

Lifesaving Volunteers to the Rescue

Activity 3

View the 'Lifesaving Volunteers to the Rescue' VR tour at www.lsv.com.au/vr

LEVELS 3 & 4



Key Learning

During this lesson, students will begin to learn about topographic maps and use their understanding of contour lines and other features of maps to identify the best path to the ocean for a land based rescue operation.



Resources

- Smartboard
- Clay or playdough
- Fishing line
- A copy of the *Topographic Map of Wilson's Promontory* (Appendix A) for each pair



Engage

- Ask students to reflect on the Volunteers to the Rescue expedition:
 - Who was involved in the rescue operation?
 - Where did it take place?
 - Describe the location of the rescue.
 - This rescue took place at a patrolled beach. Not all of Victoria's coastline is sandy beaches, what other types of terrain are there?
 - What if someone got themselves into trouble near wetlands or rocky cliffs? What different challenges might that pose to the rescue team?
- Introduce students to topographic maps using the [Reading a Map](#) online activity.



Curriculum

Geography – Geographical Concepts and Skills

Data and information
Levels 7 & 8

- Analyse maps and other geographical data and information using digital and spatial technologies as appropriate, to develop identifications, descriptions, explanations and conclusions that use geographical terminology ([VCGGC104](#))

Geography – Geographical Knowledge

Landform and landscapes
Levels 7 & 8

- Different types of landscapes and their distinctive landform features ([VCGGK116](#))



Explore

- Give each student a small amount of clay or playdough and ask them to create a 'hill'. Encourage them to use slightly irregular shapes.
- Students should then swap with a partner and attempt to draw the contour lines for the shape they have been given. They can check their work by using fishing line to slice their hill horizontally into segments of equal thickness.
- Students should then trace each of the pieces in turn on a single piece of paper to create contour lines, starting with the largest.



Explain

- Invite some students up to draw contour lines on the board for:
 - A tall, narrow hill
 - A short, wide hill
 - A hill that is steep on one side and has a gentle slope on the other
 - A hill with two peaks
- As this is happening, ask students to explain how the width of the contour lines relates to elevation.



Elaborate

- Give pairs a copy of the *Topographic Map of Wilson's Promontory* (Appendix A). Students need to find the best route for a rescue team to reach location A, B and C (note: the public road ends at Tidal River).
- Encourage students to consider other landmarks and features, for example rivers and walking tracks, not just the contour lines.



Evaluate

- Display the *Topographic Map of Wilson's Promontory* (Appendix A) on the smartboard. Ask pairs to show the class the route they would take for one of the locations, explaining why they think this would be the fastest route. Finally, discuss:
 - In what types of terrain might a land-based rescue be challenging?
 - What geographical features might hinder a land-based rescue?
 - Thinking about the geography of Victoria's coastline, what sorts of areas would be safest for undertaking water-based activities (e.g., Kayaking, swimming, fishing etc.)?
 - What safety advice would you give to someone thinking of undertaking water-based activities?

References

National Park Service, WebRangers. *Reading a Map*, <https://www.nps.gov/webrangers/activities/readingmap/> [viewed 15 March 2018].

Victorian Department of Education and Training, 2017. *Understanding Contour Lines: Level 7*, <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/continuum/Pages/contourline50.aspx#a1> [viewed 15 March 2018].

Geoscience Australia and Natural Earth, 2009-2018. *Australian Topography* <http://www.ga.gov.au/interactivemaps/#/theme/national-location-information/map/australian-topography> [viewed 15 March 2018].

Appendix A
Topographic Map of Wilson's Promontory, Victoria, Australia



Map with
Natural Earth

Made with Natural Earth. Free vector and raster map data @ naturalearthdata.com.