

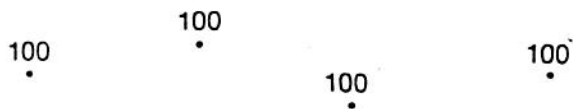
Geolab 9

SPOT HEIGHTS AND CONTOURS

A single dot is the simplest method of showing elevation above sea level on a map. This dot has the elevation printed beside it. The dot is known as a spot height.

Contours are lines on a map that join places of the same elevation above sea level. They are better than spot heights for showing elevations. Contours are also form lines because they show the form or shape of the land surface.

Four spot heights are shown below, each having an elevation of 100 m above sea level.

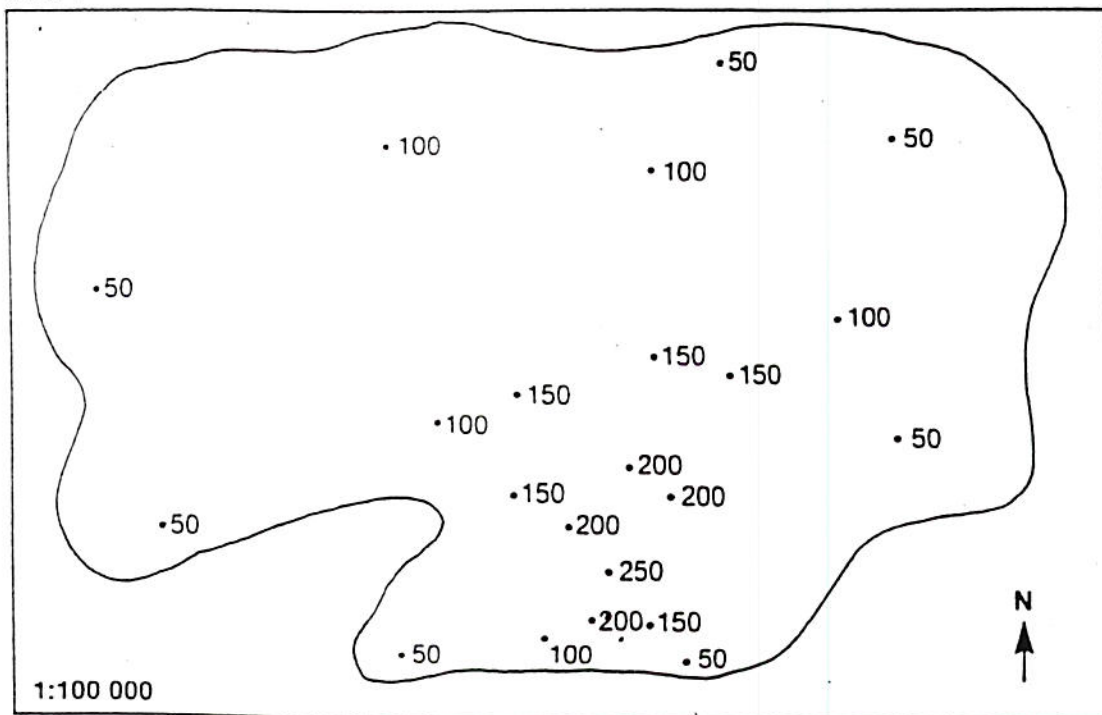


A contour line is shown below joining the four spot heights. The elevation at any position on this contour line is 100 m above sea level.



When drawing contours on a map keep the following guidelines in mind.

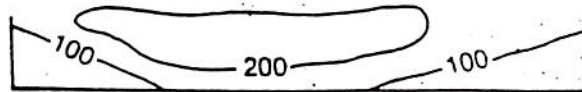
Map 1



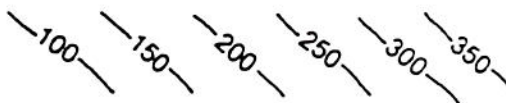
1. A contour line joins places of the same elevation above sea level.
2. Contours never cross or touch other contour lines, except when they show a vertical slope.



3. Contours never end except at the edge of the map or by joining up with themselves.



4. A standard contour interval is always used. This means that there is an equal height interval between contour lines.



5. The elevation above sea level of some contours on a map must be shown.

The previous diagram shows how a contour line is labelled.

Geolab 9 - Exercise

Using a blank sheet of paper trace Map 1.

1. Study the spot heights on Map 1 carefully. Draw in the contours. Use a contour interval of 50 m. This means that you will draw the 50, 100, 150, and 200 m contour lines.