Potato Mountain
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Adapted from Penn State Potato Mountain Lesson Plan

Challenge: How do maps show different elevations?

Materials:
Using Topographic Maps Worksheet
Potato
Knife

Today you will be using a knife to construct a potato mountain. It is important to follow all safety precautions.
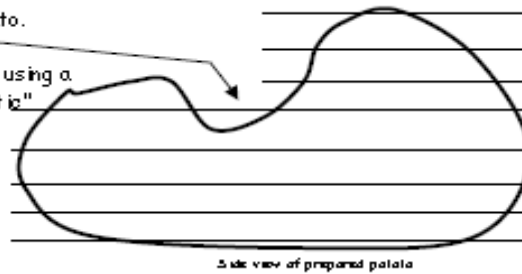
Procedure:
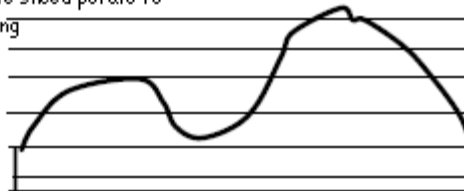
Read and Complete the Using Topographic Maps Worksheets

1. Carve a "valley" into a potato.

2. Slice the potato into layers using a food processor, "veg-o-matic" or a sharp knife.

Side view of prepared potato

3. Use only the top half of the sliced potato to represent two hills of varying heights with a valley in the middle.

4. In your notebook draw a topographic isomap to represent Potato Mountain.

Analysis Questions:

1. What do lines placed close together on a topographic isomap indicate?
2. Draw a map with a hill that has elevations 25 ft, 40 ft and 45 ft. A second hill is 25 ft, 50 ft and 60 ft. The valley in between the two hills is 0 ft, 10 ft, 15 ft and 25 ft.