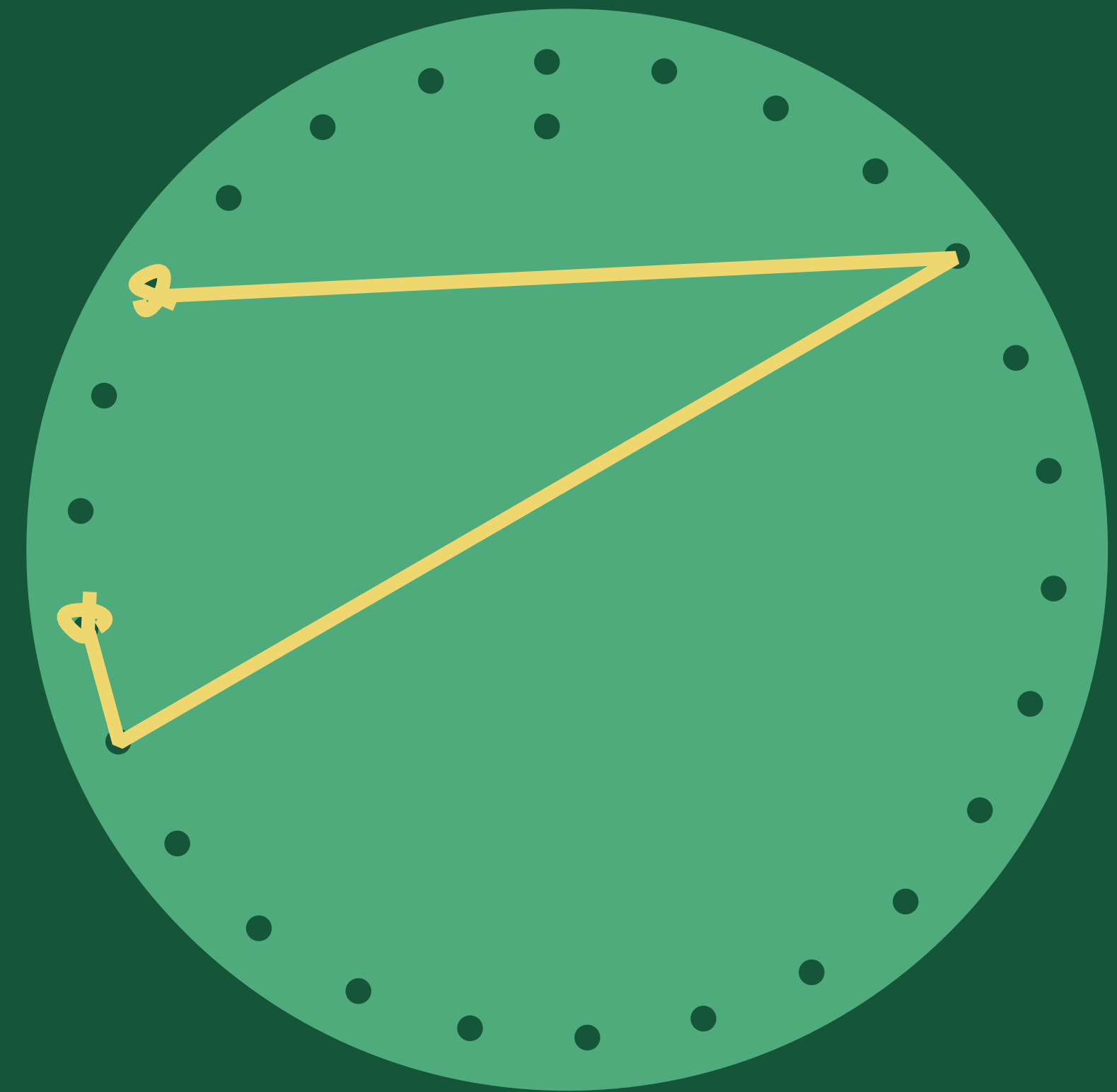


An announcement on Facebook that tagged the pine forest has come to their attention (the municipal authority has created an FB group of nature lovers and visitors of the forest). In the announcement, a group of children from the nearby town organized a treasure hunt.

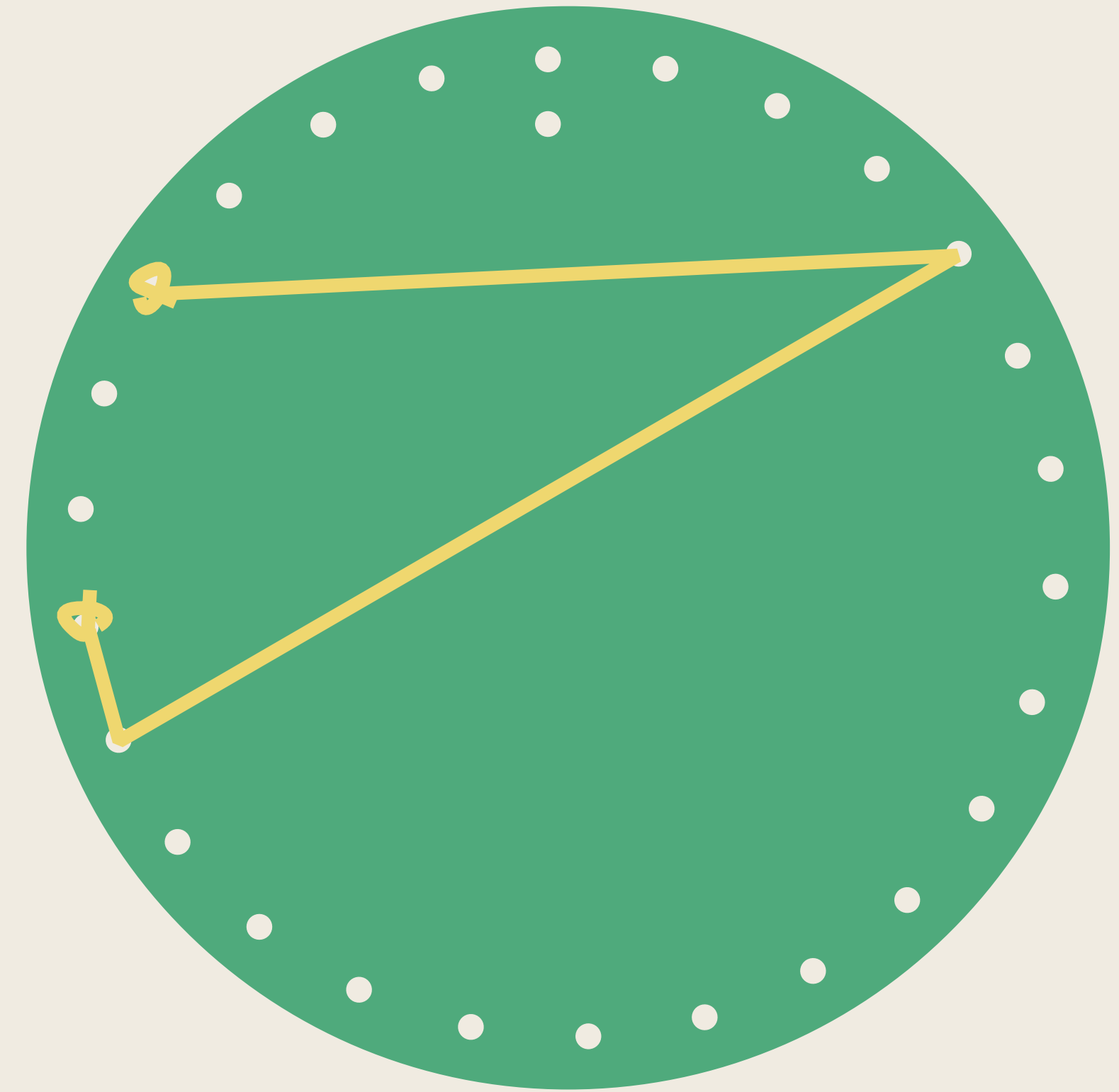
An assignment paper with riddles that sought a solution and directed the group to points within the forest so that it could collect the necessary objects, the "treasure", that had been placed there earlier by the organizers, was circulated in a digital file and a print-out form. After the end of the game, there was a party announcement with a barbeque and lots of drinks.



Walk forty (40) paces from  
the isle of the lake towards  
the direction revealed  
by the crypto disk

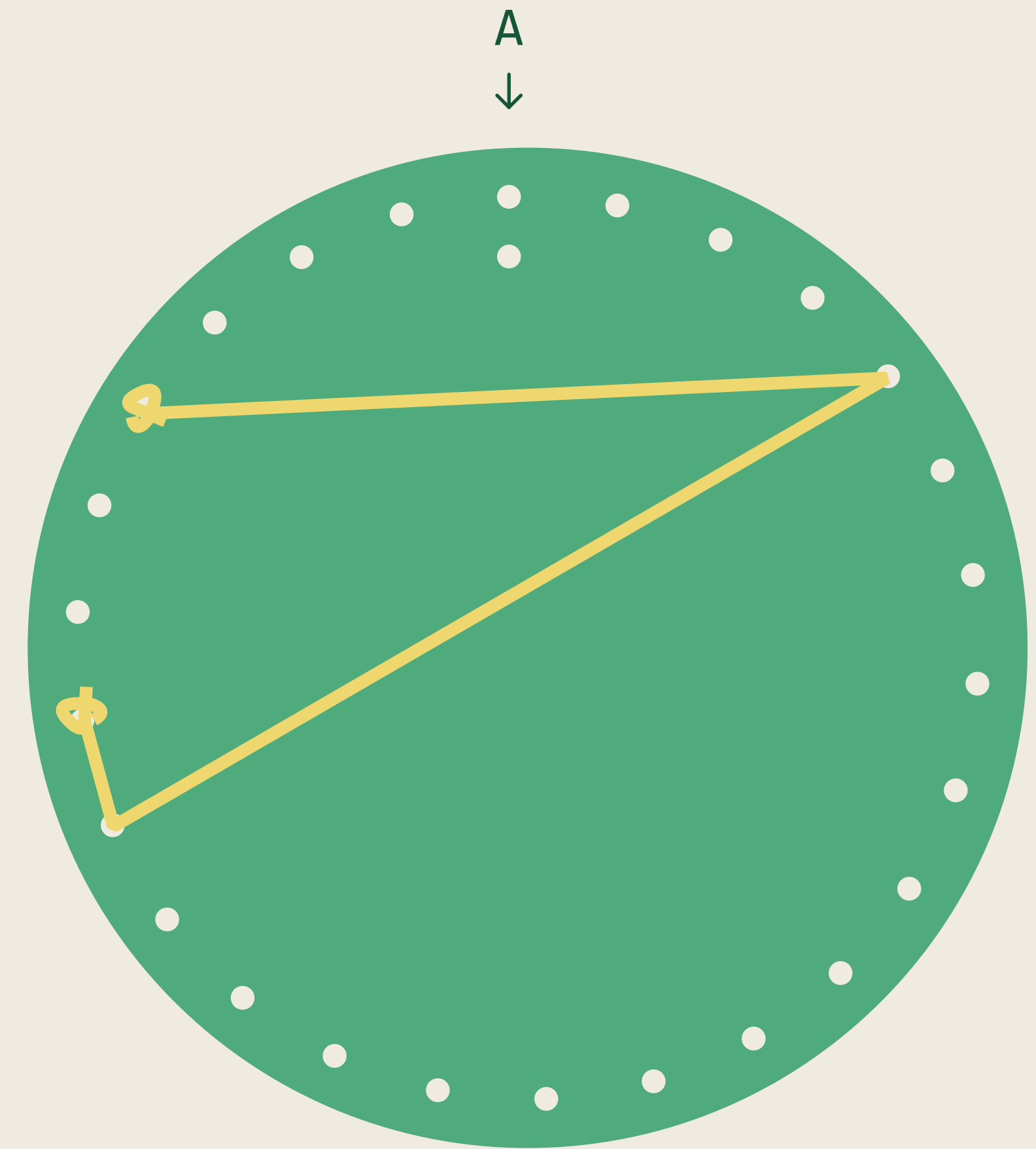


It is a **cryptographic device from ancient Greece**.  
It is called **Aeneas' Disk**, and it can be made with a disk  
from a material that can be easily pierced (wood, plastic,  
or thick cardboard) plus a string or wire.



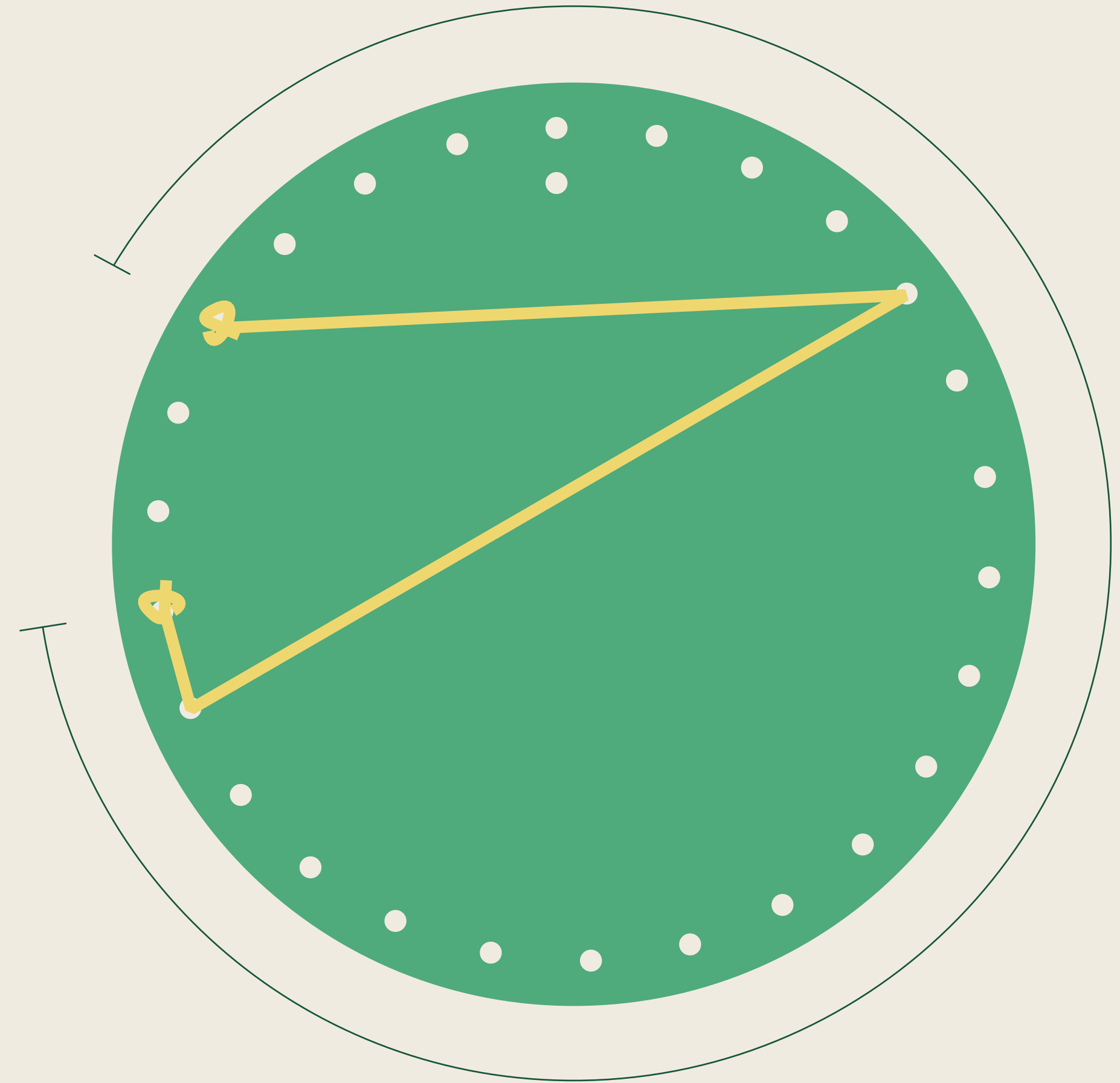
The **twenty-four (24)** holes around it correspond to the **24 letters of the Greek alphabet.**

In the case of English, the disc has, with the rest of the construction logic remaining the same, **twenty-six (26)** holes due to the **Latin alphabet.**





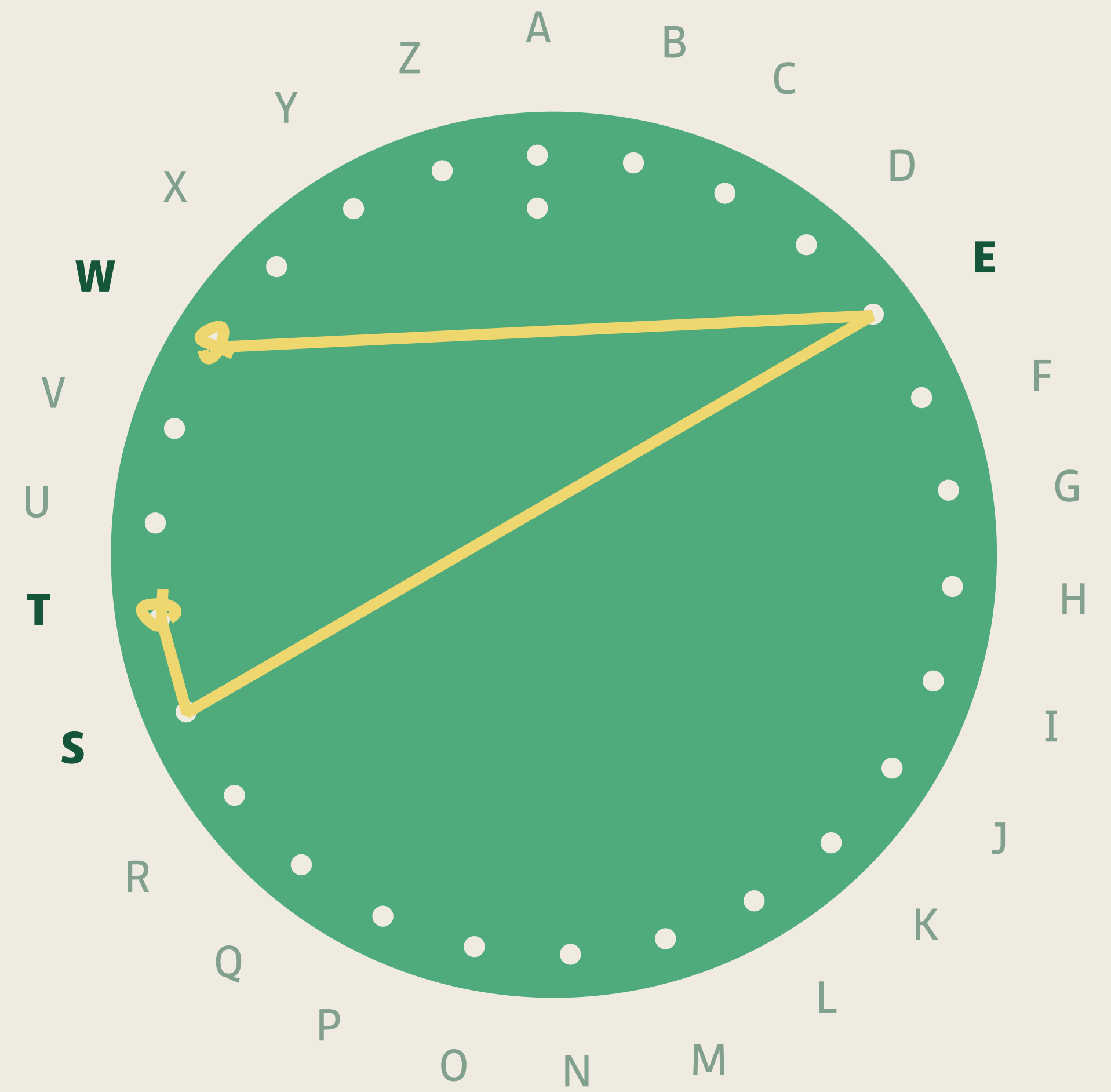
The knots in two holes are there to define the beginning and end of the word. Players could solve the puzzle by discovering the letters in normal order as well as in reverse.



Our letters make the word

**W-E-S-T**

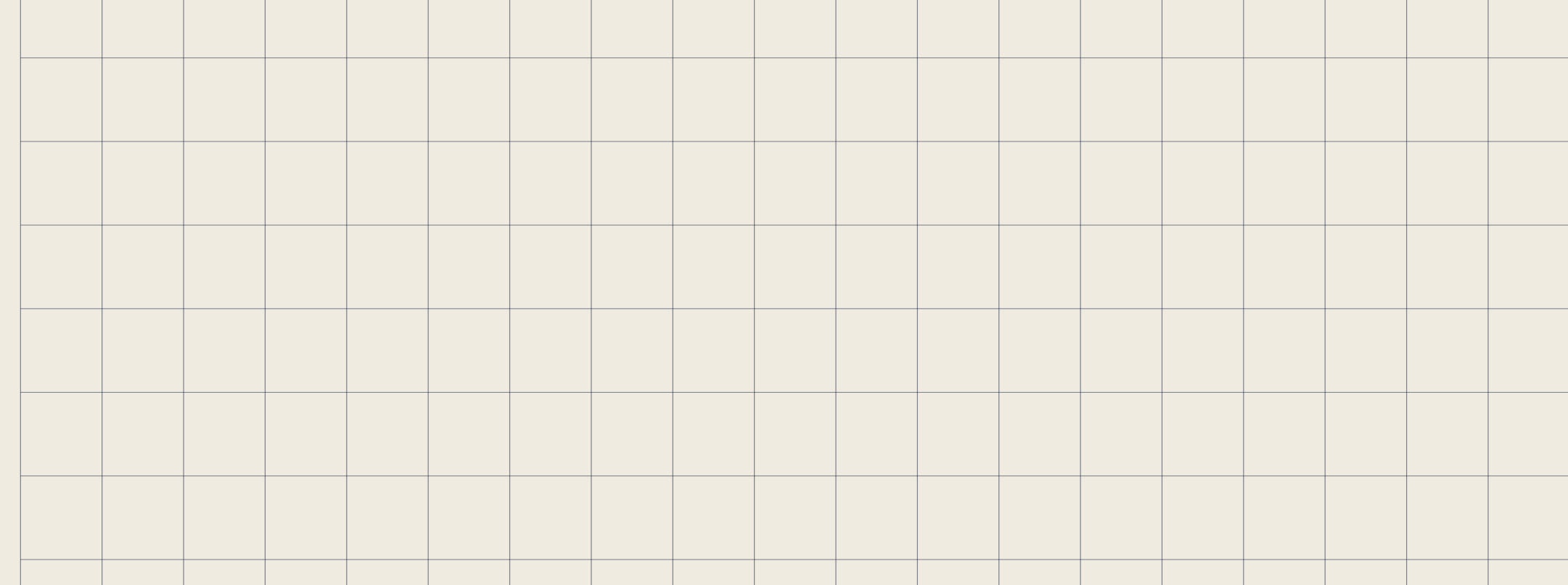
So the answer is forty paces west.



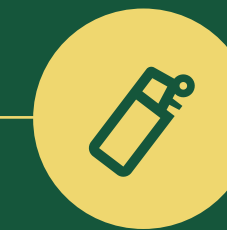


We should know that the **increase in the average global temperature, heat, and drought in the Mediterranean ecosystems**, in combination with **other weather phenomena (e.g., lightning, wind intensity)**, is a very important reason for the occurrence of fires, but it is not the only one and certainly not the most frequent.





The players find two chalk marks on the rock and realize that the game has passed through here. At the base of the rock, they discover:



**A plastic lighter**

It looks full  
but it's mechanism is broken



**Three cigarette butts**



The game instructions  
mention the following location:

The path continues for about two hundred  
meters in two directions, south and  
northwest. Through the wooden bridge,  
you can cross and admire the small stream  
in the forest.

**Please don't litter! Thank you!**

*2-3, 1-7, 2-1, 3-1*





At the scene, the players discover garbage that came from food packaging and a fire that has charred the entire surrounding area. Remember the party and barbecue announcement?





### What **government agencies** can do:

- 1 **Create and maintain the “fire breaks”**, these are zones where the forest and flammable vert is cleared.
- 2 **24-hour patrols in fire-sensitive areas.**
- 3 **Provide incentives to maintain traditional land use** in agricultural and forestry systems, such as, for example, beekeeping.
- 4 **Maintain the road network within the forest**, such as rural roads and paths, but also **provide easy access to the points where water can be found**, such as taps, water reservoirs, streams, and artificial and natural lakes.
- 5 **Strictly prohibit fires of any kind**, such as the remains of agricultural work or fires lit by citizens for entertainment and food preparation.
- 6 **Maintain a database of arson threats**, such as, for example, on social networks, etc.
- 7 **Take advantage of modern and older technology** (cell phones, drones, and wireless) **for fire detection and communication between all forest services.**
- 8 **Cooperate with approved voluntary organizations** that strengthen manpower for forest guarding.

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Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

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