**Vocabulary:** **Building Topographic Maps**



**Vocabulary**

* Contour interval – the change in *elevation* between adjacent *contour lines*.
* Contour line – a line connecting points of equal elevation on a map.
* Elevation – the height of a location above a fixed reference point, usually sea level.
* Profile – a side view of a landscape or structure.
* Relief – the elevation difference between the highest and lowest points in a landscape.
	+ To find the relief of a landscape, subtract the lowest elevation from the highest elevation.

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**Topographic map**

* Topographic map – a map that uses contour lines to depict variations in elevation across a landscape.
	+ Contours that form closed curves usually indicate hills or mountains but can also indicate depressions.
	+ Contours that are close together indicate steep slopes, while contour lines that are far apart indicate flatter terrain.
	+ Contour lines in a river valley or stream are often V-shaped, with the point of the V pointing uphill.