

# Topographic Map Basics

Earth Science

Mr. Traeger

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose**

The purpose of this activity is to become acquainted with the basic concepts of topographic maps.

**Materials**

- pencil
- Pasadena Topographic Map
- Metric Ruler
- Key to Topographic Map Symbols (page 697 in your textbook)
- Chapter 3 in your textbook.
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**Part A: Introduction to Topographic Maps**

Use the Pasadena Topographic Map to answer the following.

1. Find your house on the map. What is the approximate latitude and longitude of your house?	What is the elevation of your house in feet?

2. Find La Cañada High School on the map. What is the approximate latitude and longitude of the school?	What is the elevation of the school in feet?

3. What is topography?	I want to fly my airplane over La Cañada and wave hello to you. Tell me the elevation of the highest topography in feet so that I don't crash my plane?

4. What is the definition of scale?	What is the scale on this map?	What is bigger? The scale on this map or the scale on the classroom globe?

5. What are all the squiggly brown lines on the map?	If the brown lines are close together, what does this mean?	If the brown lines are far apart, what does this mean?

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6. What are the blue lines or circles on the map?	What is the name of the largest blue line on the map?

7. What is the contour interval for this map?	What does contour interval mean?

8. In what direction does the 210 freeway run?	In what direction does the 134 freeway run?	In what direction does the 2 freeway run?

9. What <i>type</i> of highway is the 210?	What <i>type</i> of highway is the 134?	What <i>type</i> of highway is the 2?

10. What does the green shading on the map indicate?

11. What is the length of Foothill Blvd. from the corner of Oak Grove near the High School to the end of the map in La Crescenta? State your answer in miles and kilometers.

12. What is the average slope from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to the Rose Bowl? Just tell me if it appears to be a steep slope or a gentle slope.

13. What is the average slope from Gould Mesa Campground to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory? Just tell me if it is a steep slope or a gentle slope.

14. Which of the slopes in numbers 12 and 13 are steeper? Do your contour lines verify this?

**Bonus Question**

You walk 30 Km due north, 30 Km due east, and 30 Km due south. You find that you arrive at the same place where you started from. Where are you? (1° of latitude = 111 Km = 69 miles)