

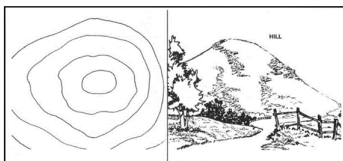


HANDS-ON MUSEUM LEARNING

NAVIGATING WITHOUT GPS

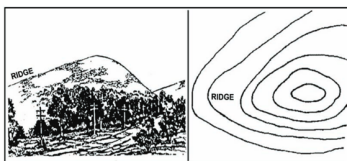
U.S. service members have deployed all over the world in many different climates and environments. Have you ever wondered how they get to know the land and conduct missions in unfamiliar settings? When GPS is not available, terrain association can be a useful form of navigation. With terrain association, you can study a map and see the shape of the land, estimate distances, and describe landmarks.

According to the U.S. Army Field Manual 3-25.26: Map Reading and Land Navigation, there are five main types of terrain.



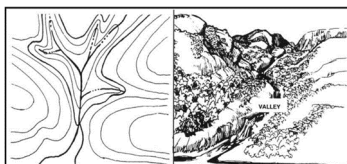
Hill

A point or small area of high ground. When you are on a hilltop, the ground slopes down in all directions.



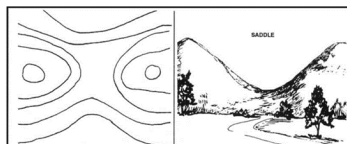
Ridge

A line of high ground with height variations along its crest. The ridge is not simply a line of hills; all points of the ridge crest are higher than the ground on both sides of the ridge.



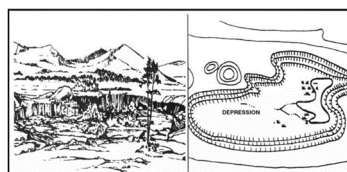
Valley

Reasonably level ground bordered on the sides by higher ground. A valley may or may not contain a stream course. A valley generally has maneuver room within its confines.



Saddle

A dip or low point along the crest of a ridge. A saddle is not necessarily the lower ground between two hilltops; it may be a break along an otherwise level ridge crest.



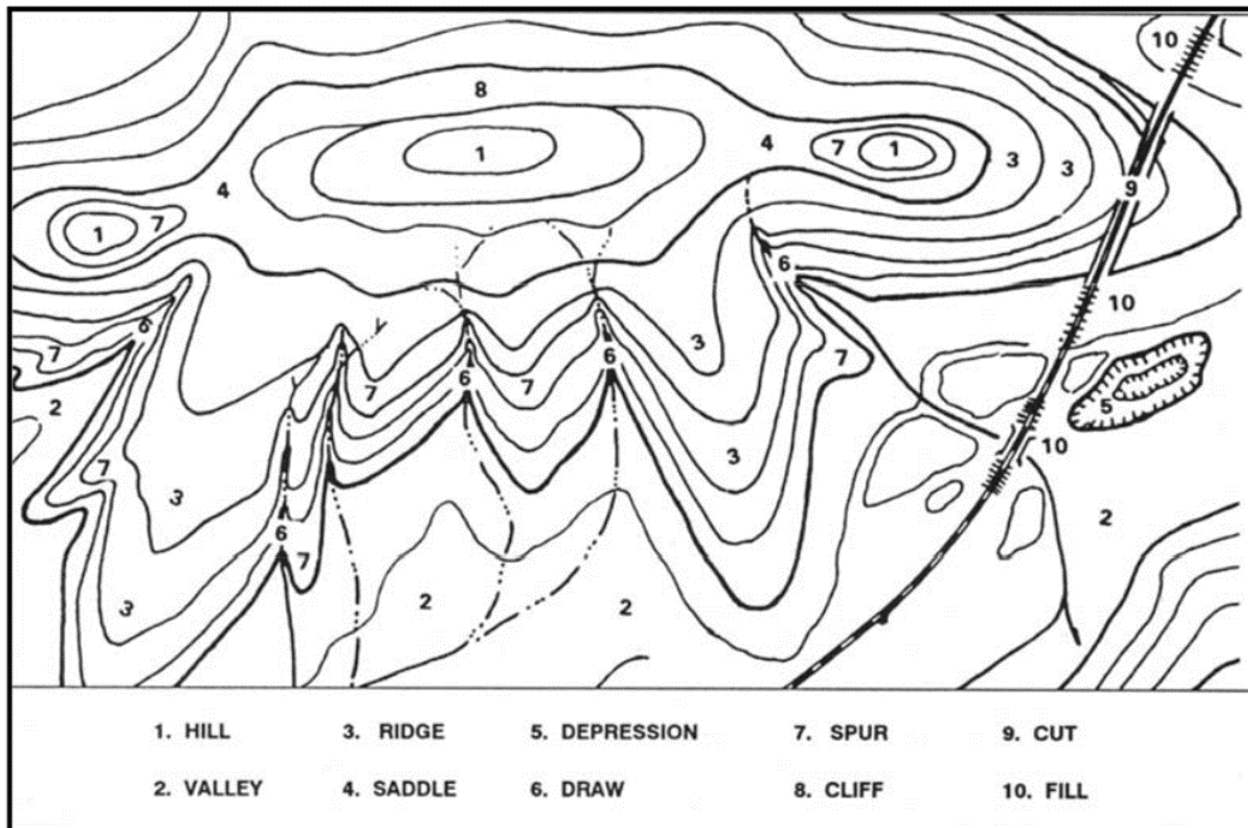
Depression

A low point or hole in the ground, surrounded by higher ground.

TRY IT OUT!

Review the map below and describe what the land looks like.

- How many hills and valleys are there?
- How would you describe what you're seeing to someone over the phone?
- Are there any landmarks that would help you describe the area to someone else?



For continued exploration, check out the Army Field Manual.

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