

Oakland Unified School District

Worksheet To Accompany USGS *What Do Maps Show?* Teaching Packet

Lesson 4: How To Read A Topographic Map

Contour Lines

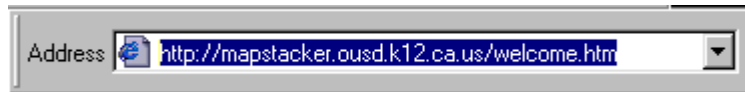
Topographic maps have contour lines which show the shape and elevation of the land. Contour lines are also called “level lines” because they show points that are at the same level of elevation.

MAP CENTER’s Contour Map displays contour lines for Oakland. The contour lines can be displayed over both the air photo and the Reference Map.

MAP CENTER Practice Session 9

Getting To Map Center

There are several ways to get to MAP CENTER on the world wide web. The fastest way from any computer is to type the address of the MAP CENTER computer in the Address box of your web browser.



The address for MAP CENTER is

<http://mapstacker.ousd.k12.ca.us/welcome.htm>.

Most computers at District sites have the District’s web page as their home page. If you are already on the District’s home page, the easiest way to get to MAP CENTER is to click on the **Map Center** link in the **FEATURES** section.



1. Click in the circle next to **Find an intersection:**.
2. Click in the number box after the 14th St.
Drag your cursor to the left to highlight the text.
Type **Skyline Blvd.**
3. Press the [**Tab**] key.
Type **Manzanita Dr.**
4. Click on **the Contours Map** picture.
5. Click on the **Show the Reference Map** button.
6. Click on the **Zoom In** button.

What is the highest elevation contour line that you can find on the map? _____

What is the lowest elevation contour line that you can find on the map? _____

What is the approximate elevation of the labeled portion of Glen Oaks Way? _____

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MAP CENTER Practice Session 10

1. Click on the Interactive Maps button at the bottom of the screen.
2. Click on the **Find a school:** circle.
3. Click on the down **arrowhead**.
4. Find **Bella Vista**.
5. Click on it.
6. Click on the **Contour Map** picture.

MAP CENTER shows the air photo of the area around Bella Vista.

7. Click in the Zoom to box and drag to the left to highlight the number.
8. Type **4000**.
9. Press the [**Enter**] key.

What is the approximate elevation of the school? _____

10. Click on the **Show the Reference Map** button.

Which of the following statements is true?

- _____ A. The land slopes upward to the northeast of the school.
- _____ B. The land slopes downward to the northeast of the school.

Which of the following statements is true?

- _____ A. The land slopes upward to the southwest of the school.
- _____ B. The land slopes downward to the southwest of the school.

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MAP CENTER Practice Session 11

1. Click on the Interactive Maps button at the bottom of the screen.
2. Click on the **Find a school:** circle.
3. Click on the down **arrowhead**.
4. Find **Toler Heights**.
5. Click on it.
6. Click on the **Contour Map** picture.
7. MAP CENTER shows the air photo of the area around Toler Heights.
8. Click in the Zoom to box and drag to the left to highlight the number.
9. Type **4000**.
10. Press the [**Enter**] key.
11. Is the school building on the highest point displayed on the map? _____
12. Click on the **Show the Reference Map** button.
13. Is Toler Heights at a higher or lower elevation than Fire Station 26? _____