

CONTOUR MAP

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GAIN

OVERVIEW

This activity will show how flat maps can also show the three-dimensional nature of land.

CONNECTION TO CURRICULUM

Geography

GRADE RANGE

4-6

TIME

30 minutes (time is dependent on the complexity of the contour map used)

MATERIALS

- copies of a topographic map
- cut up cardboard pieces (1/4 inch in diameter)
- glue (liquid glue or glue stick)
- scissors

OBJECTIVES

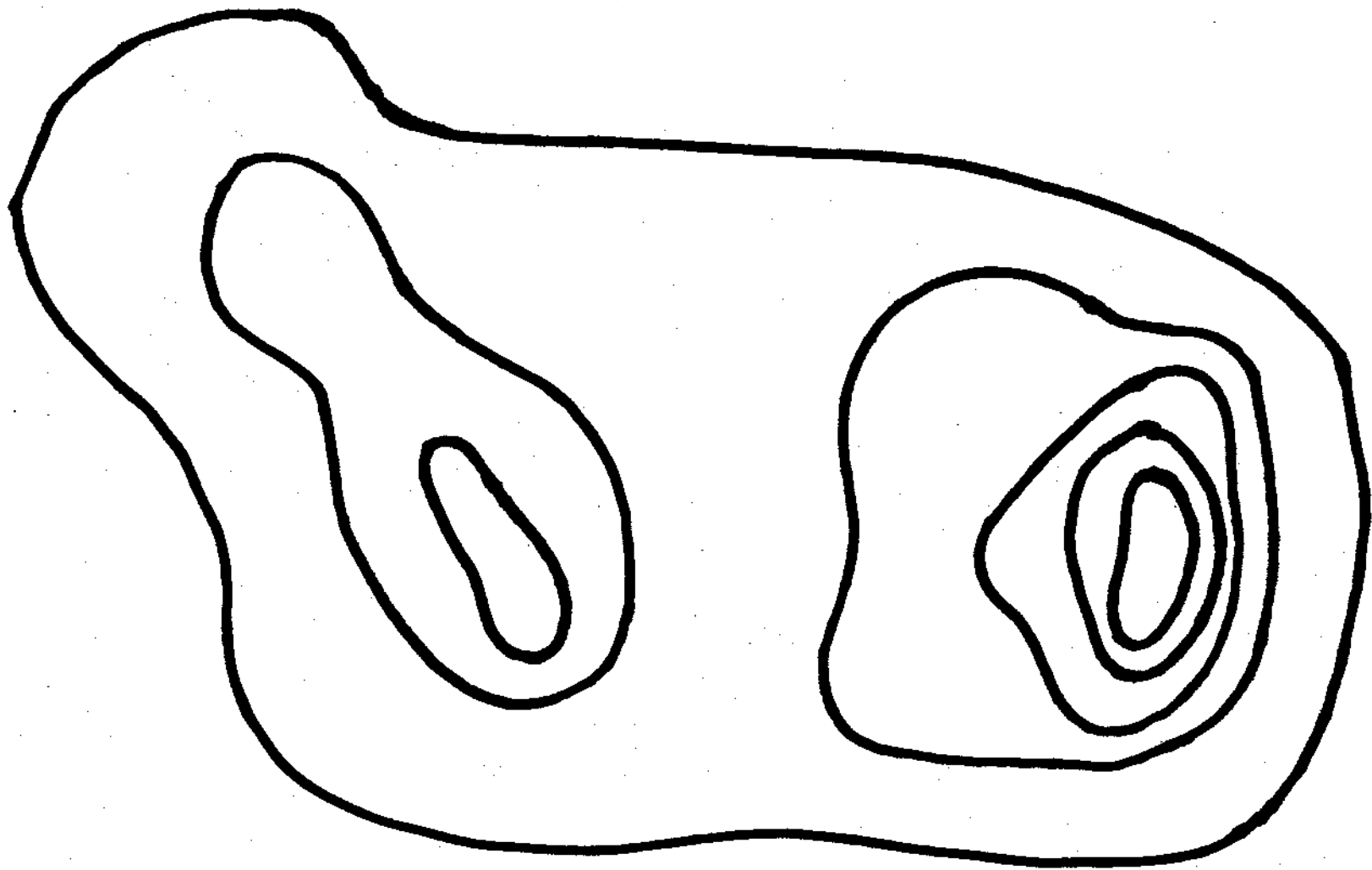
- The students will realize that flat maps represent the three dimensional nature of land.
- The students will be able to identify contour lines.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

1. Students work in groups of no more than six.
2. Copies of the contour map are handed out to each child in the group with 4 or 5 pieces of cardboard.
3. Place an extra copy of the map in the middle of the group.
4. The teacher or the group leader will assign each student a contour line to trace around with a pencil.
5. Ask the students to now cut around the contour line that they have just traced around.
6. Ask the students to glue the small pieces of cardboard to the bottom of their maps.
7. Have the student with the lowest contour lines to glue his/her section onto the map placed in the middle of the table. Each student in succession is to glue his/her section of the map onto the map in the middle of the table.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

The model can be set out in the sun to see how various parts are lit by the sun. Have a vegetation map of the same area. What effect does the sun have on vegetation. What about snow patterns?



Elevation 0'
(in 100' increments)