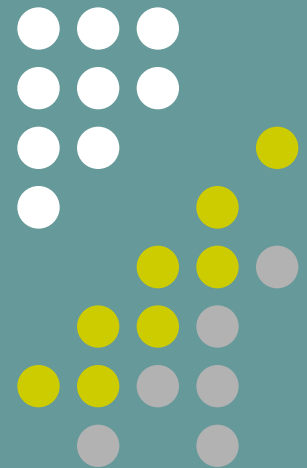


Grade 9 Contour Line Tutorial



Topographic Maps

Contours



One of the most valuable aspects of the **TOPOGRAPHIC MAP** is its ability to convey information about the shape of the land.

It shows the shape by using **CONTOURS**

You may recall from Grade 9 Geography that a **CONTOUR** is a line that joins points with the same elevation.

If you walk **ALONG** a **CONTOUR LINE** you stay at the same elevation.

If you walk **ACROSS** a **CONTOUR LINE** you either go up or down.

In the next few slides you will learn to tell the difference!

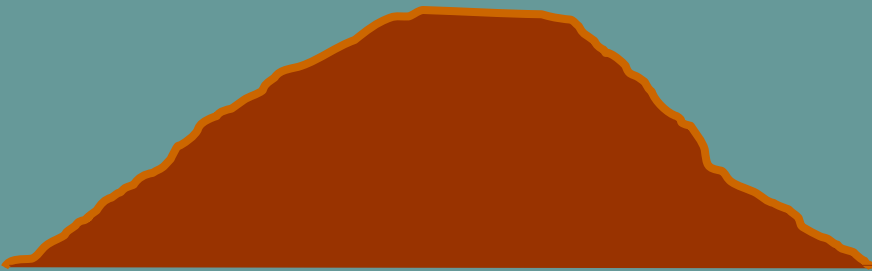
Topographic Maps

Contours



Imagine that we are looking at a small hill, from the side.

We also know what it looks like from above.



Topographic Maps

Contours

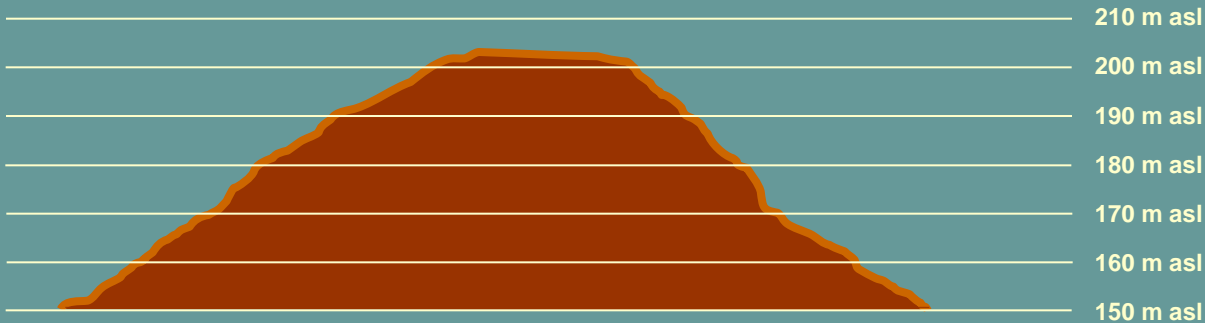


Every point on this line is 150m asl

Now we divide the hill into horizontal slices.

In this case each slice is 10 m thick.

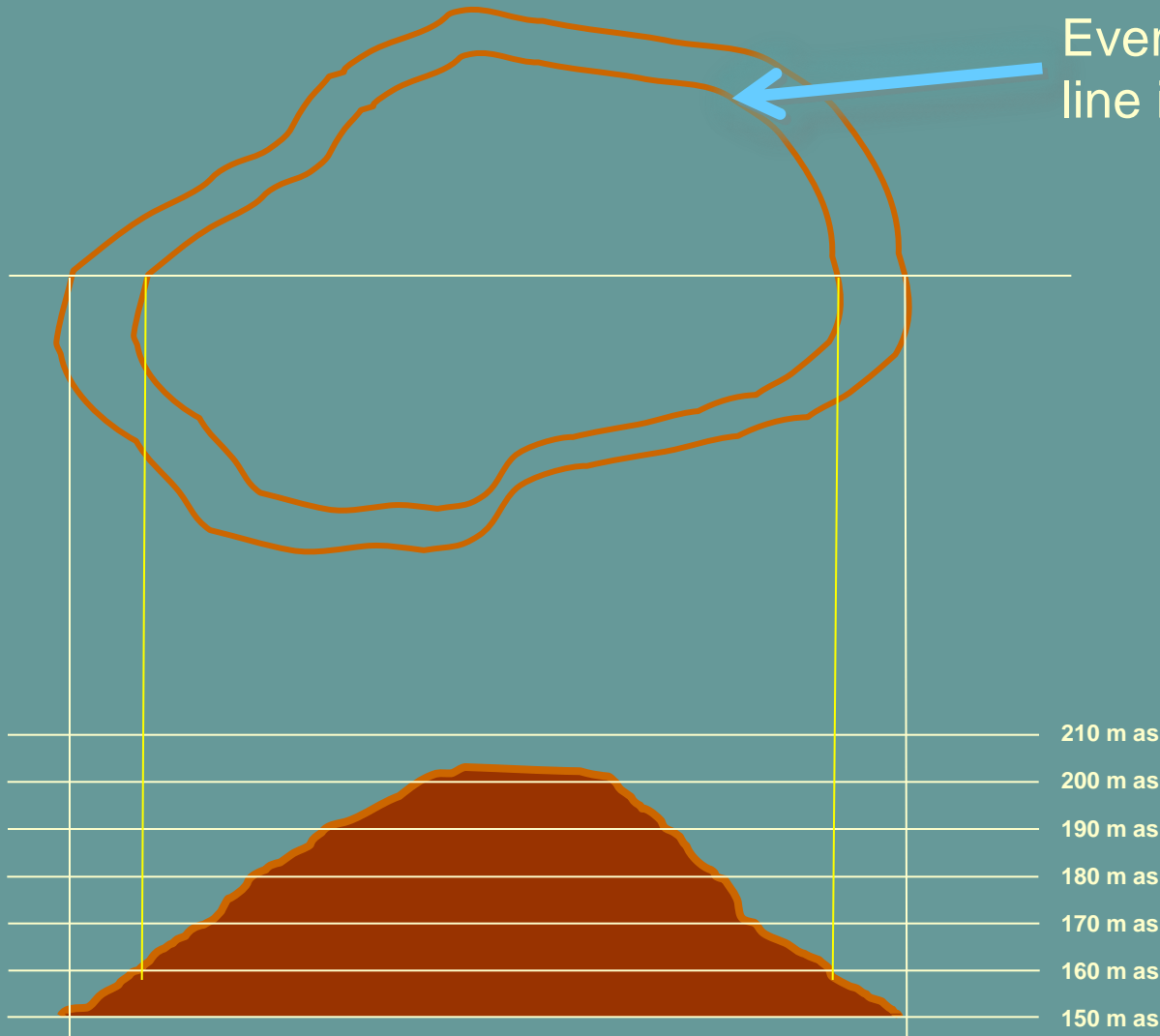
They are assigned heights **ABOVE SEA LEVEL** or asl



The base of this hill is **150m asl**. The peak is just over **200 m asl**.

Topographic Maps

Contours

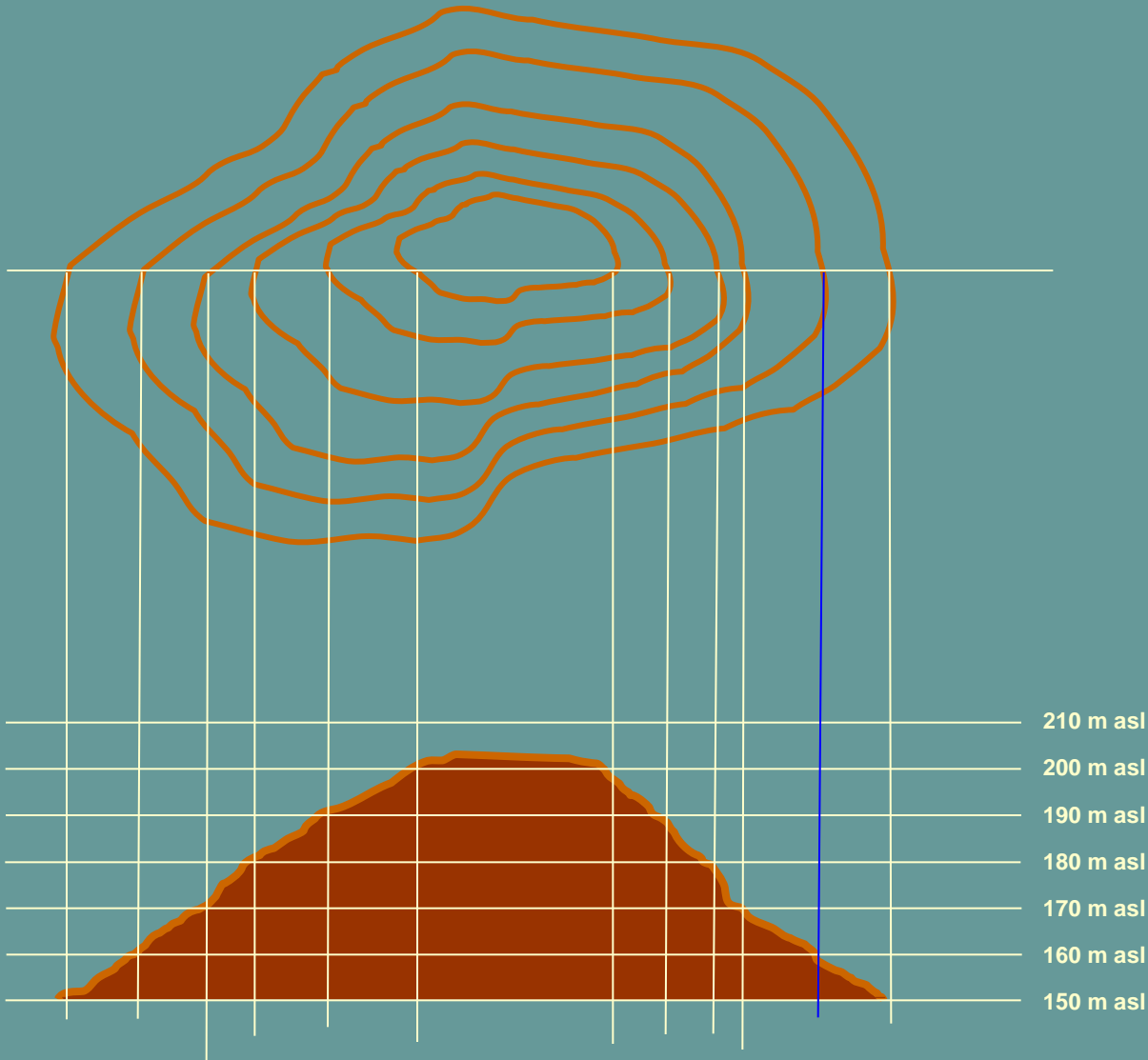


Every point on this line is 160m asl

The elevations are transferred to the map and **CONTOUR LINES** are produced for every 10 m change in elevation.

Topographic Maps

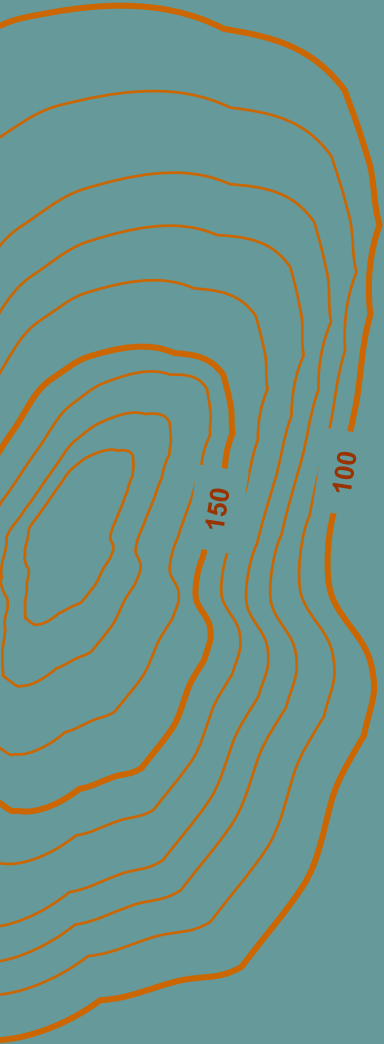
Contours



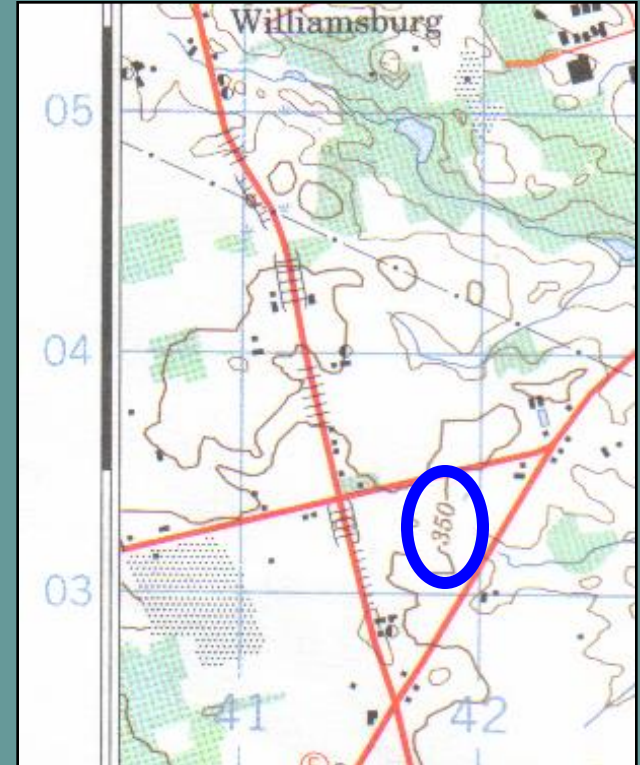
The result is a familiar set of nested lines that show the shape of the hill.

Topographic Maps

Contours

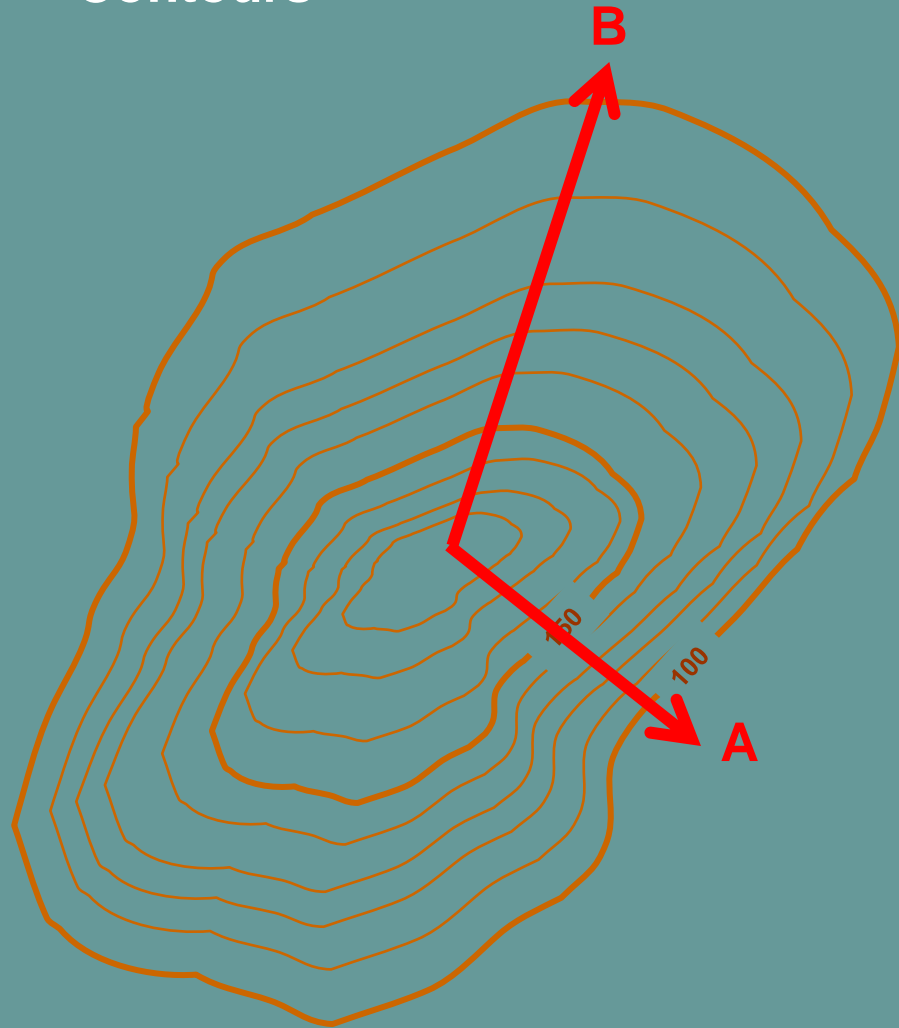


To make it easier to follow complex **CONTOUR LINES**, every fifth line is bolded and has its value printed along it. These are called **INDEX CONTOURS**.



Topographic Maps

Contours



The closer the **CONTOUR LINES** are, the steeper the slope is.

The path to “**B**” is less steep than the path to “**A**”.