Topographic Maps

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| What is a topographic map?  What is a contour line?  What is a contour interval?  How are topographic maps read?  What is the common scale for topographic maps?  How are contour lines interpreted?  What is the use of topographic maps? | Topographic maps show surface features of an area in an aerial view.  Contour lines connect points of equal elevation on a topographic map.  Contour interval is the scale of contour lines.  To read a topographic map, you need to know the scale, symbols, and contour intervals.  US commonly uses the scale 1:24000 (I cm equals 0.24km)  1. To find elevation, count the number of contour lines away from the index contour and multiply by contour interval.  2. Closely spaced contour lines indicate steep slopes, and widely spaced contours lines indicate flat areas.  3. Loops indicate peaks.  4. V-shapes indicate ridges or valleys.  1. Engineers/architects use topographic maps when designing buildings or planning cities.  2. Regular people use topographic maps to plan recreation. |

Summary: What information can be learned from topographic maps?