



Model a Map

Procedure

- 1. Compare** A topographic map has contour lines. These lines connect points that have the same elevation, which is the distance above sea level. Study the topographic map of a hill shown in your book on page 15.
- 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.

Conclusion

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

Name _____ Date _____

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?

Design an Experiment

Guided Inquiry

Use clay to model another landform. Try a valley, an island, or a gentle slope. Cut and trace its layers to make a topographic map.