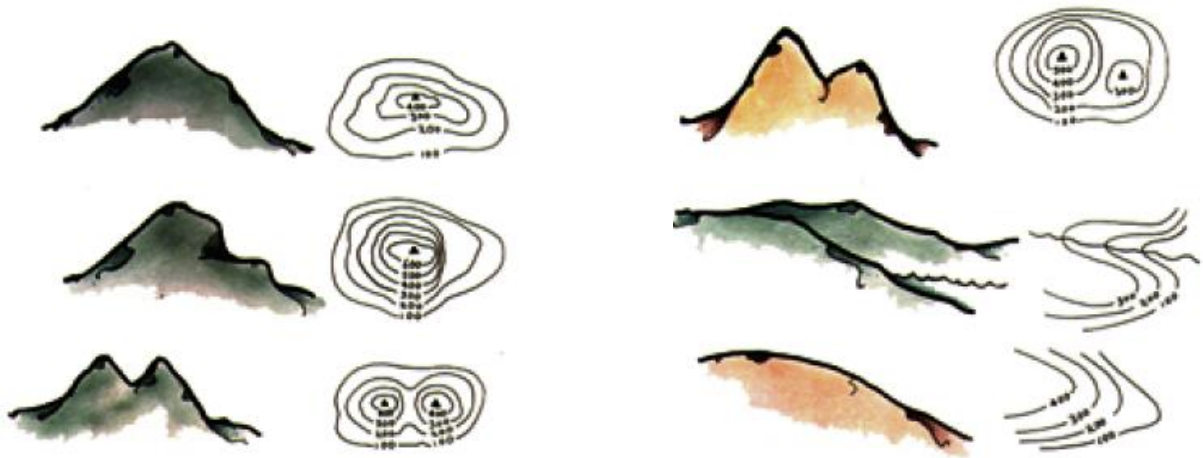


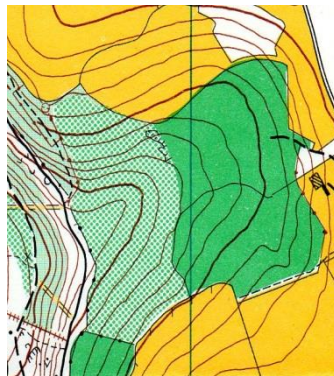


# Contours and Orienteering

Orienteering maps make extensive use of contour lines. These typically brown lines are created by an imaginary line along which every point is the same distance above sea level. By looking at your map you can determine whether the mountain has a steep slope (contours close together) or a gentle slope (contours spread apart).



For orienteering maps the typical contour interval is 5M, this compares to a 10M interval on most ordnance survey maps. In the example to the below we can clearly see a spur with mixed vegetation flowing from left to right.



When orienteering, you can use contours to plan your route. Sometimes it is quicker to go around and other times it may be quicker to climb or descend a feature. Contours are also important in helping you located points, is the next marker higher or lower than where you are? Does the path start to rise or fall before you reach it?

