

# Chapter 7

## Mapping

Review Book  
Pages 17-32

# MAP PROJECTIONS

3 Main Types:

CYLINDRICAL



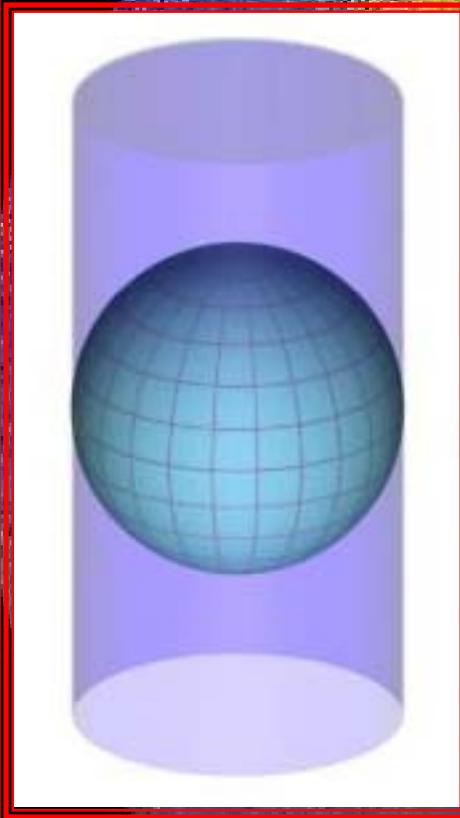
PLANAR



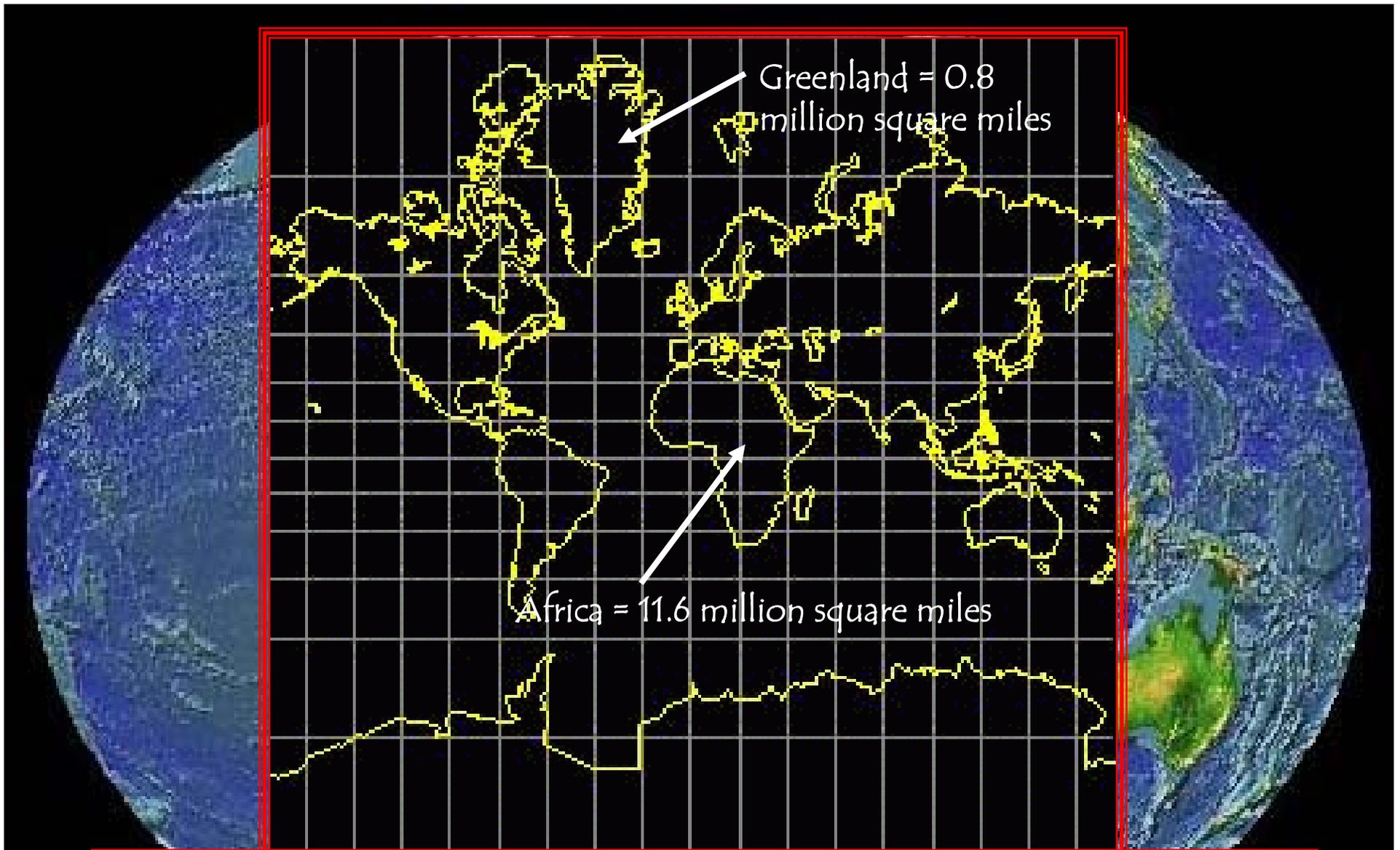
CONIC



# Map Projections



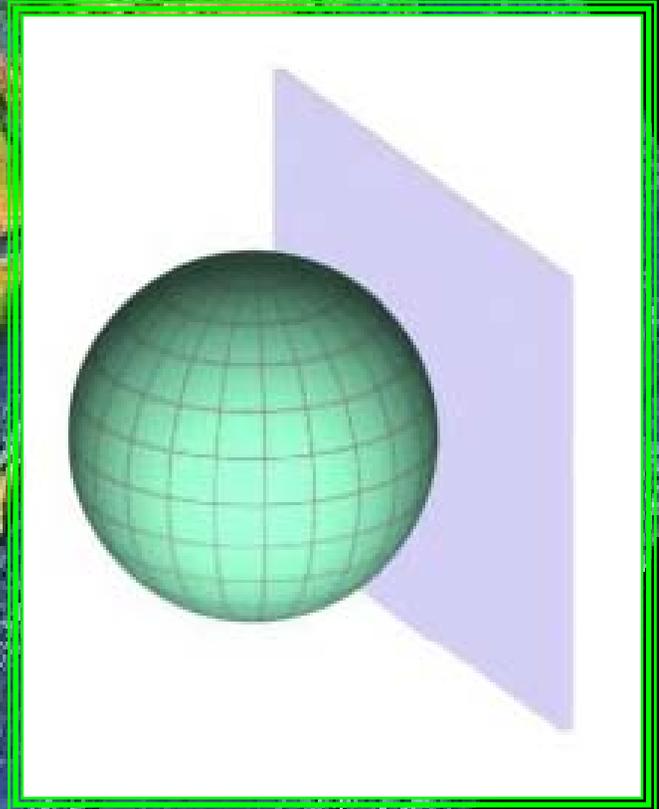
- **1) Mercator** – Made as if a cylinder was placed around the Earth and a light was put on inside the sphere and projected out onto the paper.
- Shows the entire world on one continuous map (CYLINDRICAL Projection)
- Major problem is that the higher latitudes are very distorted (stretched out)
- This is why Greenland appears to be larger than the U.S. on most classroom maps...



**A mercator map shows Greenland & Africa as the same size! Antarctica is also bigger than all the continents put together! This type of map is HIGHLY DISTORTED!**

# Map Projections

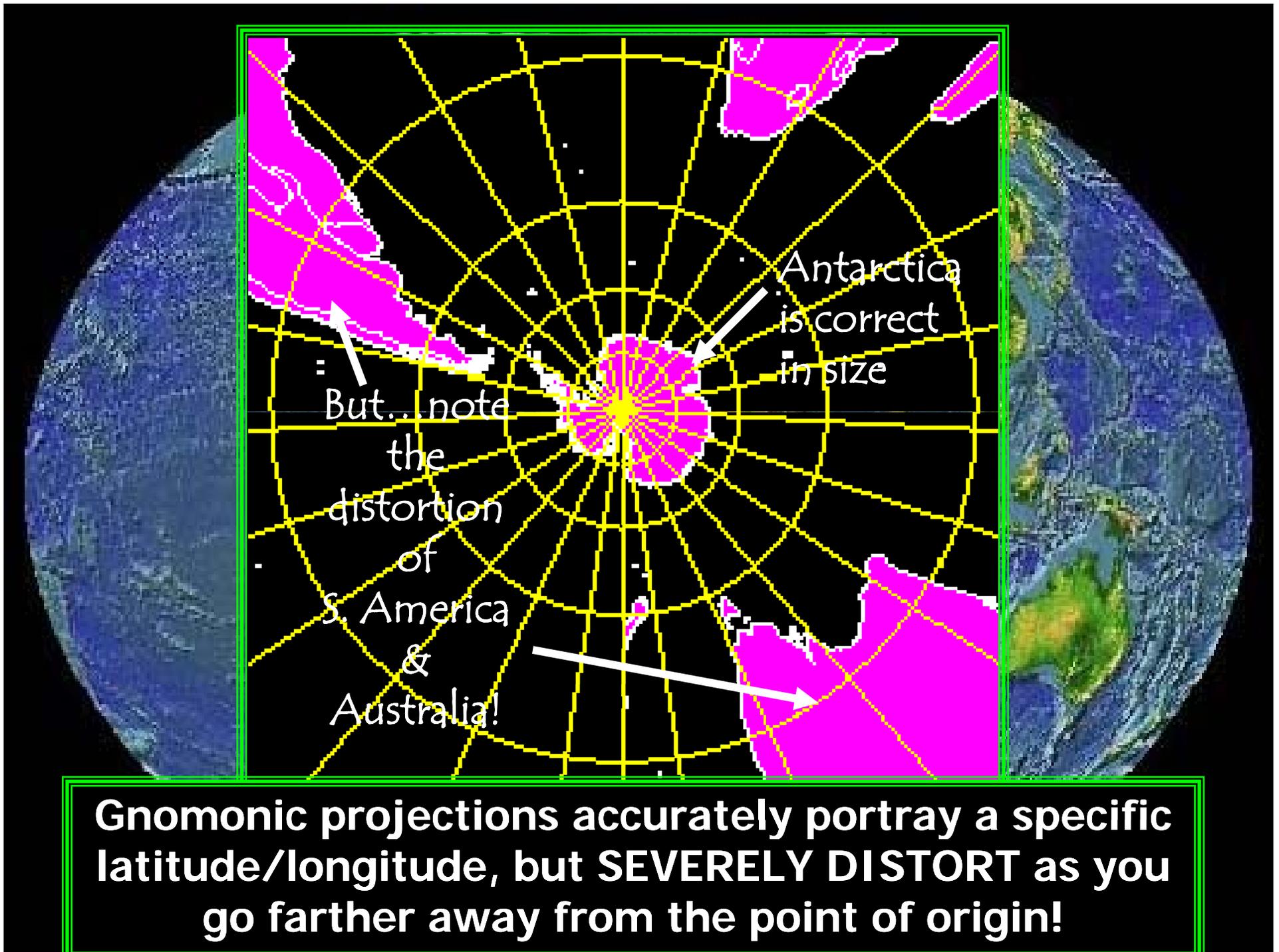
- **Gnomonic** - Made as if the Earth's surface was projected onto a square sheet of paper that was only touching one point on Earth's surface. (PLANAR projection)
- It can show the shortest route between two points (great circle route), but distances and directions are *distorted*.

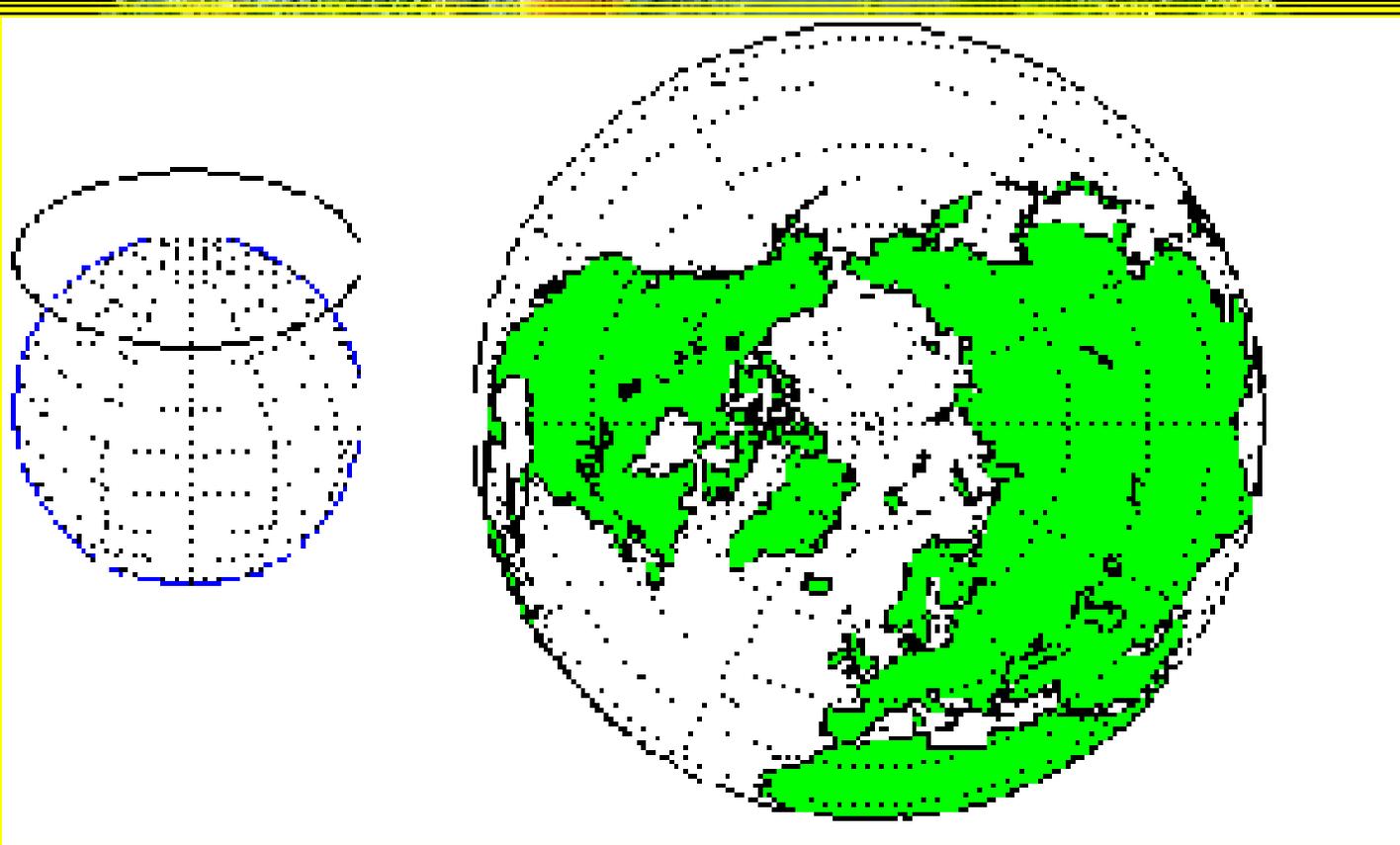


# Map Projections

- **Azimuthal** – Also a Planar map projection
- Less distortion than **Gnomonic** due to *curved* map area (not square)
- Distortion also increases further from origin point







**Note that the Northern Hemisphere Continents  
are relatively proportional.**

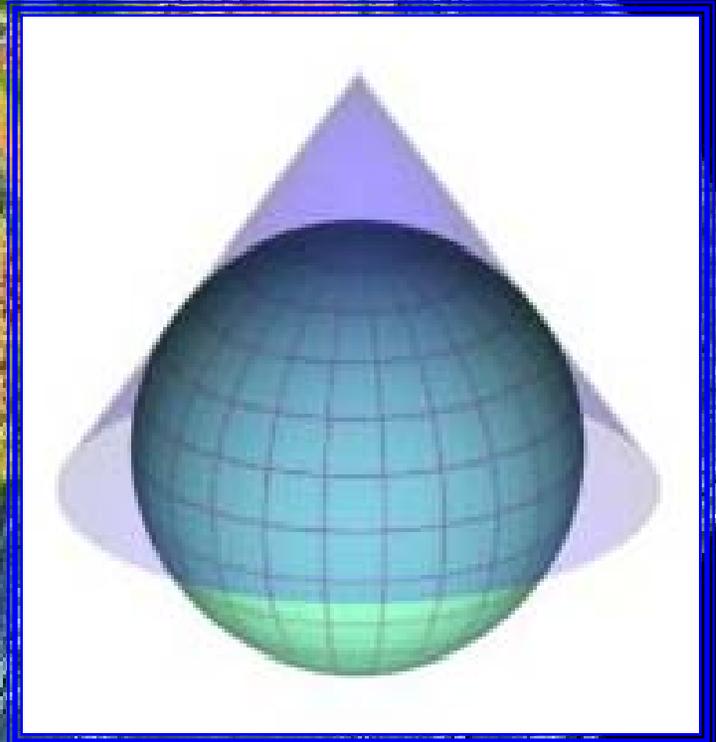
**Distortion occurs near the Equator.**

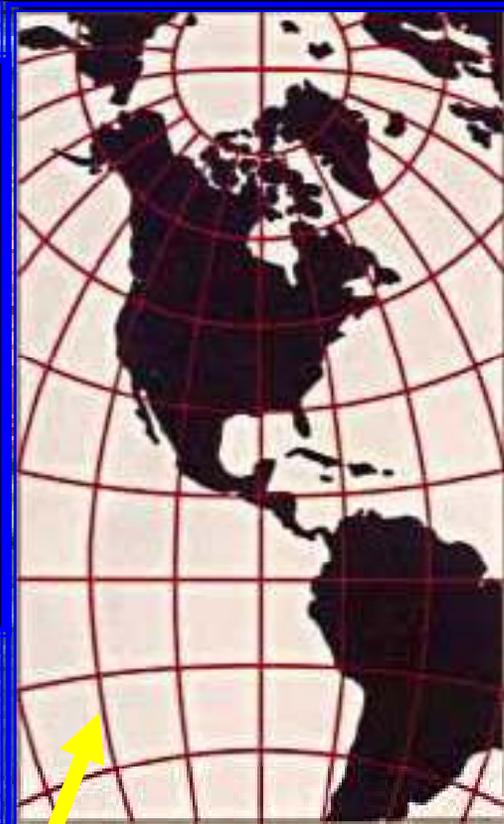
# Map Projections

- \* **Conic** - used to show small geographic areas. (CONICAL Projection)

- \* *Nearly* distortion free.

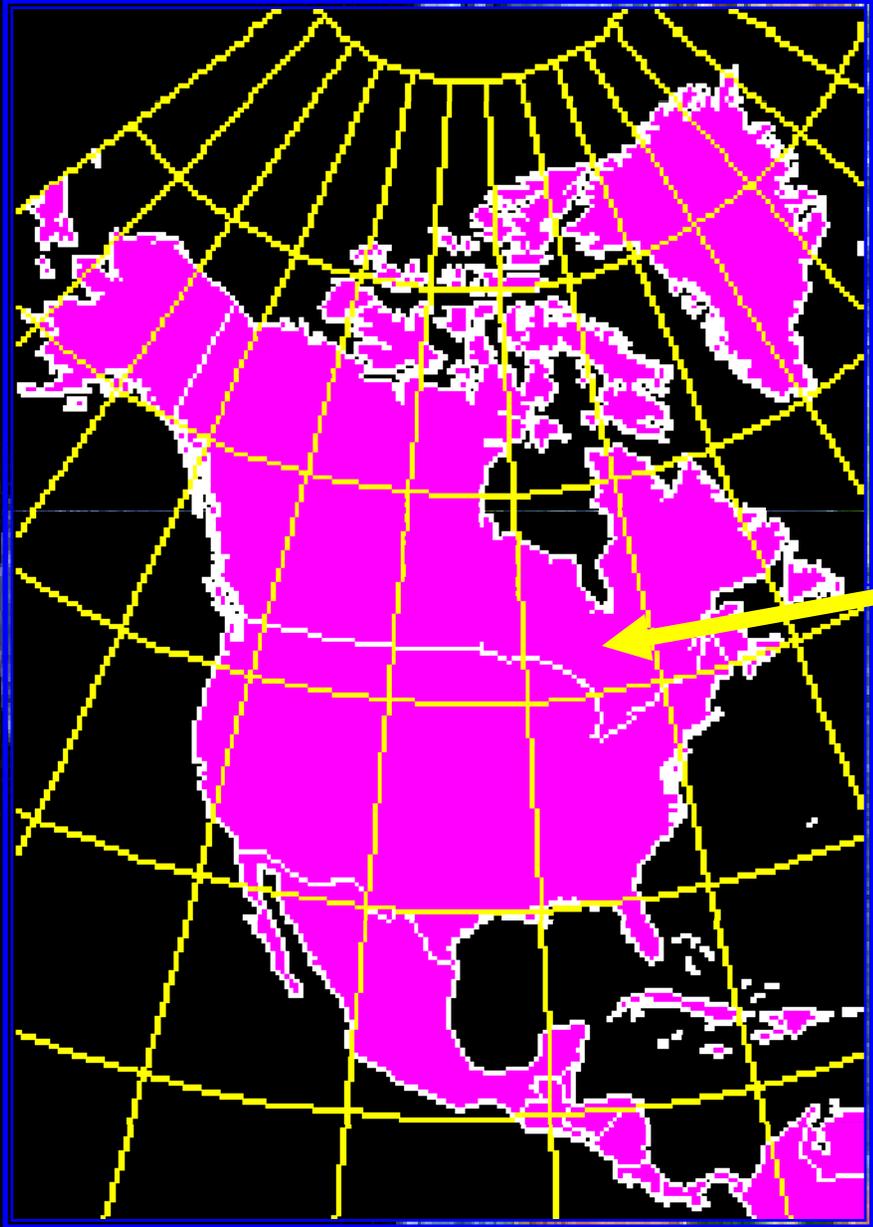
- \* Used to make **topographic maps** (our next topic).





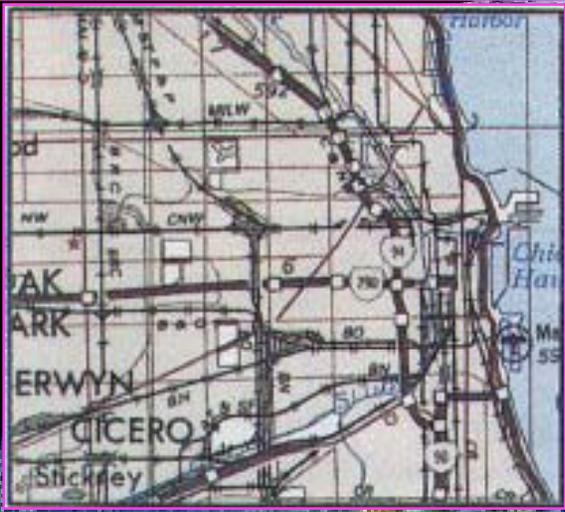
**POLYCONIC**  
maps are  
perfectly  
proportioned  
for BOTH  
hemispheres.

**Conic maps**  
show areas  
in true  
proportion!  
N. America  
is perfectly  
represented



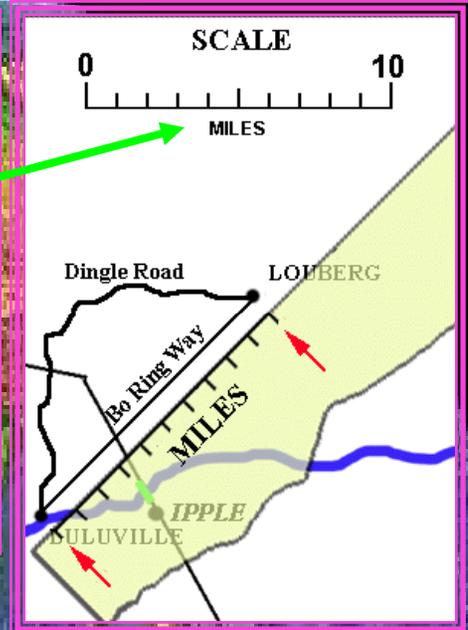
# Map Scale

- the distance represented on the map compared to the actual real-life distance
- the **ratio** of distance on the map to distance on Earth
- Map scales may be represented in three ways:
  - **Verbally**- example: "1 centimeter equals 10 kilometers".
  - **Graphically**- usually a line divided into equal parts, with each part being a certain unit of length (kilometers, miles, etc.).
  - **Numerically**- usually shown by writing a fraction or ratio to show what part of real distances the map distances are. Example:  $1/62500$  or  $1:62500$ , which means 1 unit on the map is equal to 62,500 units of real distance.



The Bar at the top indicates how long each mile is on the map

GRAPHIC SCALE



1:250,000 scale  
(one inch = about 4 miles)

NUMERICAL SCALE



Conversion is written at top

VERBAL SCALE

# Latitude and Longitude

- Latitude is the distance in degrees ( $0^{\circ}$  -  $90^{\circ}$ ) north and south of the equator ( $0^{\circ}$ ).
- Lines of latitude are called **parallels**.
  - imaginary lines that circle the world from east to west parallel to the equator.
- One degree of latitude on land is equal to 111.3 km (69.2 miles).

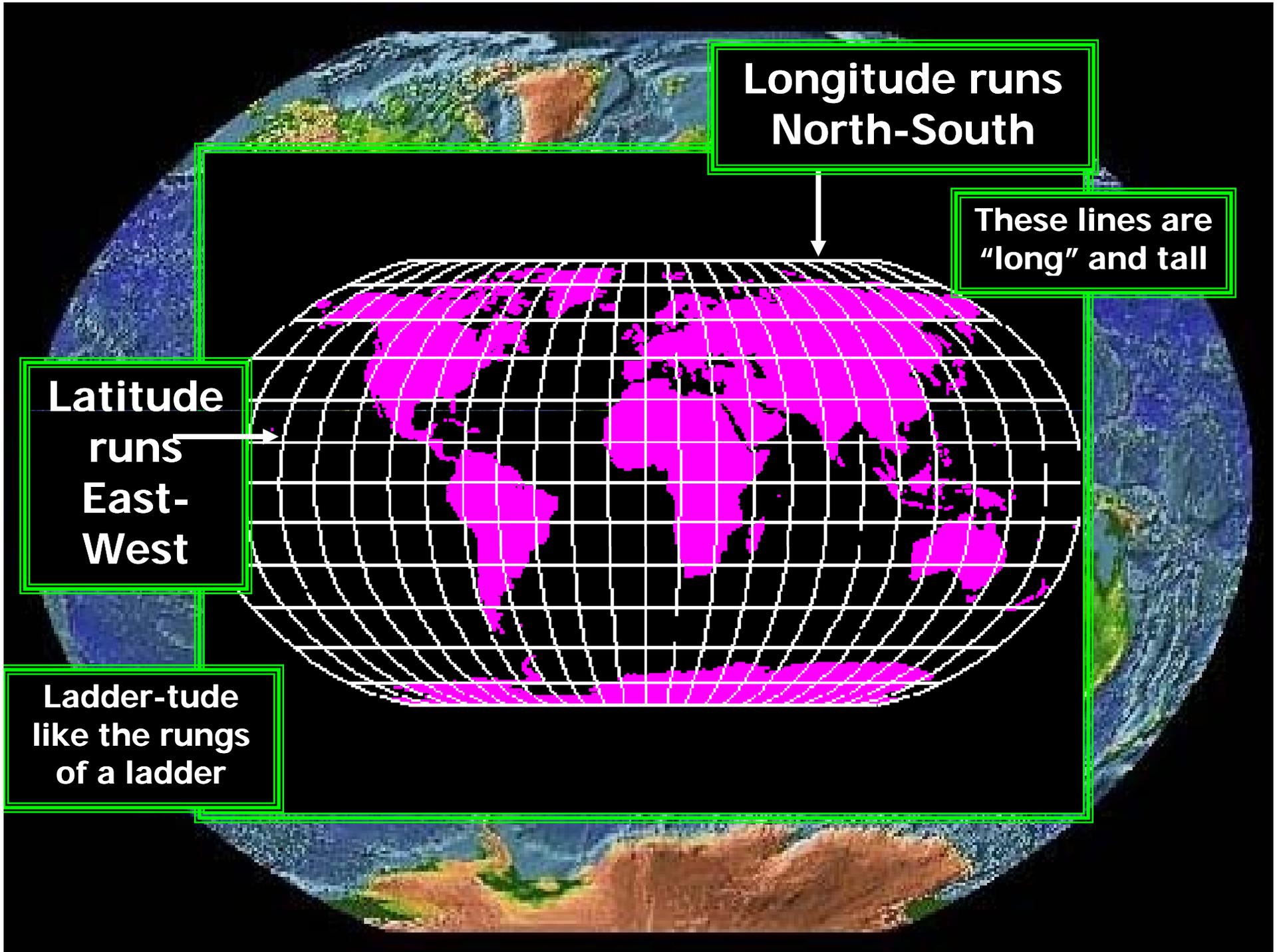
- Longitude is the distance in degrees ( $0^{\circ}$  -  $180^{\circ}$ ) east and west of the prime meridian ( $0^{\circ}$ ).
- Lines of longitude are called **meridians**.
  - imaginary lines that form half-circles and run between the North and South Poles.

**Longitude runs  
North-South**

**These lines are  
"long" and tall**

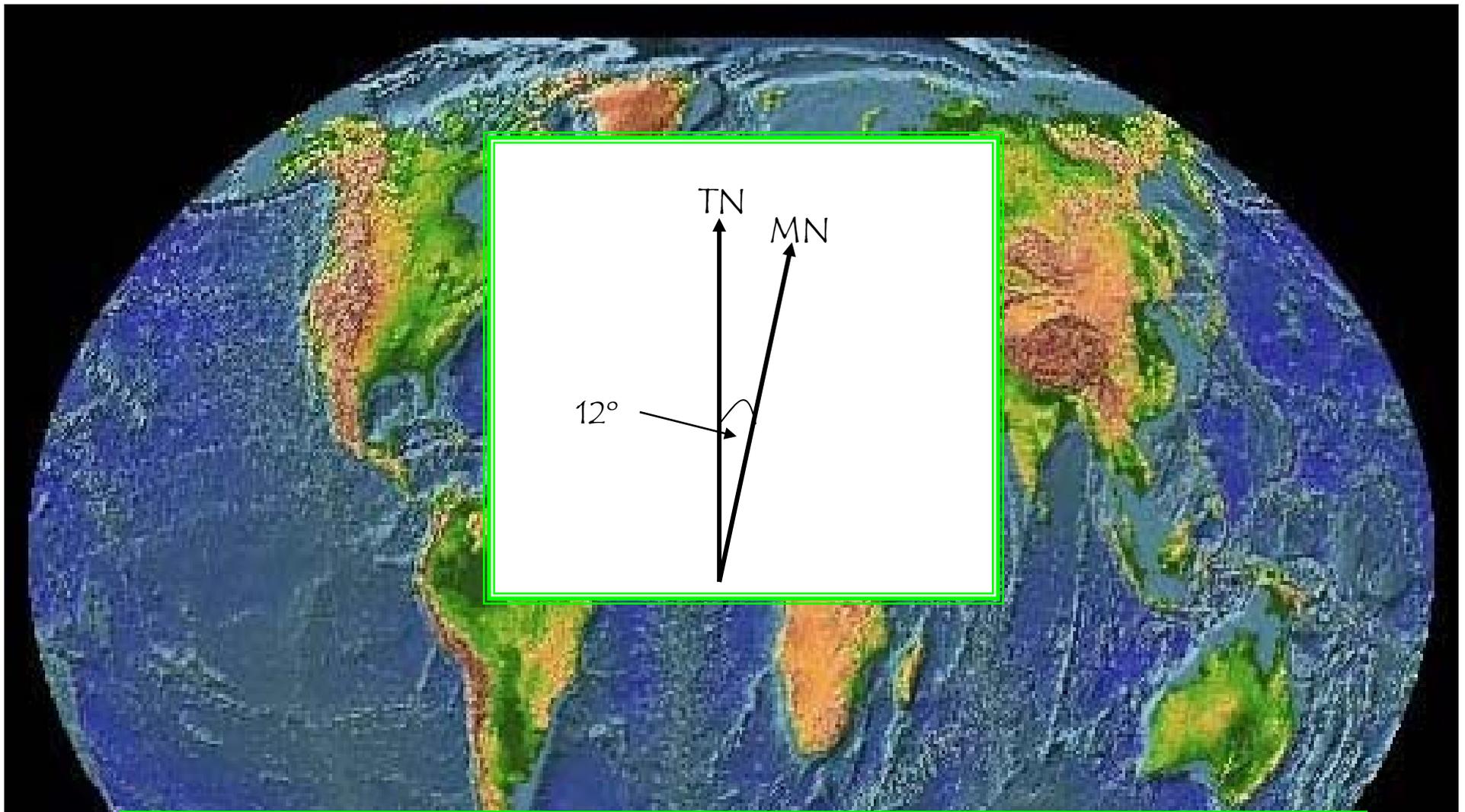
**Latitude  
runs  
East-  
West**

**Ladder-tude  
like the rungs  
of a ladder**

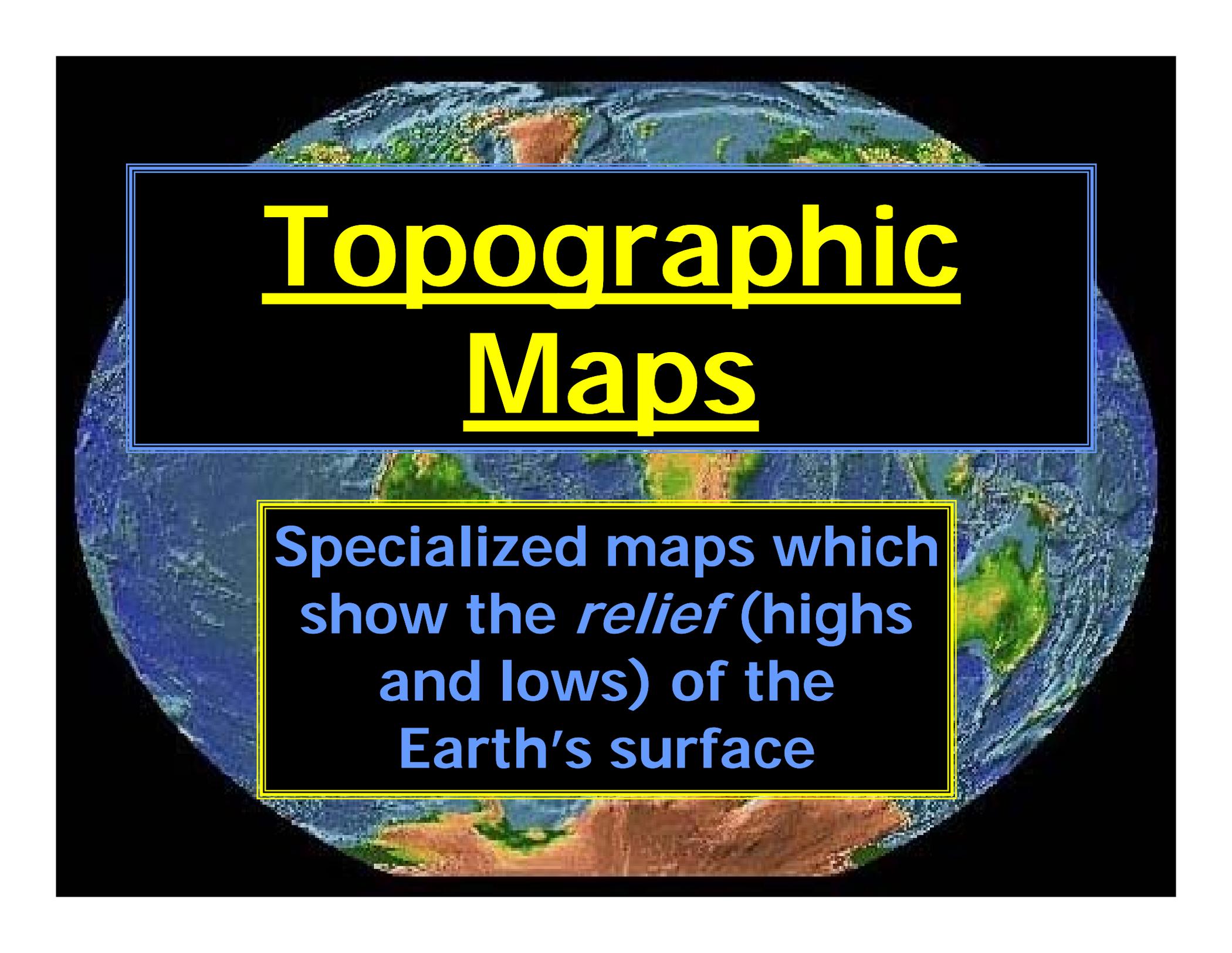


# Magnetic Declination

- **True North** - a line from any point on the Earth's surface that runs to the *true* north pole (the north point of Earth's axis of rotation). All lines of longitude are true north lines.
- **Magnetic North** - the direction from any point on Earth to the *magnetic* north pole, as indicated by the north-seeking needle of a magnetic instrument.
- **Declination** - the angular difference between true north and magnetic north.



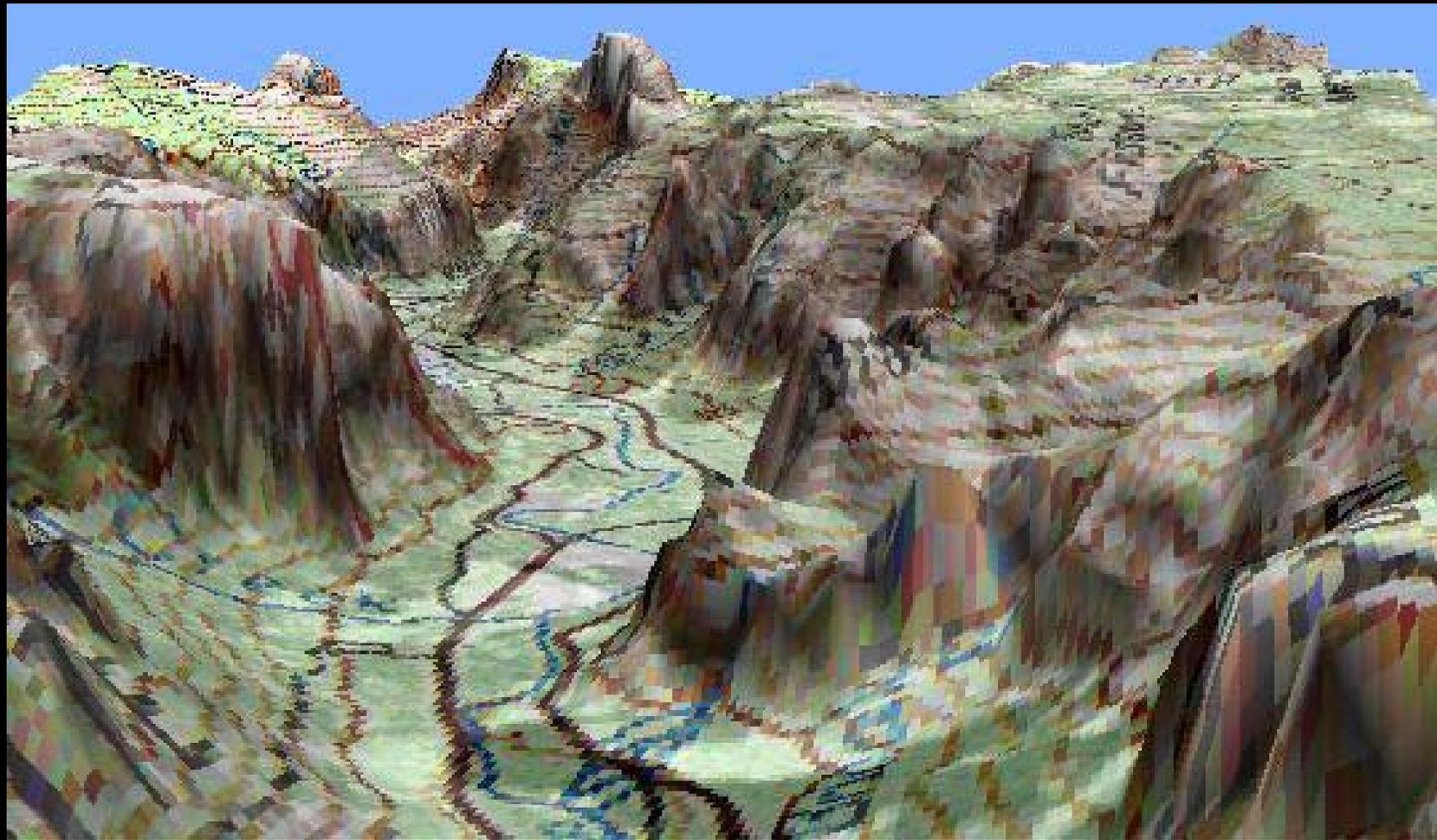
**True North & Magnetic North are different because of Earth's shifting Magnetic Fields! In NYS the magnetic declination is approximately 12 degrees west of True North**

A satellite-style image of Earth showing topographic relief, with a central text box. The image shows the Earth's surface with various elevations and colors representing different terrain types. A large, dark blue rectangular box with a yellow border is centered on the image, containing the title "Topographic Maps" in yellow text. Below the title, a smaller, dark blue rectangular box with a yellow border contains a definition of topographic maps in light blue text.

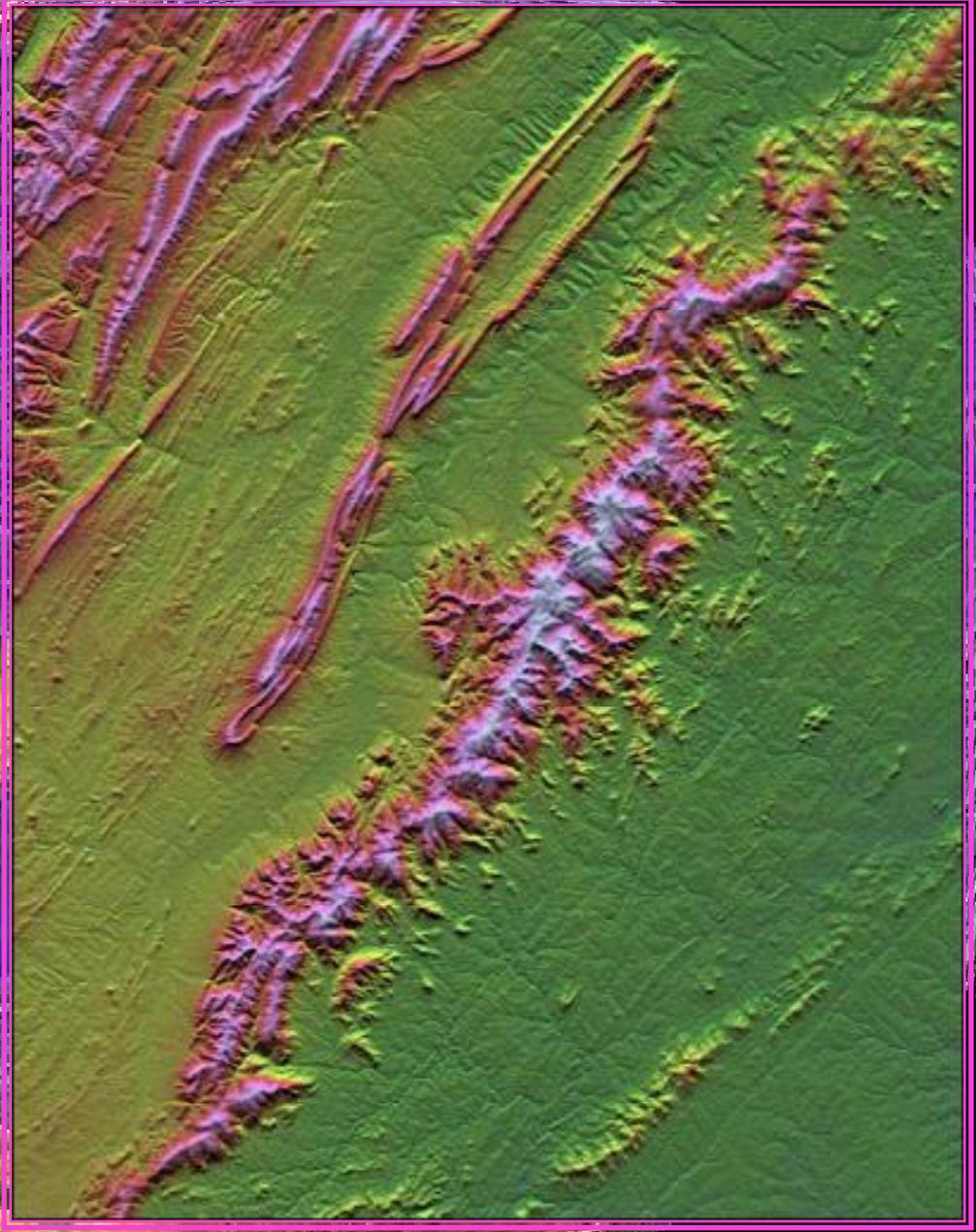
# Topographic Maps

Specialized maps which show the *relief* (highs and lows) of the Earth's surface

# Computer Generated 3-D Topographic Map!



**Topographic  
Satellite  
Image –  
different  
colors show  
different  
elevations**

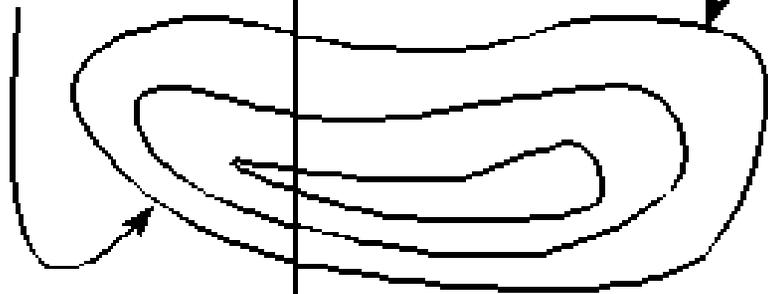


# Topo map parts...

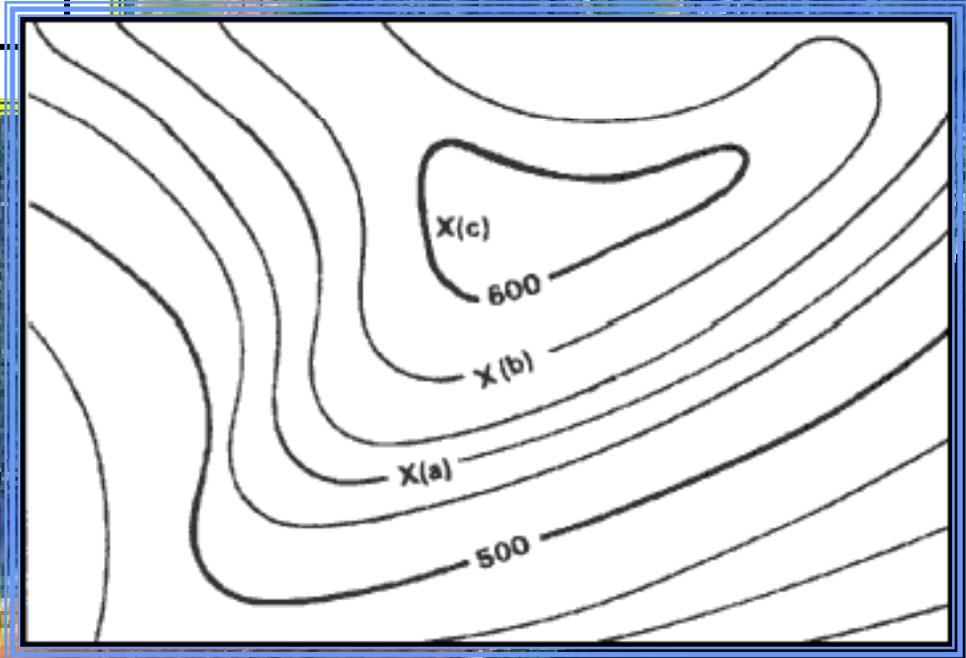
- relief is shown with *isodines* (*iso = same*) called **contour lines**
  - connect points of the same elevation above sea level
  - show the shape of the 3-D land on a 2-D map!
- difference in elevation between two consecutive contour lines is called the **contour interval**
- An **index contour** has its elevation noted (written) on it

These lines  
go off of  
the page

Isolines



Map outline



# Topo map parts...

- A **benchmark** is a point where the actual (true) elevation is known
  - A benchmark is shown on the map by the letters BM and its elevation next to it (ex. BM1078). This means that that point's true elevation is 1,078 feet above sea level



# Topo map parts...

**Benchmarks  
may  
sometimes be  
seen in their  
locations.  
They were set  
by USGS  
surveyors and  
look like this**



# Topo map parts...



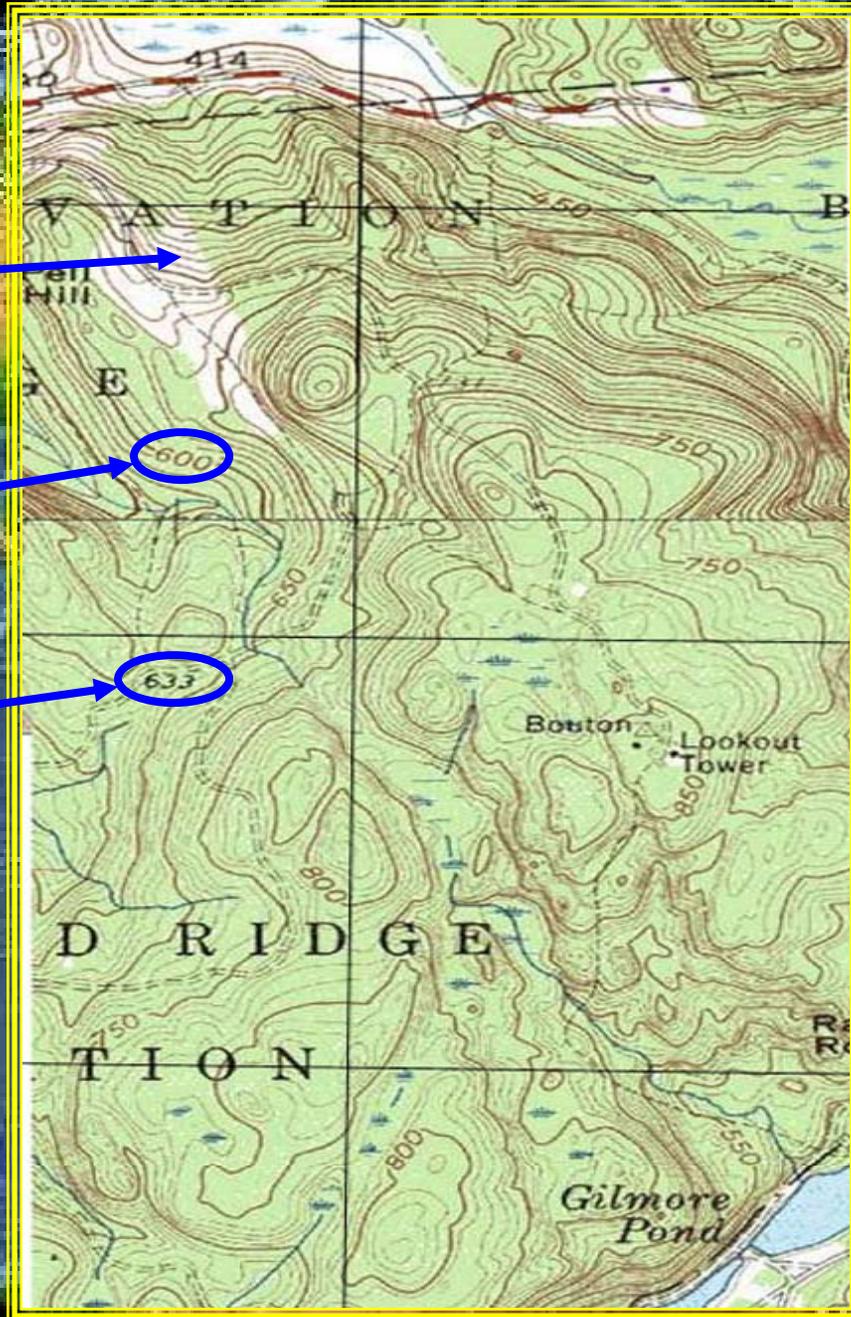
# Topo map parts...

- **Depression contours** show where the elevation decreases (a hole, volcano crater, etc.)
  - When reading the depression contour, the elevation of the first one is the same elevation of the “regular” contour line before it. The next one decreases the same amount as the contour interval.

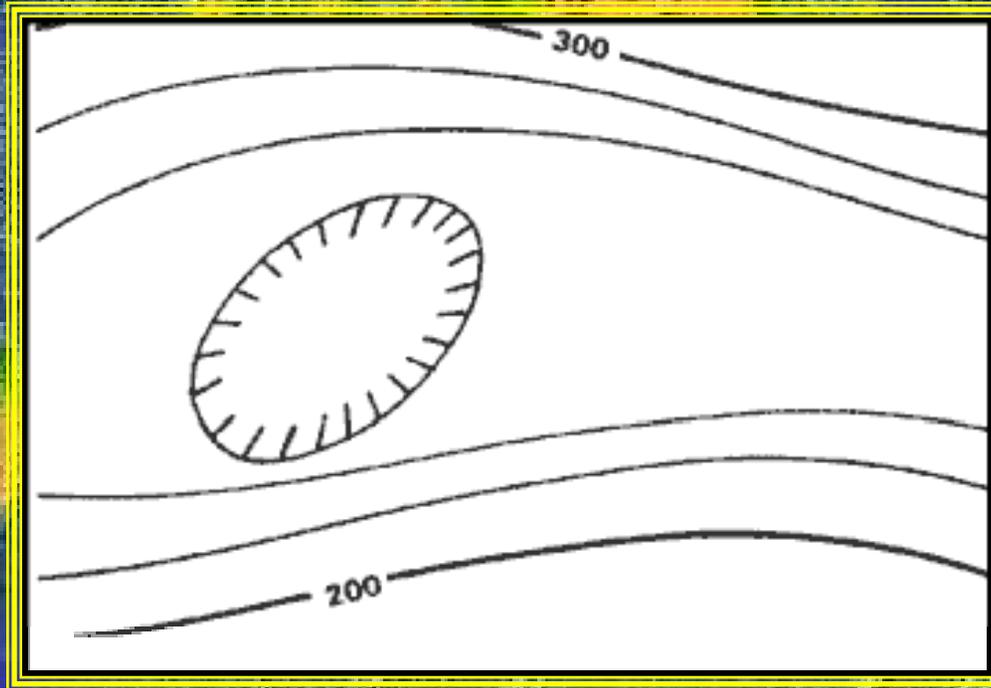
**Contour lines**

**Index contour**

**Benchmark**

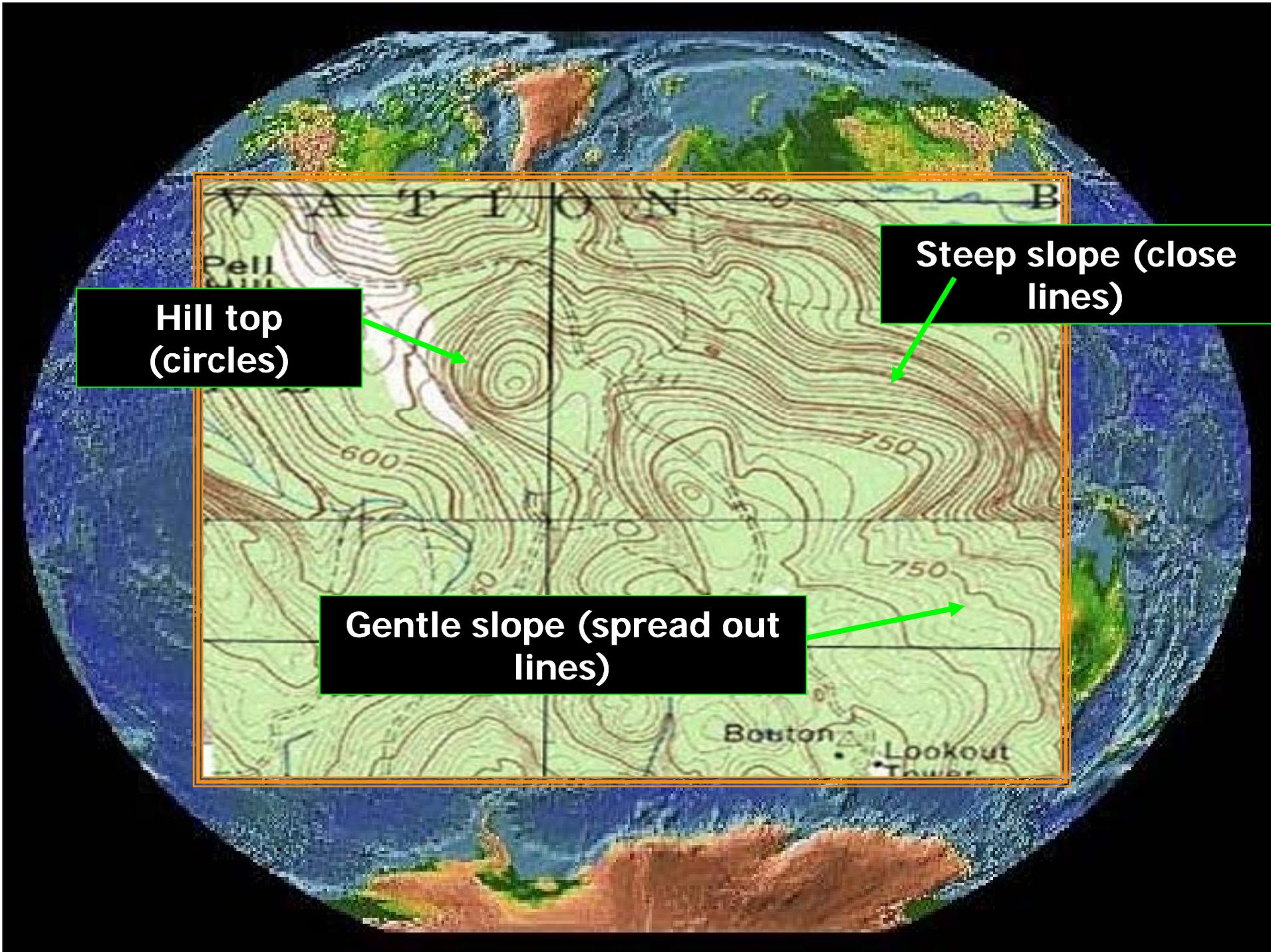


**Depression contours are shown with dashed lines inside of the contour line circles (the ends of the dashes point to lower ground)**



# Landforms on Contour Maps

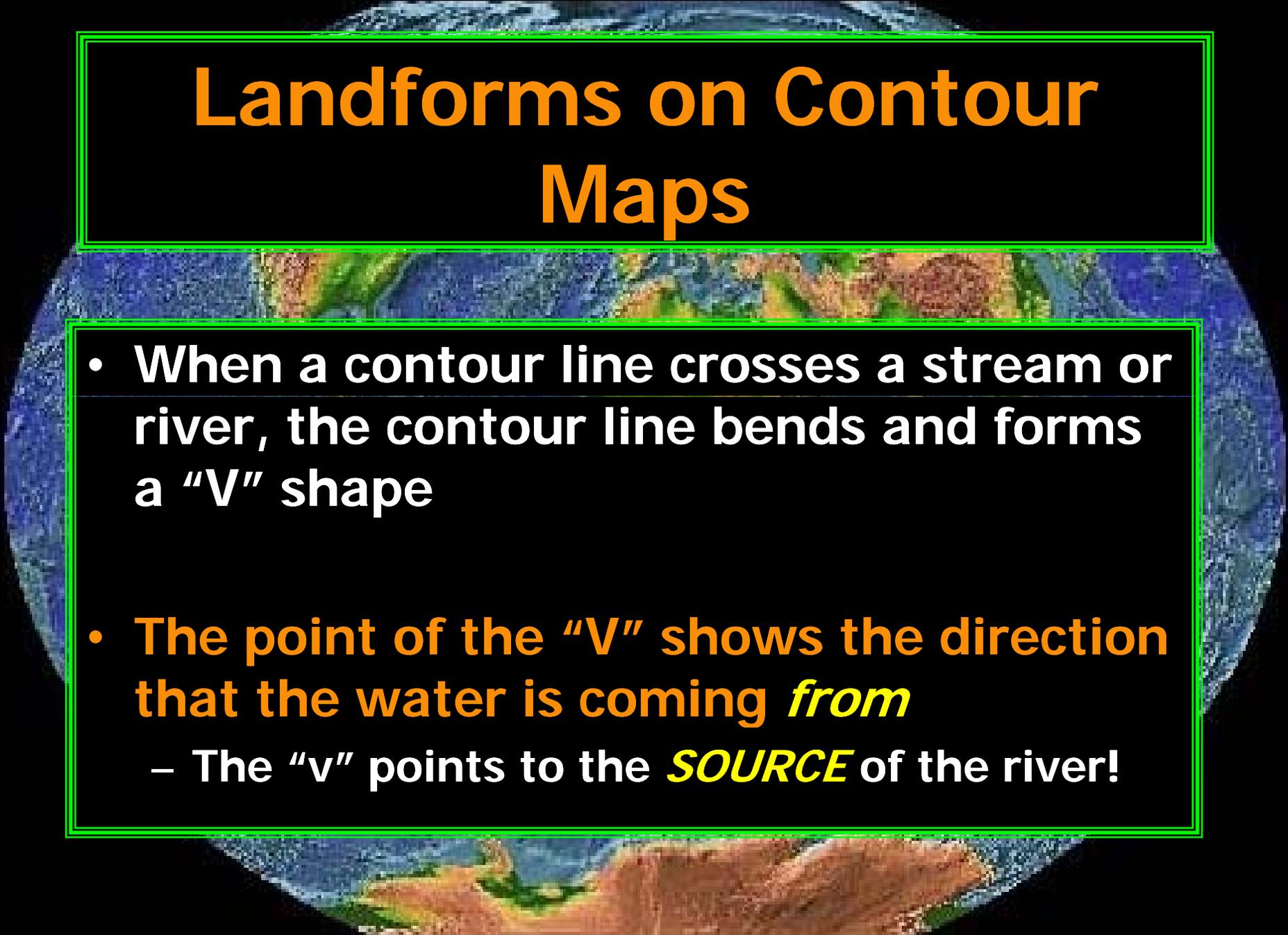
- The *steepness* of an area is shown by the closeness of the contour lines
  - The closer the contour lines are together, the steeper the area (cliff, etc.)
  - When the contour lines are spread out, the land is relatively flat.
- A closed circle after a series of increasing contour lines shows the top of a hill or mountain



**Hill top  
(circles)**

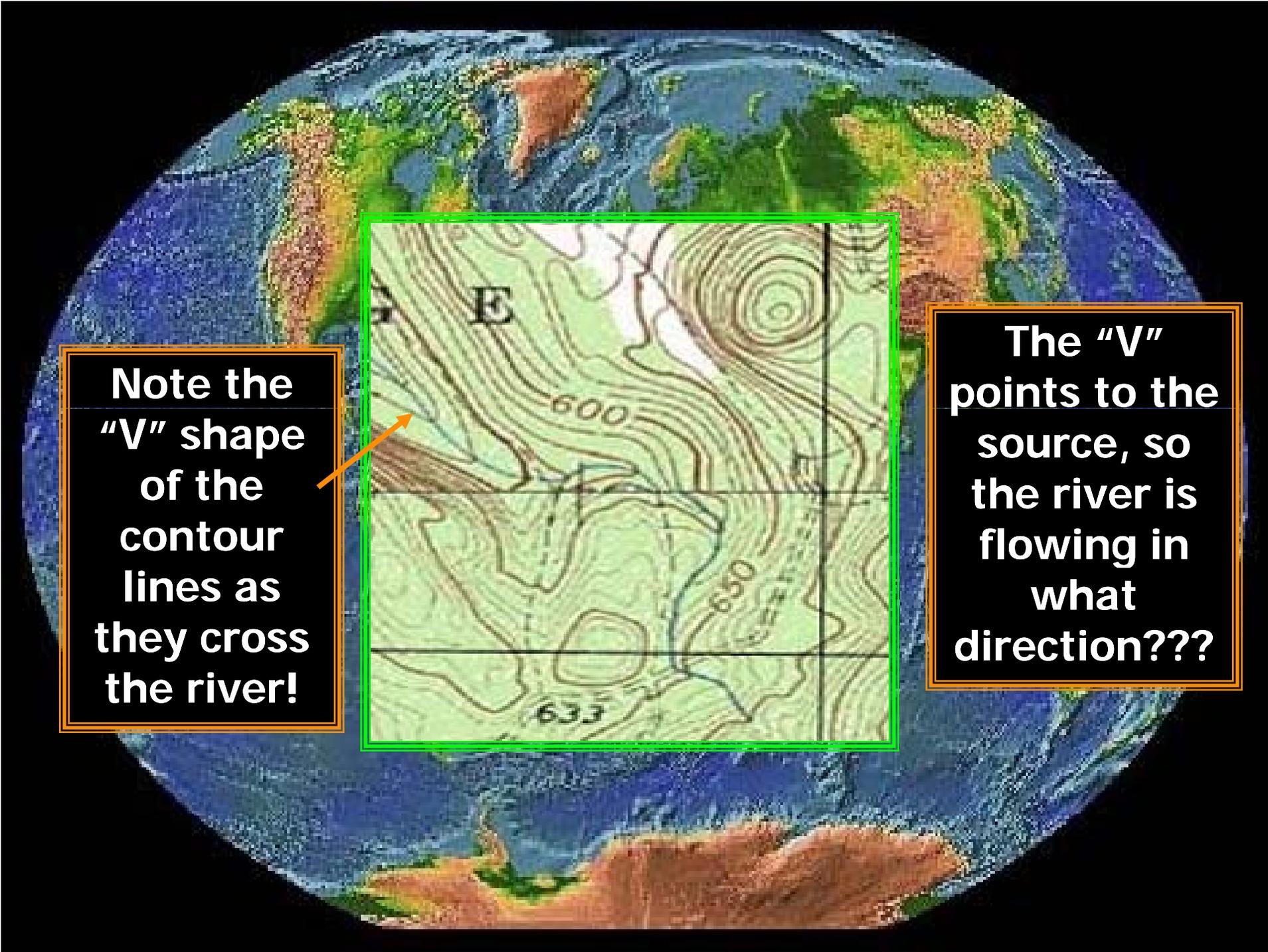
**Steep slope (close  
lines)**

**Gentle slope (spread out  
lines)**

A satellite-style image of Earth showing a river valley. The river is a dark blue line winding through a brown and green landscape. A contour line, represented by a series of small blue dashes, crosses the river and forms a distinct 'V' shape pointing upstream. The background is a dark blue and black space.

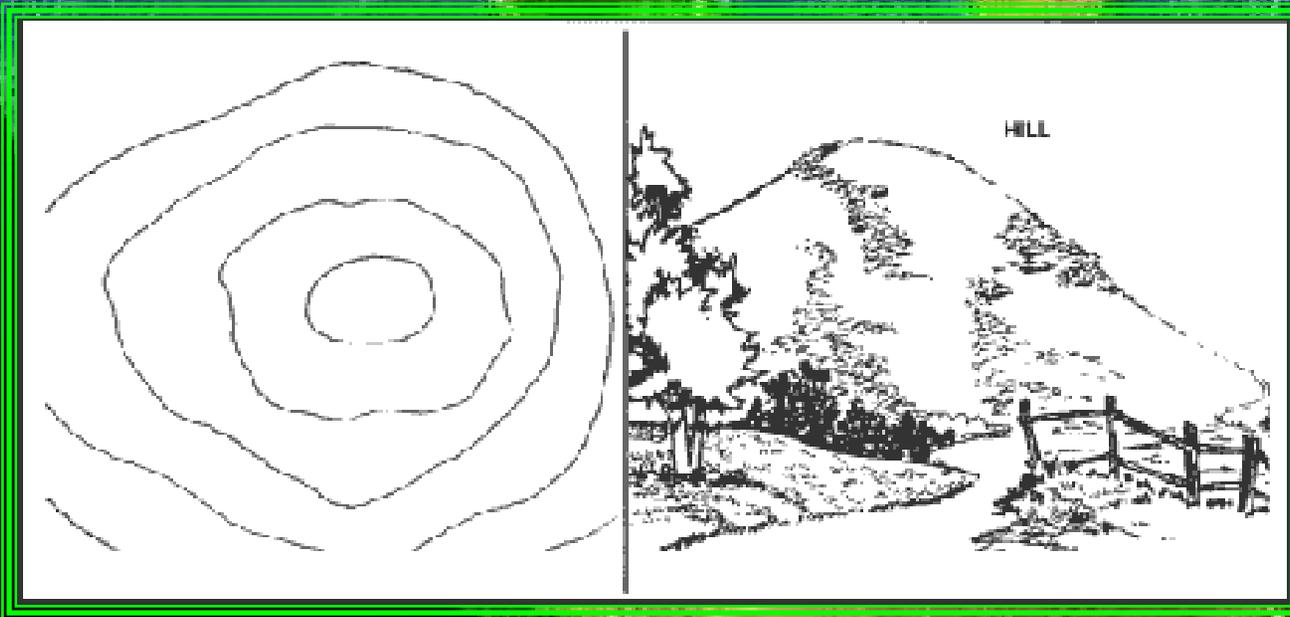
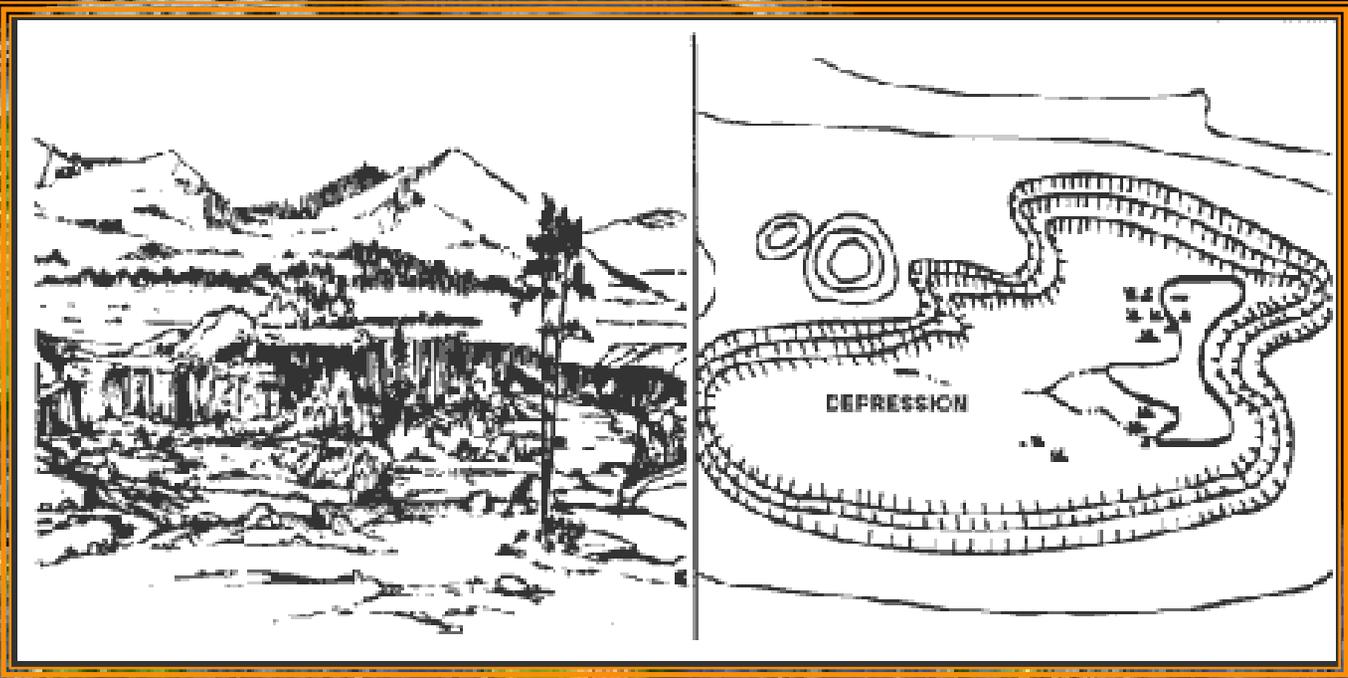
# Landforms on Contour Maps

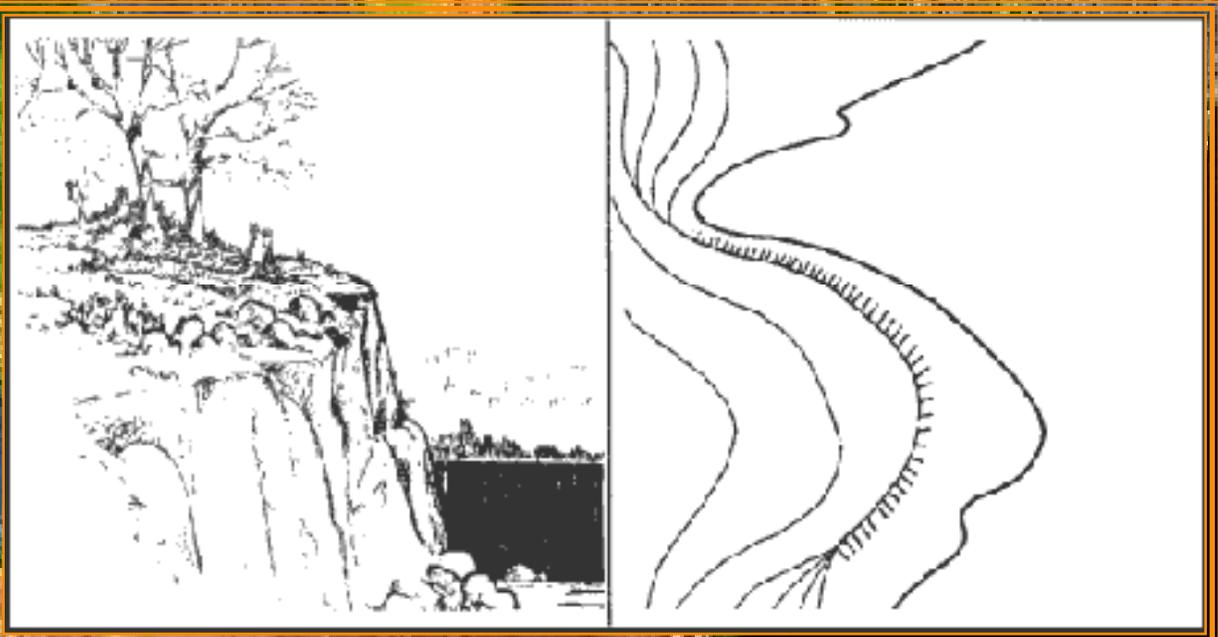
- When a contour line crosses a stream or river, the contour line bends and forms a "V" shape
- The point of the "V" shows the direction that the water is coming *from*
  - The "v" points to the **SOURCE** of the river!

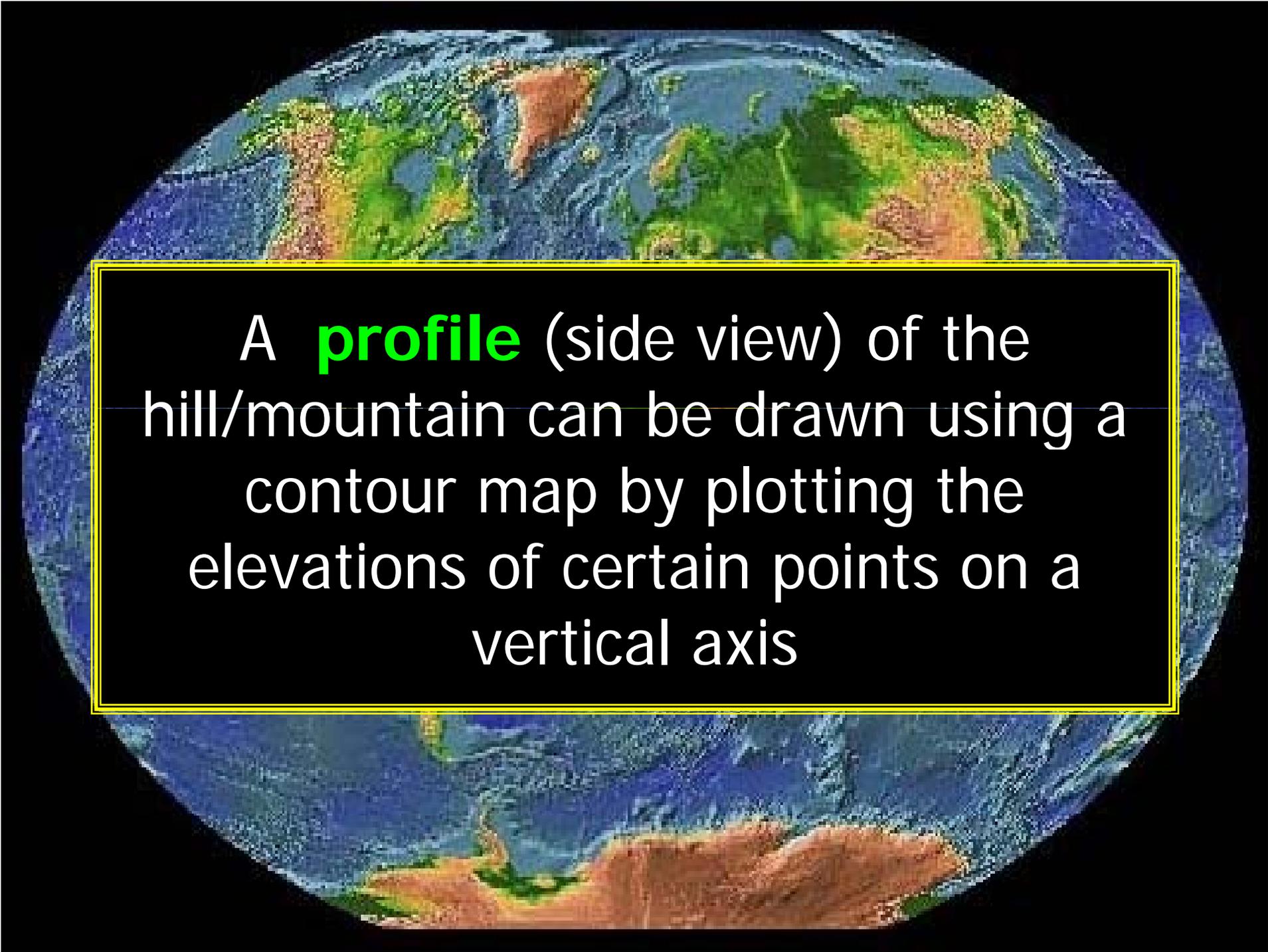


**Note the  
"V" shape  
of the  
contour  
lines as  
they cross  
the river!**

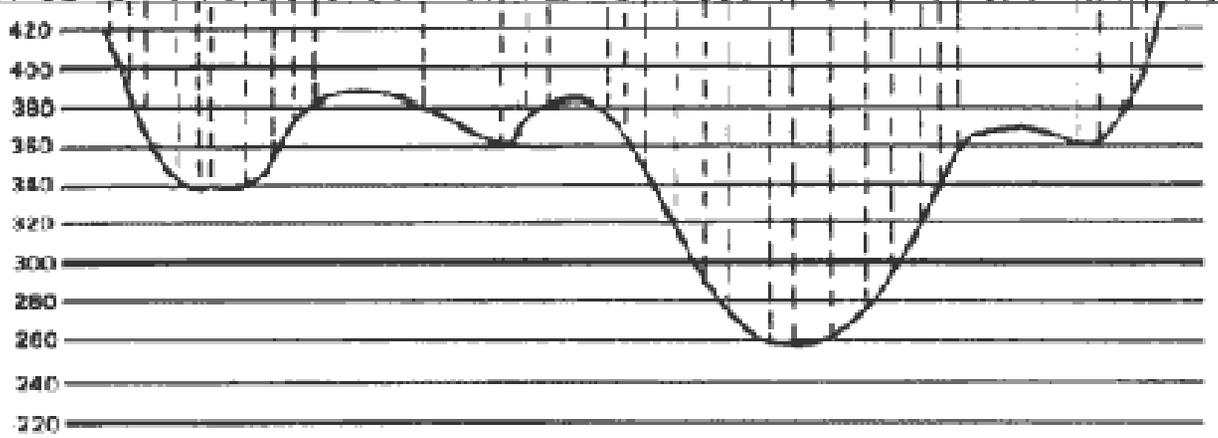
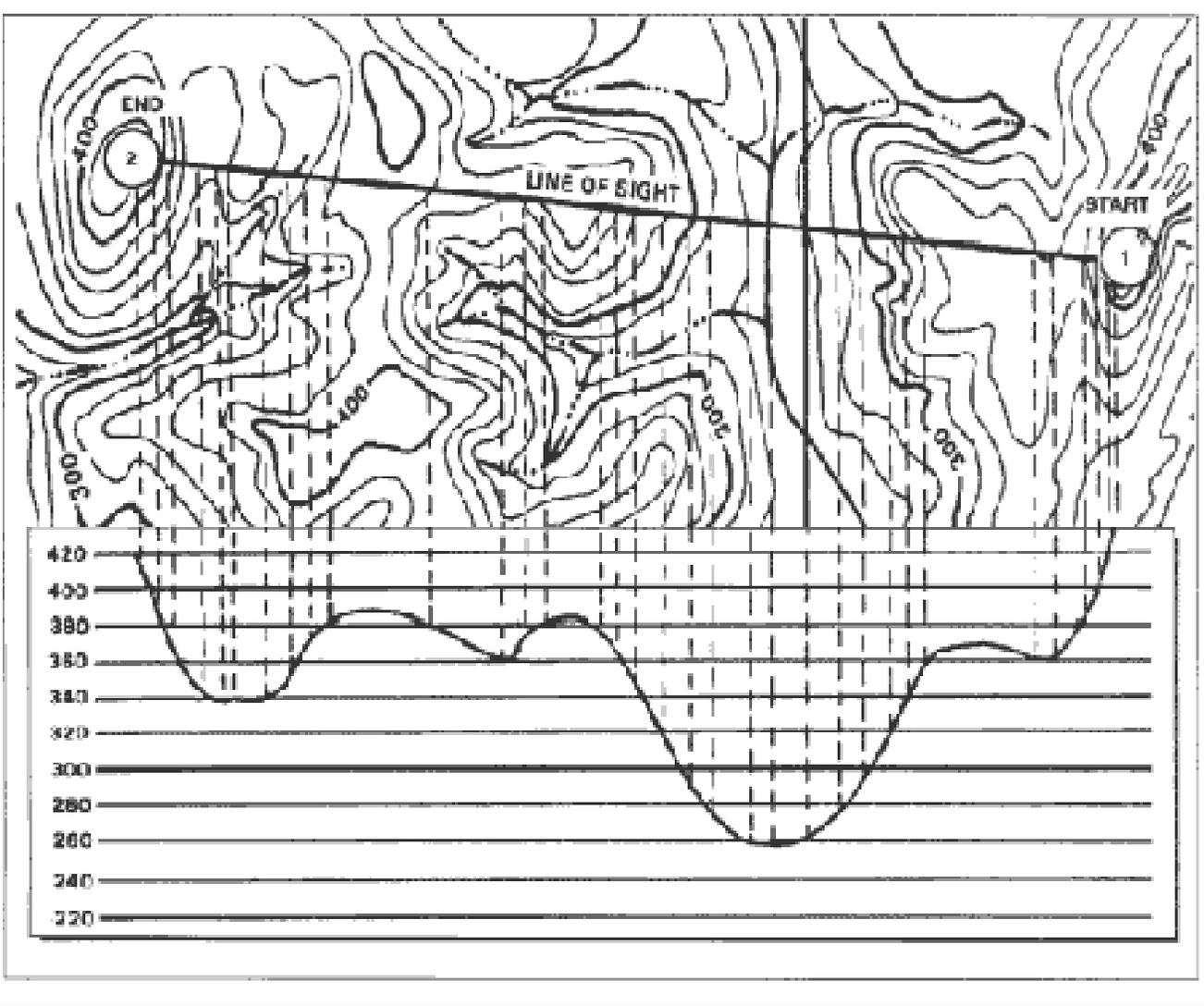
**The "V"  
points to the  
source, so  
the river is  
flowing in  
what  
direction???**





A 3D topographic map of the Earth, showing continents and oceans. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America visible on the left and Europe and Africa on the right. The terrain is color-coded by elevation, with green for lowlands and brown for highlands. A yellow rectangular box with a black border is overlaid on the map, containing text.

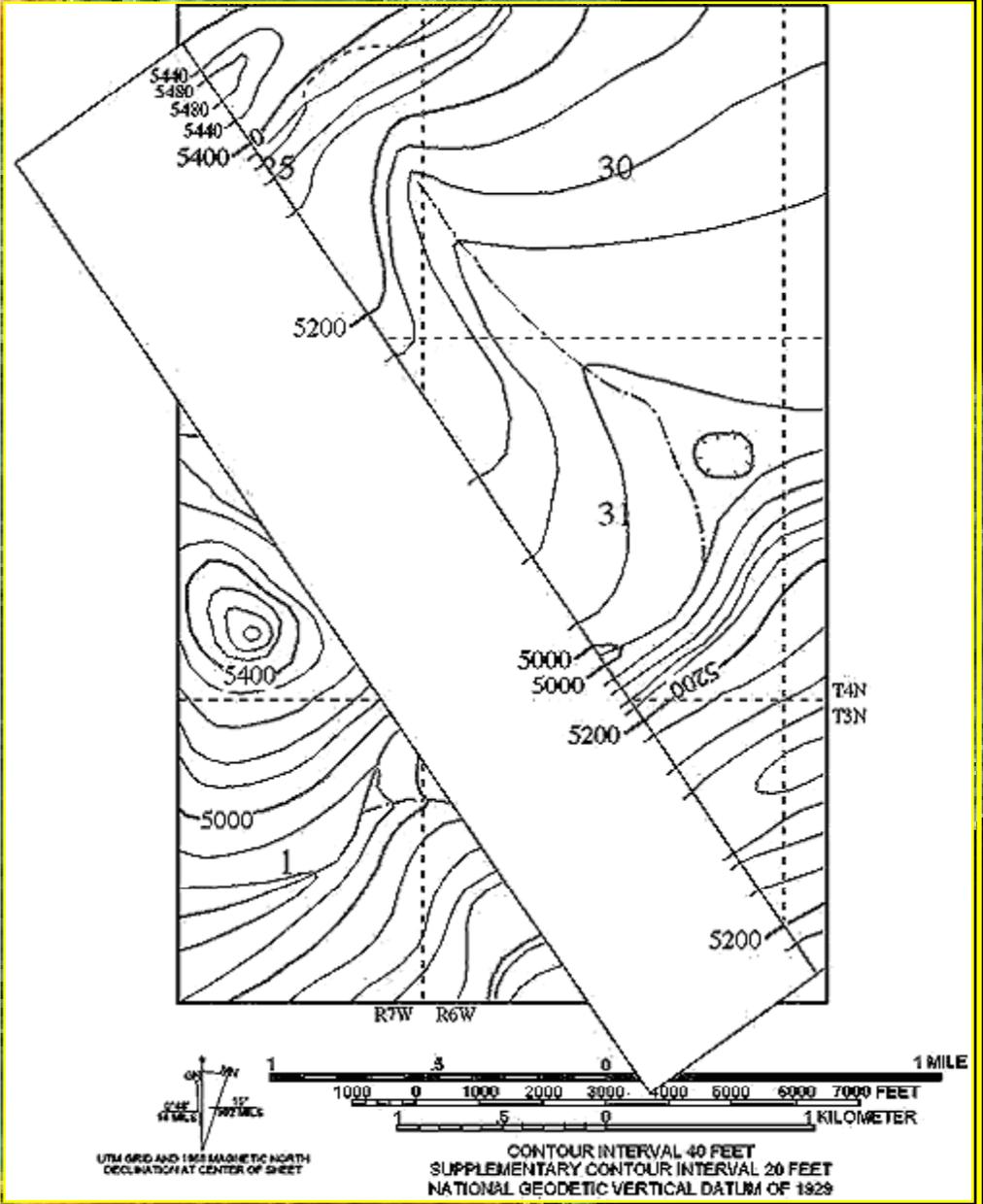
A **profile** (side view) of the hill/mountain can be drawn using a contour map by plotting the elevations of certain points on a vertical axis



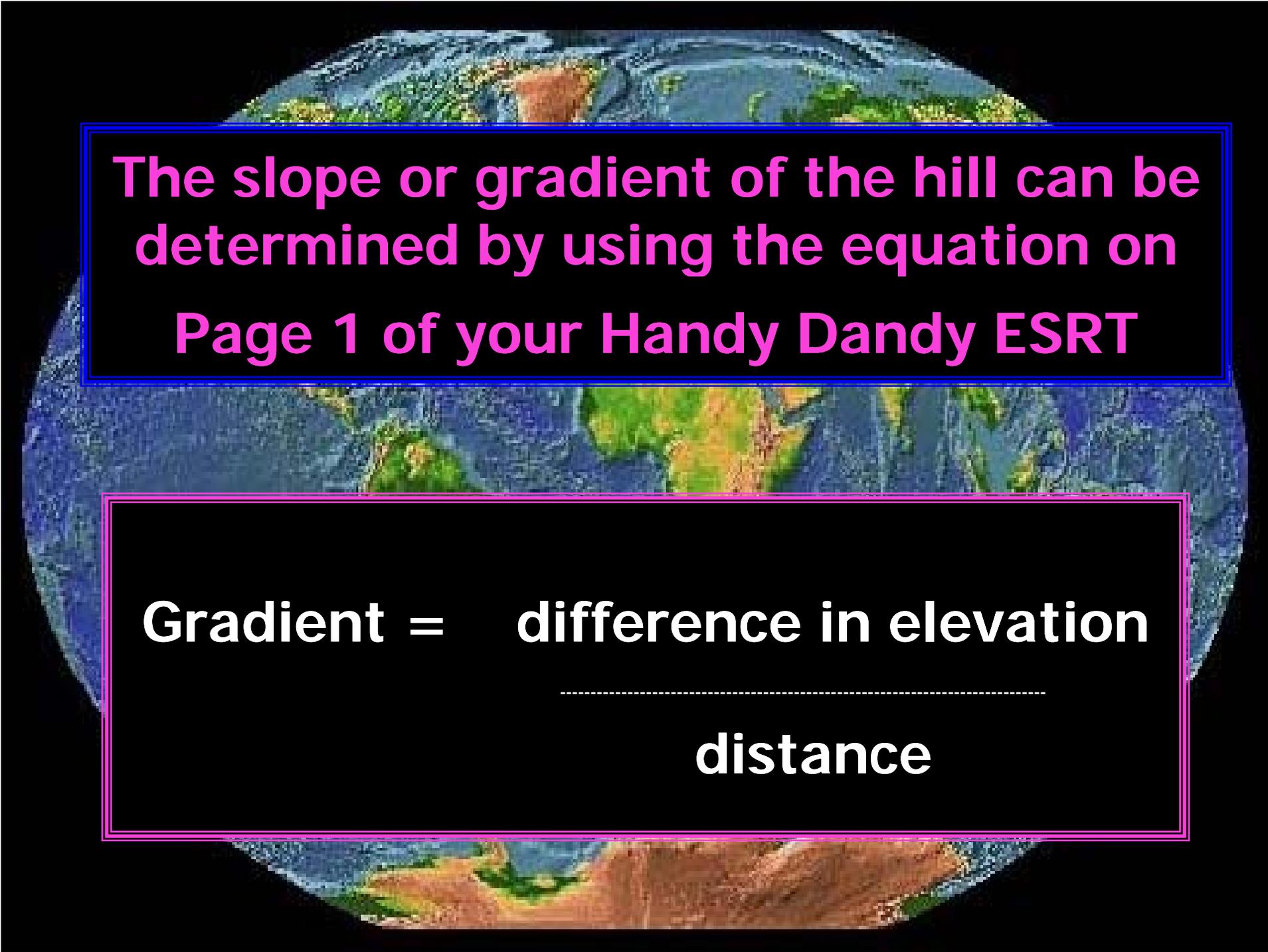
Place a paper strip over the line you want to draw a profile of.

Mark clearly each line of contour of your line.

Below these marks, write down the elevation of each line of contour.







The slope or gradient of the hill can be determined by using the equation on Page 1 of your Handy Dandy ESRT

$$\text{Gradient} = \frac{\text{difference in elevation}}{\text{distance}}$$