Model a Map

Procedure

1. **Compare** A topographic map has contour lines. These lines connect points that have the same elevation, which is distance above sea level. Study the topographic map of a hill.

2. **Use Models** Add clay to the pan and make a model of the hill. Refer to the picture and the map.

3. **Measure** With a pencil, mark contour lines on the model hill. Use the topographic map as a guide. Then use a plastic knife or dental floss to slice the hill in layers along the lines. Set each layer aside.

4. **Communicate** Place the largest layer on a sheet of paper and trace around the edges. Then trace the other layers to create a topographic map. Sketch your model and copy your topographic map in the space below.
Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions.

1. **Compare** How are the sliced layers of your model like the contour lines in the map?

2. **Use Models** Look at the topographic map. Where is the steepest slope? Where is the flattest plain?

3. **Infer** How are topographic maps useful? When might you use such a map?

**Investigate More!**

**Design an Experiment** Use clay to model another landform. Cut and trace its layers to make a topographic map.