

Understanding Map Contours

Using the three sheets explain how contours on Ordnance Survey maps are vital to show you how steep a hill is and will therefore help you plan an easier route.

Let the Pack draw their own hills as detailed on the worksheets.

Added Extra: Take it a stage further by cutting out the shapes in corrugated card and sticking them together to make a 3D hill.

Sheet One

You will need to explain how each line represents a 10 metre incline on the area plotted. Do this by saying that if you walked along one of these lines, you would go neither up nor down the hill. If you walk from one line to the other, you will go up or down 10 metres, depending on which way you walk.

Also explain that the further apart the contour lines are, the more gradual the incline is. Lines that are close together represent steep hills. Use the sheet to match the contours on the map to their height if viewed from the ground. Show the Cubs where the steep and gradual hills are. Then give out copies of the sheet for the Cubs to draw the hills from the contour map.

Sheet Two

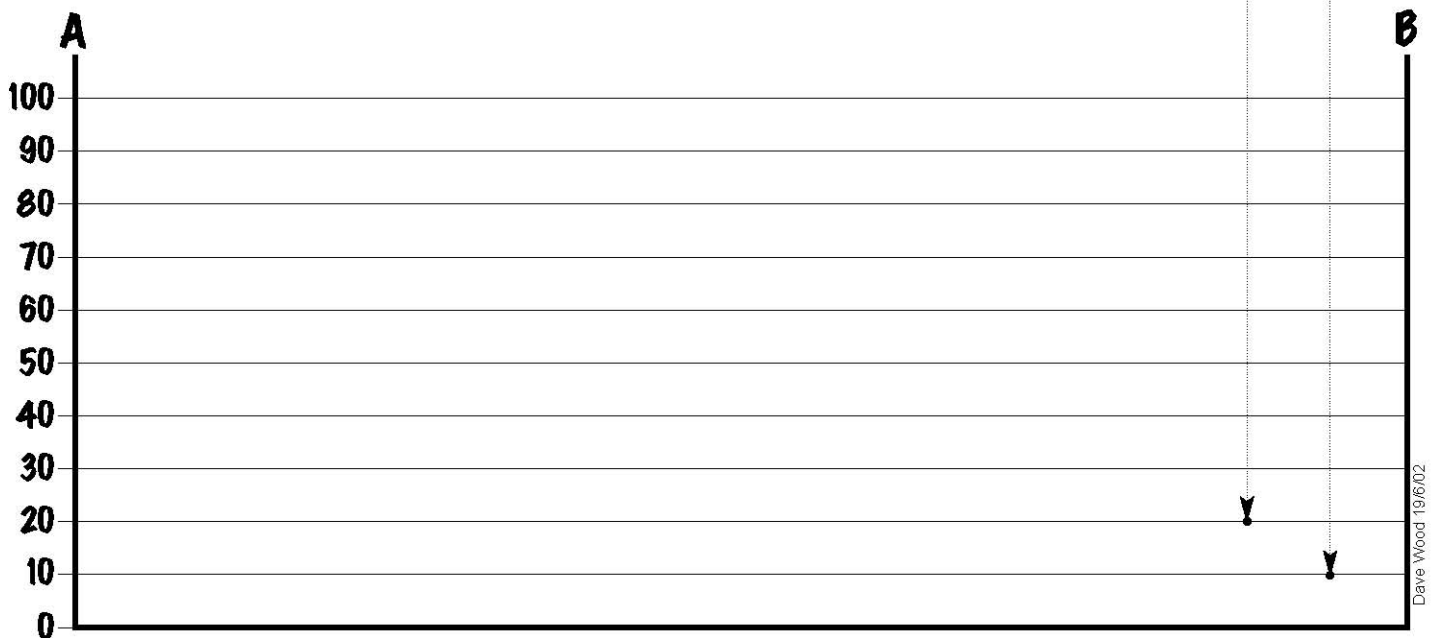
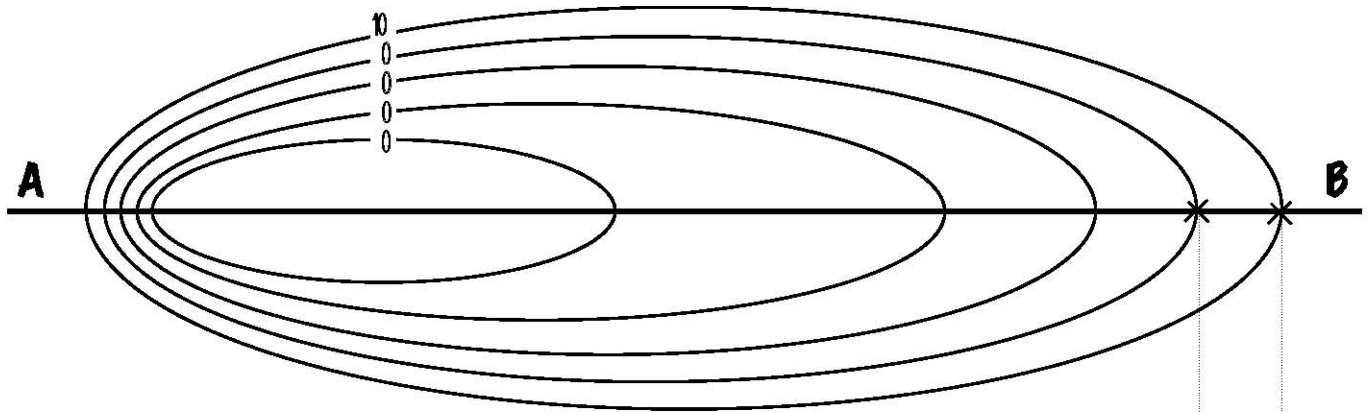
Remind the Cubs of the method of drawing the hills using the contours. Tell them this one is trickier than the last one. Get them to draw the hills on their sheet.

Sheet Three

This sheet allows the Cub Scouts to design their own contour map. Remind them to label the height of their contour lines clearly, so that they don't make mistakes when plotting their cross-section diagrams.

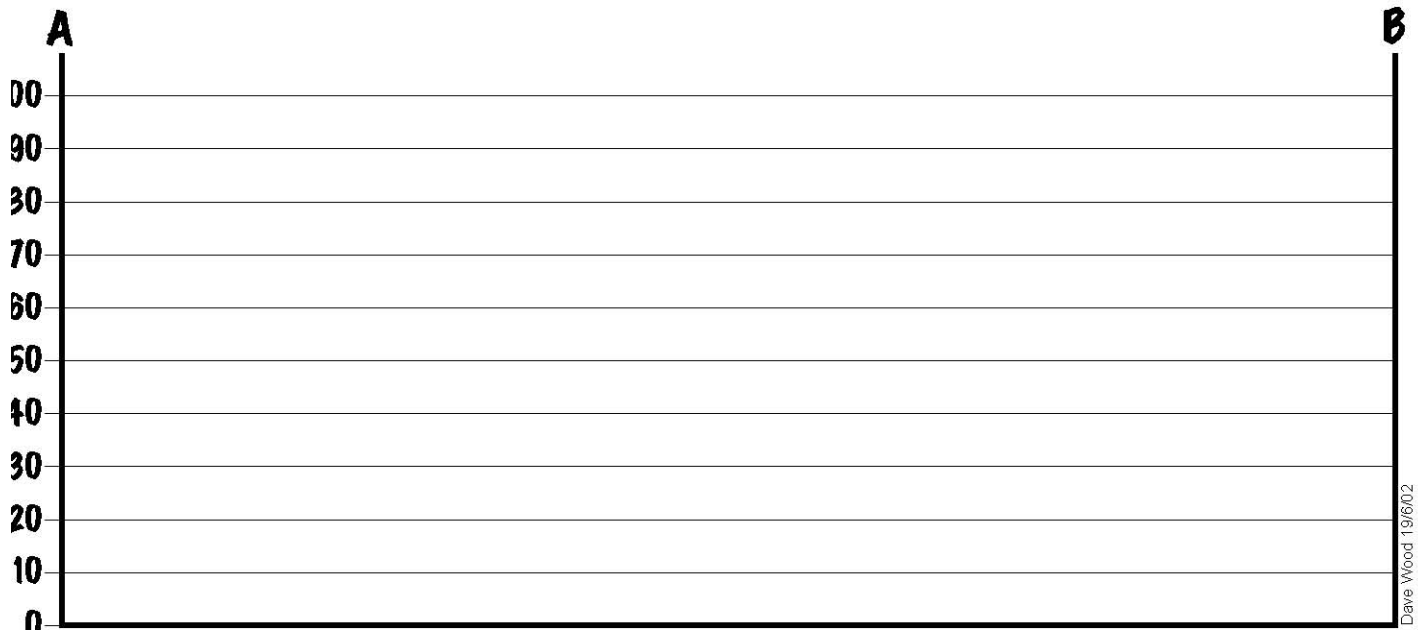
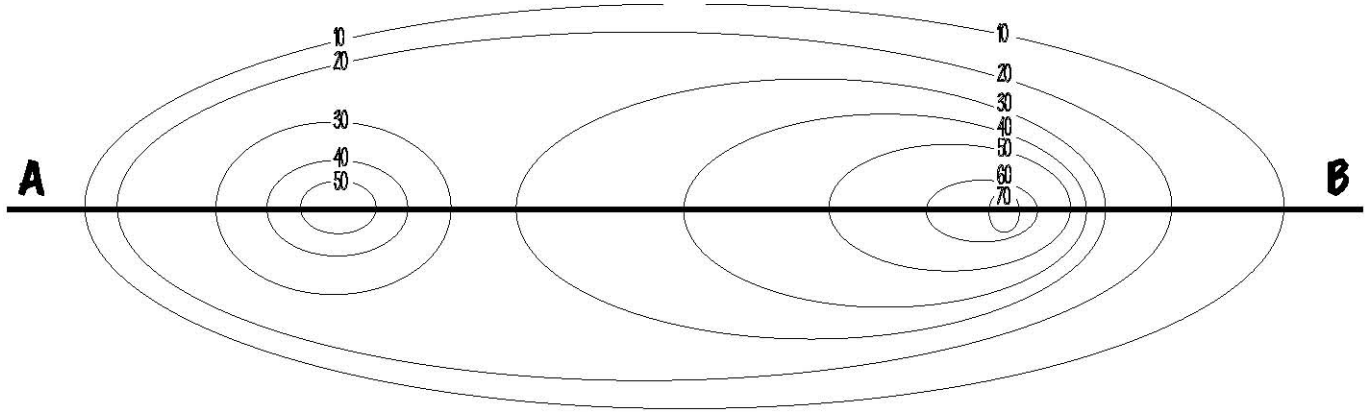
Once they have drawn their contour map, get them to finish off by drawing the hill cross-sections using the same method.

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Now try this one...



Dave Wood 19/6/02

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Draw your own contour map and see what shape hill it makes...

A

B



A

B

100	
90	
80	
70	
60	
50	
40	
30	
20	
10	
0	