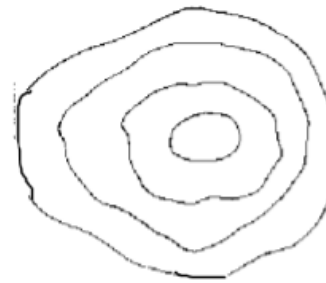


Contour Lines

Relief means how the land is shaped e.g. flat, hilly, plains etc.

Contour lines show the relief. Contour lines show the height of the land above sea level.

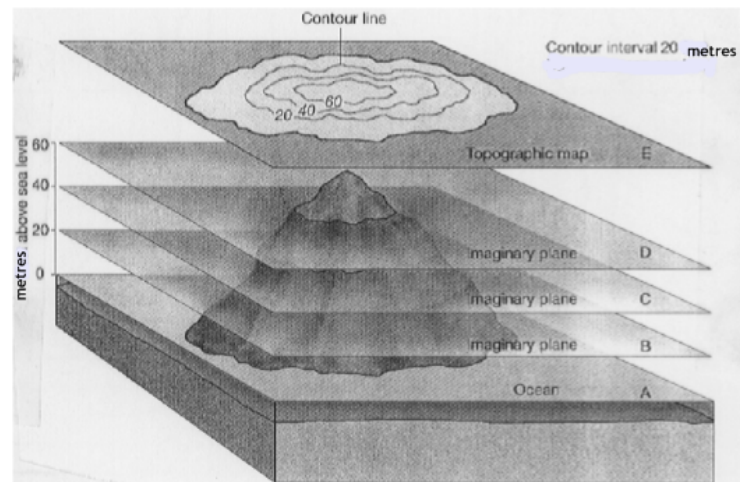
The lines join places of equal height. The diagram below shows how the contours represent the relief of the land



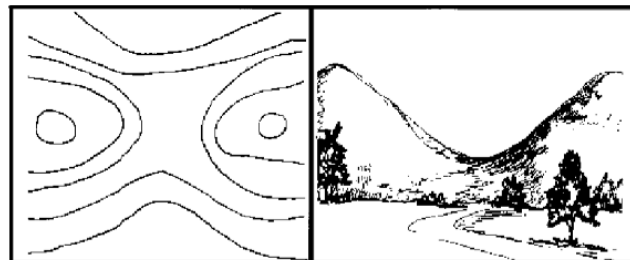
A hill from above



A hill from side on

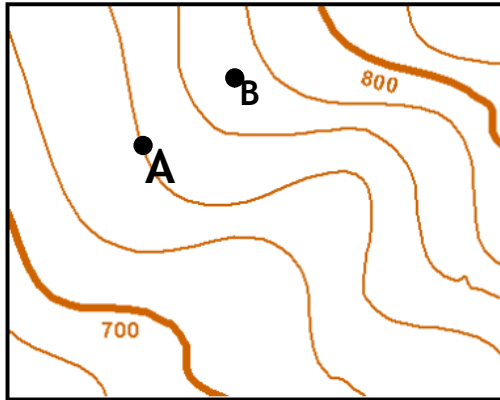


Contour lines go up in metres (either 10m or 20m). The height between each contour line is called 'vertical interval'. The vertical interval of the picture to the left is 20m. They are written on maps in a dark orange colour. When contour lines are close together, it means the land is steep. When contour lines are further apart, it means the land is flatter.



Looking at contours gives you an idea of what the land is like. E.g. the picture to the left shows a saddle.

Answers:
A - 3, B - 5, C - 6, D - 4, E - 1, F - 2

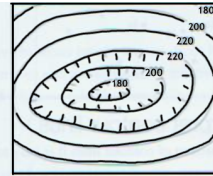
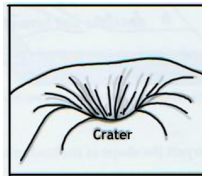


There are often far too many heights to write on a topo map, so the contour lines may appear but only a few of the heights. Using the heights given, you can work out the other contour lines in the diagram on the left.

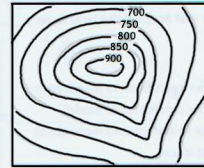
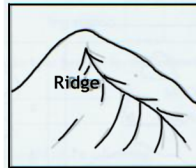
e.g. point A is at 740 metres.

If a point is between 2 contour lines, you can still work out the height.

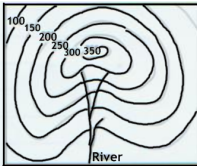
e.g. point B is at 770 metres.



Natural features always look the same in terms of contour lines. E.g. Crater/depression



Ridge



Valley

Can you match up the landform shape with the correct contour lines? The answers on the previous page.

