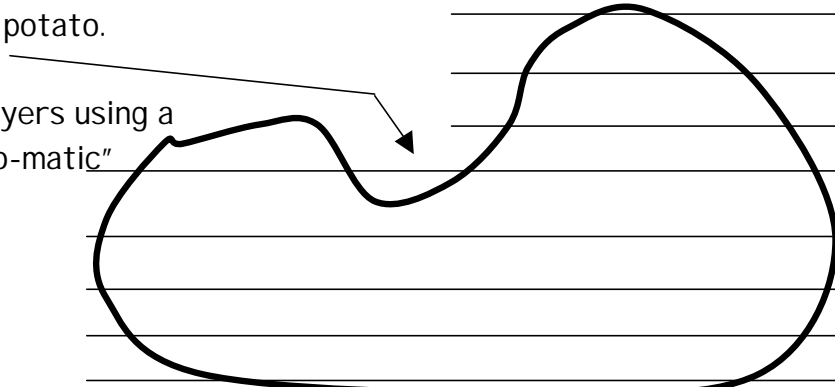


# Reading and Understanding Topographic Maps - "Potato Mountain" - Appendix A

1. Carve a "valley" into a potato.

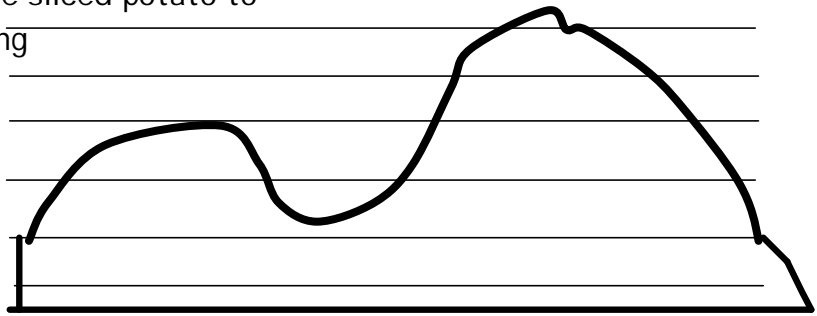
2. Slice the potato into layers using a food processor, "veg-o-matic" or a sharp knife.



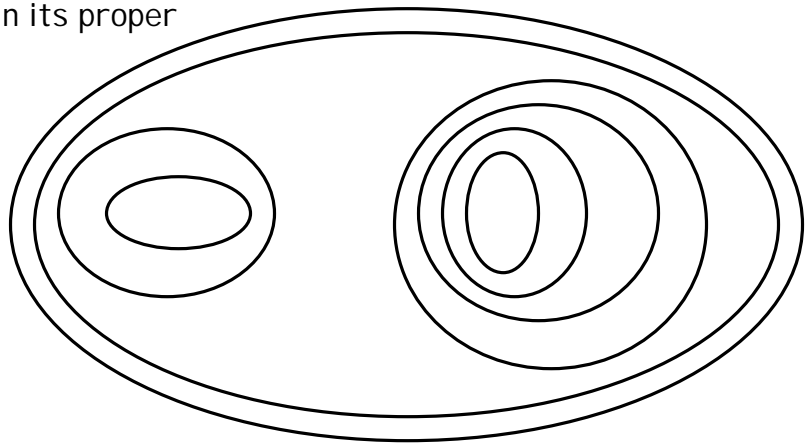
Side view of prepared potato

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

Hold the potato in position so the class can see the representation of hills and valley.



4. On the whiteboard in front of the class, trace each layer of the potato, being sure to keep each layer in its proper position in regard to the previously traced layer. The resulting pattern will be a topographic representation of the potato hills and valley.



5. Point out how the contour lines represent steep slopes, gentler slopes, peaks, and lowland areas.