

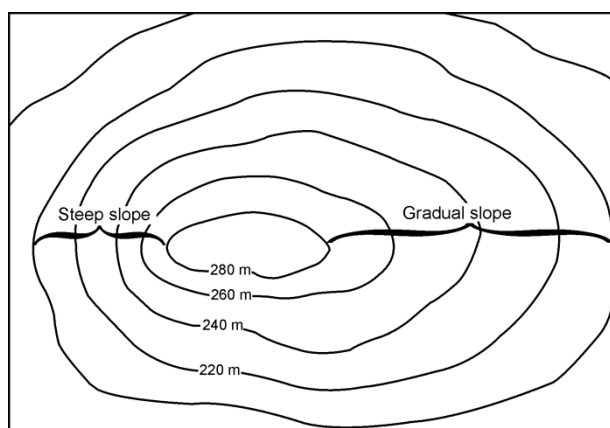
Map and Compass Exercises – Potato Contouring

Introduction

Understanding contour lines and being able to visualise the lay of the land from studying contour lines on a map is a crucial skill in route planning. Underestimating a contour interval or the density of contours can be a dangerous mistake to make and a hard lesson to learn! This fun exercise should assist your Patrol in learning how to read and visualise contours and slopes.

Items Required

- Potatoes (preferably in different and odd shapes)
- Markers or pens
- A ruler
- A knife



Method:

Step 1

Cut each of the potatoes in half. Measure 1cm from the base of the potato at multiple points around the potato and mark these intervals with dots. Join the dots to create your first contour.

Step 2

Repeat this step, measuring the next 1cm interval from your first contour and so on until you reach the top (or summit) of the potato.



Step 3

Trace the outline of the base of the potato on a sheet on paper. Observing the potato from an aerial view, draw each of the contour lines as a 2D depiction of the potato.

Step 4

Discuss the various slopes visible on the potato and on your 2D drawing. If the potato were a mountain, from which side would you attack the summit? From which side would you descend?

