



HW - Headwaters



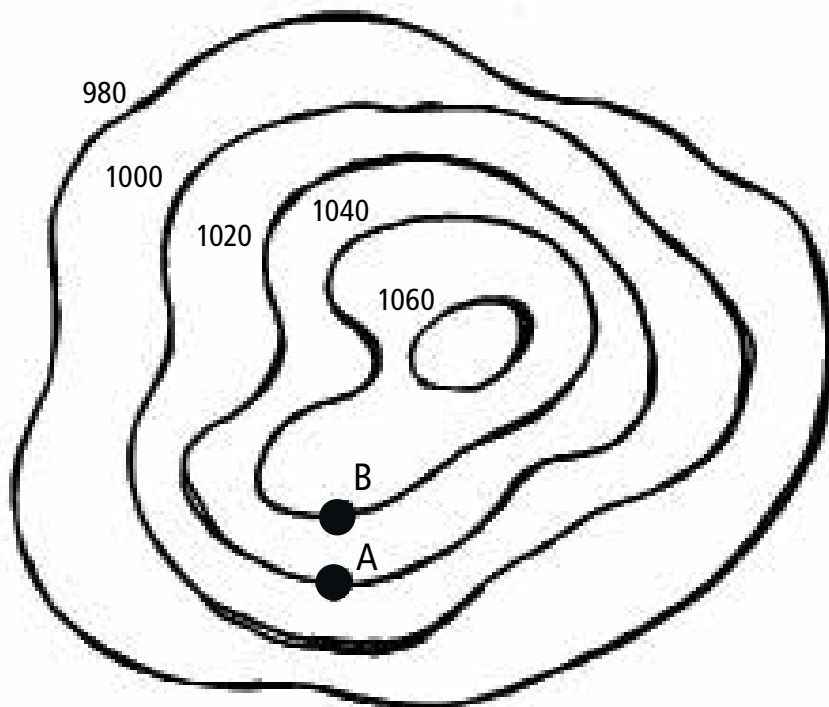
1. What information does a topographic map provide?

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A topographic map indicates "relief." Relief is the difference in elevation between two points. If the relief is low, the area is flat, such as a river valley. If it is high, the slope is steep, indicating hills or mountains.

2. Study the simple map below. What do the lines indicate?

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The lines are contour lines that connect points at the same elevation along a line.

2a. All points on line B are \_\_\_\_\_ feet in elevation.

All points on line A are \_\_\_\_\_ feet in elevation.

The contour interval is the difference in elevation between adjacent contour lines. (On the map, line B is adjacent [next to] line A.) Among topographic maps, contour intervals vary. Contour intervals are large for very steep areas (80-100 feet) but are smaller for lower areas (10-20 feet). Although contour intervals may vary, on a single map they are consistent (the same).



2b. What is the contour interval for the map above?

\_\_\_\_\_

The difference in elevation between line A and line B

is \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

Therefore, the contour interval is 20 feet.

Is the contour interval consistent (always 20 feet) for this map?

\_\_\_\_\_ [YES or NO] The difference in elevation between each contour line is 20 feet.

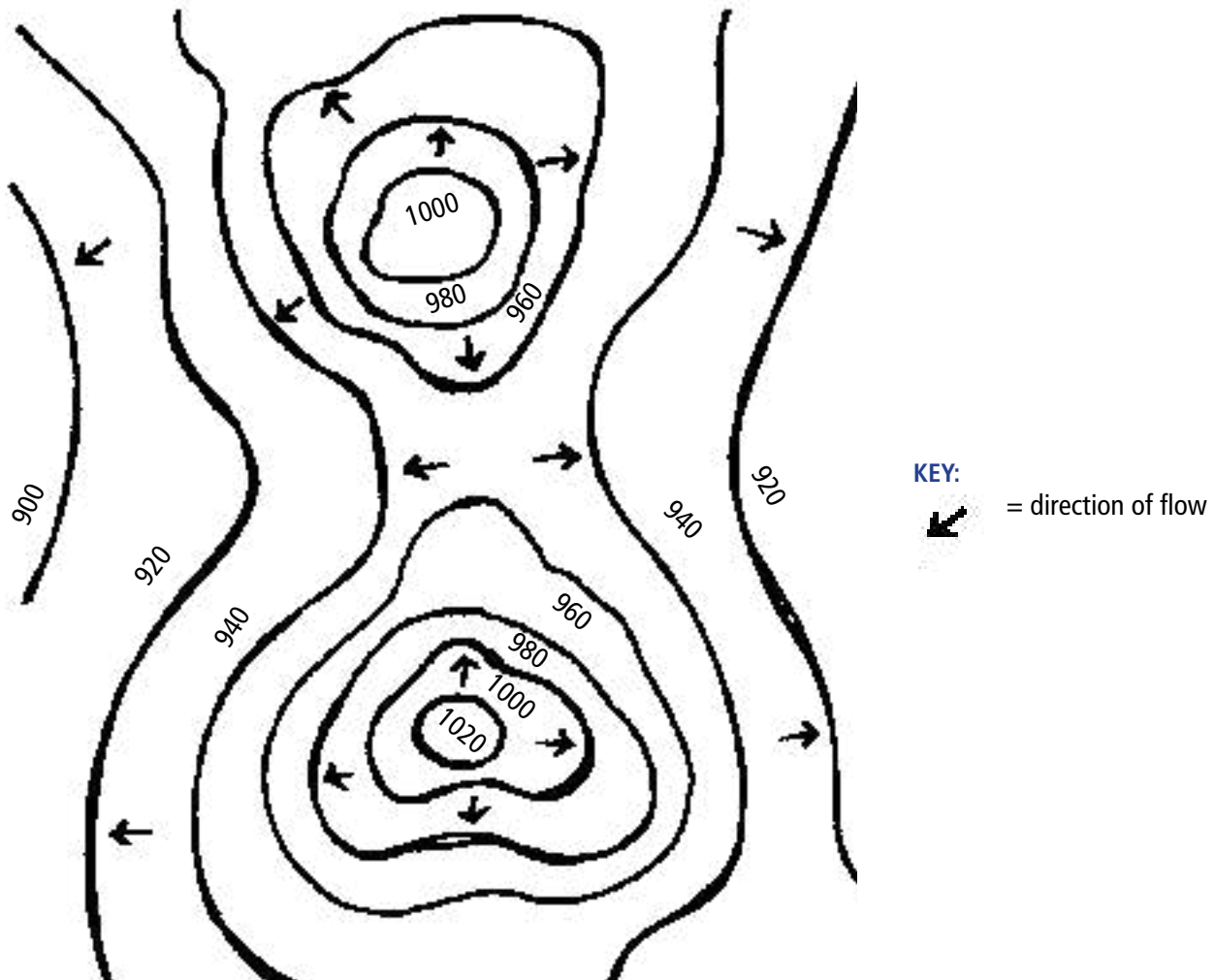
What landform do you think this map represents?

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Imagine that you are a bird flying over and looking down on this landform. The elevation at the top is the greatest, 1,060 feet, and continues to decrease as you move “down” the landform. Another way to think of this representation of a hill is a collapsible cup.

Imagine you had a collapsible cup. Turn it over so that the wide part (from which you would drink) is flat on the table. Now imagine pushing down on the cup, collapsing it. A topographic map is like that—the landforms are “collapsed” on paper.





3a. Now look at this more complicated topographic map. Study the contour lines and the contour interval. Imagine you are a bird flying over this area. The greatest elevation is at the top and tapers down to the bottom.

What are the landforms? Remember the shape of the hill in the first map.

This is a topographic map of two \_\_\_\_\_ connected by a saddle [a ridge connecting two higher points].

3b. What do the arrows indicate? See the key.

\_\_\_\_\_

The arrows show the flow of \_\_\_\_\_ across the surface of the land. A general rule is that water runs perpendicular to contour lines.

4. Do watersheds only occur in hilly or mountainous areas where there are definite changes in elevation?

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