

Chapter 1 Lesson 4 Notes: Topographic Maps

1. **Topographic Maps:** shows the surface features of an area.
 - a. Viewed from areal perspective (looking down from above).
 - b. **Contour Line:** shows elevation and connects points of equal elevation (measured in feet)
 - c. **Contour Interval:** change in elevation from contour line to contour line is the interval.
 - i. Contour intervals are usually the same in a given map (ex. 20 meters intervals).
 - d. **Index Contour:** every 5th contour line is darker and heavier than the others and is labeled with the elevation in round units.
2. Uses For topographic maps: routing out hiking areas, geologists use to study various landforms.
3. Reading a Topographic Map – you must familiarize yourself with the map's scale, symbols, and interpret the contour lines (see page 30 in textbook).
 - a. Closely spaced contour lines are used for steep slopes.
 - b. Widely spaced contour lines are for gentle slopes or flatter areas.
 - c. Hilltop is represented by a closed loop with no other lines inside of it.
 - d. Contour lines that seem to begin at only 1 side and extend as graduated loops indicate a cliff.
 - e. Closed loop with dashes inside indicate a depression or hollow ground.
 - f. V-shaped contour lines pointing downhill show a ridgeline
 - g. V-shaped contour lines pointing uphill show a valley.