Name:

Island Topography

Your goal is to build a scale model of the island given a topographic map of the landform and some materials. This is an inquiry-based lab activity, meaning that I will provide guidance, but I will not tell you or show you how to accomplish your goal. You must figure that out within your groups. Think creatively and remember that there may be more than one way to solve a problem. You may not figure out how to accurately build a model on the first try, so keep trying!

**Objectives:**

* Build a scale model of a landform based on a topographic map
* Identify contour intervals and landscape features based on a map

**Materials list:**

**Safety:**

* Use sharp objects properly and with caution
* Do not place any materials near your eyes or mouth
* Warning: clay may stain clothing

Clay

Dowel

Knife

Fishing line

Ruler

Scissors

Map

**Brainstorming Ideas within your Group:**

**Hint:** You may cut your copy of the topographic map to help build your layered model.

**Materials Used:**

**Procedure:**

Write a numbered procedure of how you created a scale model based off the topographic map.

**Questions:**

Answer the questions below regarding your scale model and the topographic map.

1. What is the contour interval of your map?
2. Explain how you can differentiate between the steepest slope and the gentlest slope on your map?
3. Explain how you could make your scale model more accurate by using mathematics.
4. What is the elevation above sea level for the highest point of your model?
5. Explain how you can determine if your model contains any areas that are below sea level. Are there any of these areas on your island and what are their elevations?
6. What is the elevation of point A? Describe the landscape.
7. What is the elevation of point B? Describe the landscape.
8. What is the elevation of point C? Describe the landscape.
9. From observations of your model, what conclusions can you make about where people might live on this island and why?
10. Create at least 4 labels for “landmarks” on your scale model of the island and write a short, interesting description of each landmark below. Be creative and have fun with your landmarks! ☺
11. Create a (normal printer paper size) poster advertising your island. Include the name of your island and anything that you think will attract people to want to visit your island! Be sure to include something about your island’s topography!