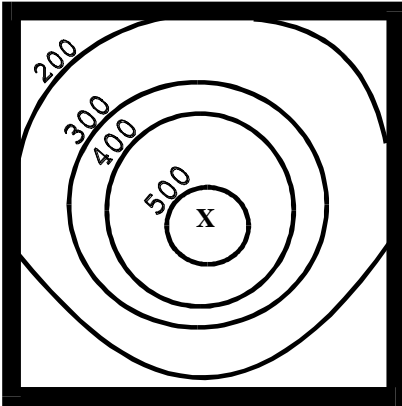


Topic: Field Maps and Isolines

Aim: What are some landscape features illustrated by contour line patterns?

1.



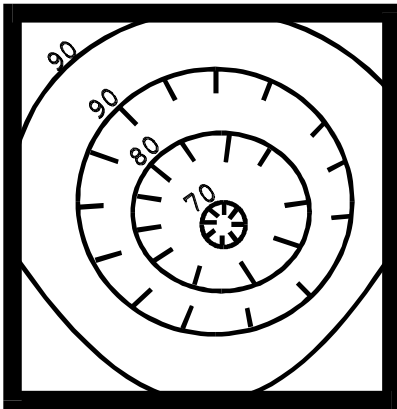
HILL OR MOUNTAIN

Cutoff Point: If < 500 meters – hill; if ≥ 500 – mountain

The highest possible elevation is always one less than the next line to be drawn in the interval.

Example: in the map to the left, the next line to be drawn in the interval is 600 m. That means the highest possible elevation of the mountain is 599 m. (point X can be anything from 501-599m)

2.

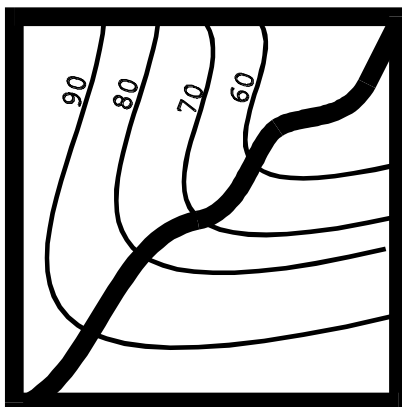


DEPRESSION (HOLE)

Hachure marks (tick marks on contour lines) indicate a decrease in elevation.

“Rule of Hachures” - the first line of hachures has the same elevation as the last contour line drawn.

3.



RIVER

Rivers always flow from high to low elevations.

The river to the left is flowing to the northeast because the elevations decrease in that direction.

** Contour lines bend upstream** - if elevation numbers are not present, look at the pattern of contour lines. Contour lines make a “V” shape and the open part of the “V” points downhill.