

How to Make a Landscape Profile

1. Print the example topographic map on p. 2 of this document.
2. Draw a straight line through the center of your topographic map.
3. Place the bottom of a blank piece of paper along the line you have drawn.
4. On your blank paper, make a tic mark wherever a contour line on the map touches the edge of your paper. (Remember that the index contours have underlined elevations.) Write the elevation of the contours next to each of your tic marks.
5. Once you are certain you have all of the tic marks and elevations, remove your paper from the map. Using a ruler, draw a light horizontal line every $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the top of the paper. Label the elevation of the first horizontal line as "100 feet", the second as "150 feet", and the third as "200 feet". Continue labeling to the top of the page, increasing the elevation for each line by 50 feet.
6. Plot your contour line elevations by making a dot on the appropriate horizontal line above each tic mark (i.e. make a dot on the "100 feet" elevation line for the first contour line on the left.). Continue working to the right across your page, making a dot above each tic mark at the appropriate elevation.
7. Connect the dots and you will have a profile of the landscape. What kind of landscape did you create?

