

Topographic Maps

Topographic Map- shows the size, shape, and distribution of landscape features

Contour Lines- line of equal elevation, normally every 5th contour line (known as the **index contour**) is labeled, and they will always make a complete loop even if not shown completely on map

Contour Interval- number of feet or meters (specified by map) that separates each contour line

Topographic Profiles:

Topographic profiles are a representation of how the land would look in cross-section.

To make a topographic profile:

1. Take out a piece of scrap paper
2. Make marks for each reference point
 - a. Reference points are points of interest, such as contour lines, streams, and your beginning/end points
 - b. I find it easier to start with the A and B points and work in from there
3. Create scale on your graph
 - a. Elevation will be shown on the y-axis
 - b. Distance will be shown on the x-axis
4. Lie scratch paper along the x-axis and transfer each reference point
 - a. Make sure each reference point is placed at its appropriate height
5. Connect reference points
 - a. Don't make the line too jagged, smooth out lines as you feel best fits
 - b. Don't forget to show any streams
 - i. To show streams, make a small dip at the stream location since there will be a slight decrease in topography at the stream bed
6. Scale
 - a. Remember all maps must have a scale, in this lab it is already done for you

Flood Intervals:

Flood Interval- The likelihood a flood of a certain magnitude occur in a single year

Ex. a hundred year's flood has a 1/100 chance of occurring in a single year, but may occur in two consecutive years