Period: ____

Mapping the Earth Notes

What is a map?	Label the compass directions:		

What does latitude measure?	
What is the name of the 0° latitude line? Where is 90° north latitude? Where is 90° south latitude?	
What does longitude measure?	
What are longitude lines called?	the other states
What is the name of the 0° longitude line?	
Are longitude lines parallel to each other?	

What is a **topographic map**?

What do contour lines show?

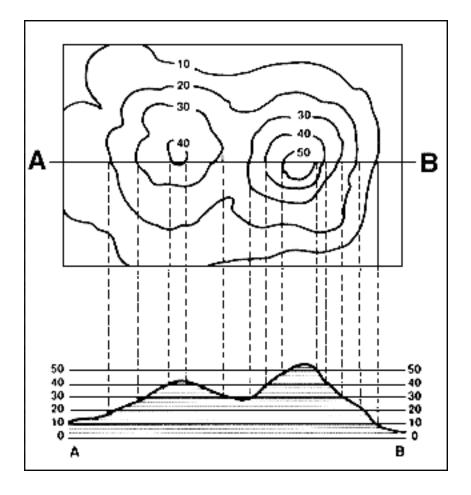
What is a contour interval?

Rules for Reading and Drawing Contour Lines:				
Rule #1	Picture(s) or diagram(s):			
Rule #2	Picture(s) or diagram(s):			
Rule #3	Picture(s) or diagram(s):			
Rule #4	Picture(s) or diagram(s):			



Activity Sheet #4–How to Read a Topographic Map

One special kind of map is called a **topographic map**. It has contour lines to show the shape and elevation of the land. They are sometimes called "level lines" because they show points that are at the same level. Here's how contour lines work:



The top of this drawing is a contour map showing the hills that are illustrated at the bottom.

On this map, the vertical distance between each contour line is 10 feet.

1. Which is higher, hill A or hill B?

2. Which is steeper, hill A or hill B?_____

3. How many feet of elevation are there between contour lines?

4. How high is hill A?.	 Hill B?

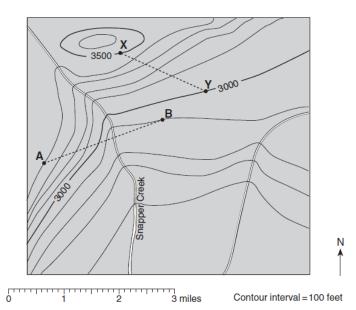
5. Are the contour lines closer together on hill A or hill B?

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Topographic Map Reading Worksheet

Period _____ Date _____

Use the following topographic map to answer questions 1-8.



1. What is the elevation at point A? _____

2. What is the elevation at point B? _____

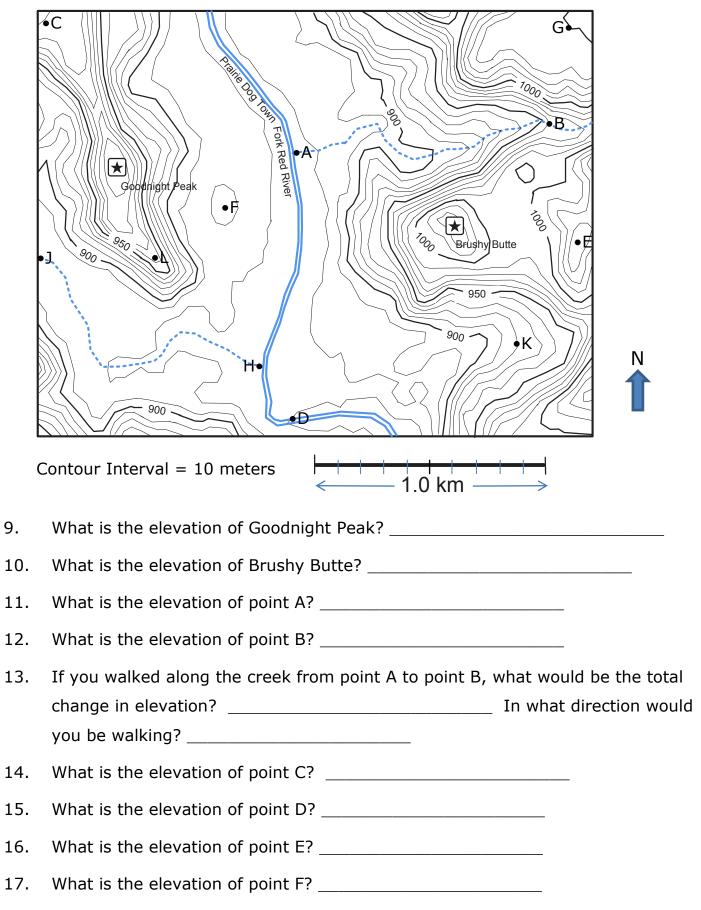
- 3. What is the elevation at the point on line A-B where it crosses Snapper Creek?
- 4. If you walked from point A to point B along line A-B, would you be walking downhill or uphill, or both? In what direction would you be walking? Explain your answer, stating the elevations at point A, Snapper Creek and point B.

5. What is the elevation of the highest point shown on the map? _____

6. What is the elevation at point X? _____

7. What is the elevation at point Y? _____

 If you walked from point X to point Y along line X-Y, would you be walking downhill or uphill, or both? In what direction would you be walking? Explain your answer, stating the elevations at point X and point Y. Use the following topographic map from Palo Duro Canyon State Park in west Texas to answer questions 9 - 33.



18. What is the elevation of point G? _____

19. What is the elevation of point H? _____

20. What is the elevation of point J? ______

- 21. If you walked along the creek from point H to point J, what would be the total change in elevation? ______ In what direction would you be walking? ______
- 22. What is the lowest labeled point on the map? _____

23. What is the highest labeled point on the map? _____

- 24. In what direction is the river at the center of the map flowing?
- 25. Put a small star on the map where the slope is the steepest.
- 26. Put a small triangle on the map where the slope is the flattest.
- 27. Is point K in a valley or a ridge? _____

28. Is point L in a valley or a ridge? _____

- 29. What is the distance from point A to point F, to the nearest tenth of a kilometer?
- 30. What is the distance from point H to point D, to the nearest tenth of a kilometer? _____
- 31. What is the distance from point B to point E, to the nearest tenth of a kilometer? _____
- 32. What is the distance from Goodnight Peak to point L, to the nearest tenth of a kilometer?
- 33. If you could travel in time and visit the park shown on the map 100,000 years in the future, what changes do you think will have taken place to the elevations of Goodnight Peak and Brushy Butte? Explain your answer.