

Contour Map Activity *Teacher's Guide*

Students will investigate lake contours and create a color-coded contour map.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th – 8th

SUBJECT AREA/COURSE: Geography/History

SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS:

The student uses various map forms and other geographic representations tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report geographic information including patterns of land use, connections between places, and patterns and processes of migration and diffusion. (SS.B.1.3.1)

ACADEMIC OUTCOMES/LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Students will select a lake in which a contour map is available for this lesson.
- Students will draw (free-hand) the outline of the lake and approximate the contours from the Watershed Atlas Web Site.
- Students will translate, key and color the maps using prior knowledge of colored physical maps.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Geography texts published in the 1990's and beyond contain few, if any, contour maps; however the Annual National Geographic Geography Bee and, very likely, the coming Social Studies FCAT, require an understanding of non-colored contour maps. This lesson uses the Seminole County Watershed Atlas contour maps as a basis for students to translate into the more familiar physical maps that show altitude. Students should be familiar with map keys and colored physical maps depicting altitude.

This lesson can be completed in one or slightly more than one instructional period.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Internet access, handout worksheet (provided), colored pencils (several shades of blue would be best).

SAFETY: N/A

VOCABULARY: contour, altitude, sea level

KEY: Answers will vary.

AUTHOR: Brad Garner