

# Contour Lines

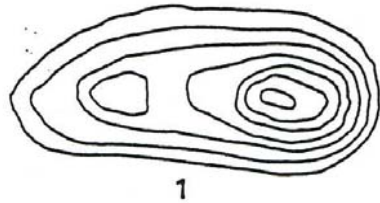
Featured Website of the Month  
TopoZone <http://www.topozone.com/>

## About Contour Lines

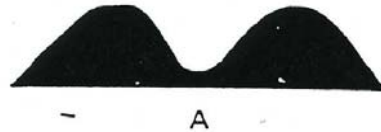
Have you noticed that maps are flat, but the world isn't?!

A topographic map is a two-dimensional model of the three-dimensional world. The sense of three dimensions is portrayed through the use of *contour lines*, which are drawn with brown ink. Each contour line represents a specific elevation above sea level. The vertical difference between adjacent lines is indicated in the margin of a map as that map's *contour interval* - anywhere from 10 feet to 200 feet, depending on the scale of the map and the ruggedness of the terrain.

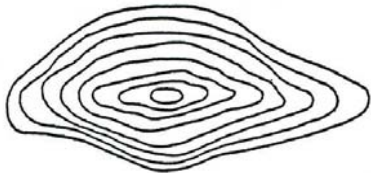
Each contour line forms a loop. Hike a line and, because you will stay at exactly the same elevation, you eventually will return to your starting point. Lines close together indicate steeper areas than regions with contour lines far apart. Maps with few contour lines signify relatively flat territory such as that forming a prairie or wetland.



1



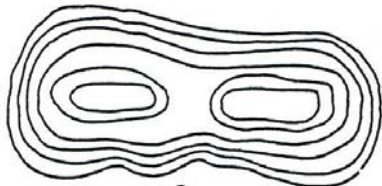
A



2



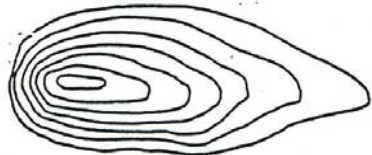
B



3



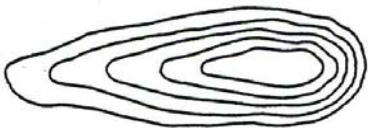
C



4



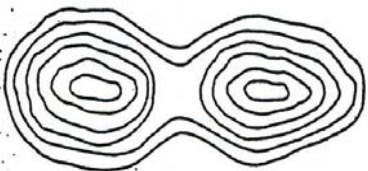
D



5



E



6



F

Can you match the contours on the left with the landshapes on the right?

