

# SOA Challenge 9

## Potato Contours

Understanding contour lines and being able to visualise the shape of the land from the contours on a map is an important skill for orienteering and route planning. This simple task helps with contour visualisation.

### Items Required

- Potatoes (preferably in different and odd shapes)
- Markers or pens
- A ruler
- A knife

### Step 1

Cut each of the potatoes in half. Measure 1cm from the base of the potato at multiple points around the potato and mark these intervals with dots. Join the dots to create your first contour.



### Step 2

Repeat this step, measuring the next 1cm interval from your first contour and so on until you reach the top (or summit) of the potato.



### Step 3

Trace the outline of the base of the potato onto a sheet of paper. Look at the potato from above and draw each of the contour lines as a 2D depiction of the potato.



### Step 4

Slice your potato along the contour lines to examine fully the shape of each contour.



### Step 5

Could you draw the contour picture before you mark the potato?

