It'll Go With the Flow

- Goals: To teach students how to construct a water table elevation contour map. To help students understand how such maps can be used to determine general groundwater flow patterns. To allow students to evaluate a hypothetical landfill site based on the direction of groundwater flow.
- Subjects: Environmental Ed., Science, Social Studies, Health Ed., Math,

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:

EE: A.8.2, A.8.4, B.8.17, B.8.18, D.8.1

SC: A.8.1, C.8.6, D.8.6, E.8.1, H.8.3

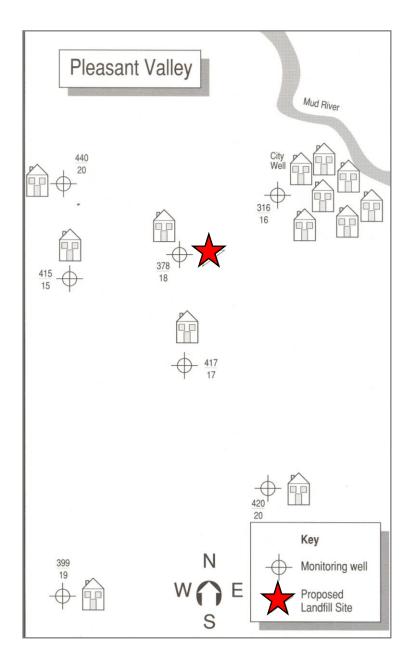
SS: A.8.1, C.8.7

HE: A.8.2, B.8.4, C.8.3

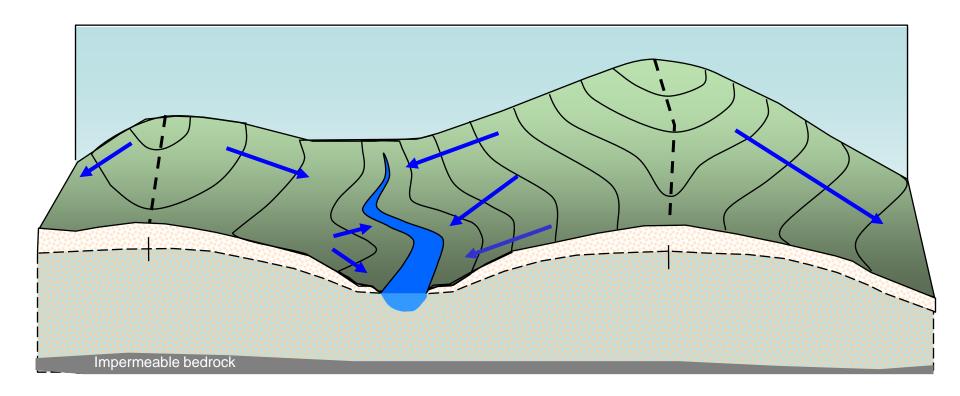
M: E.8.4

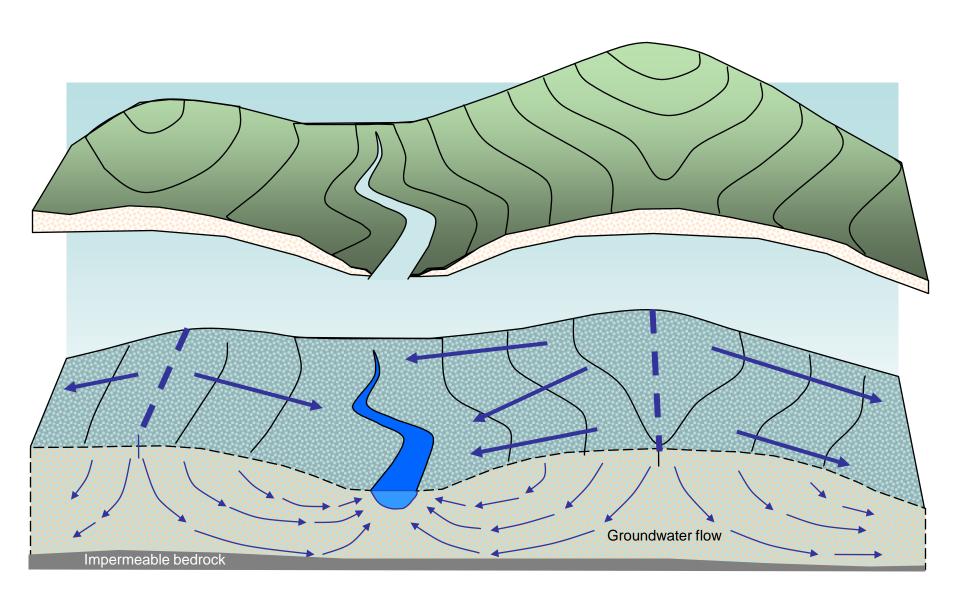
Grades: 7 - 9

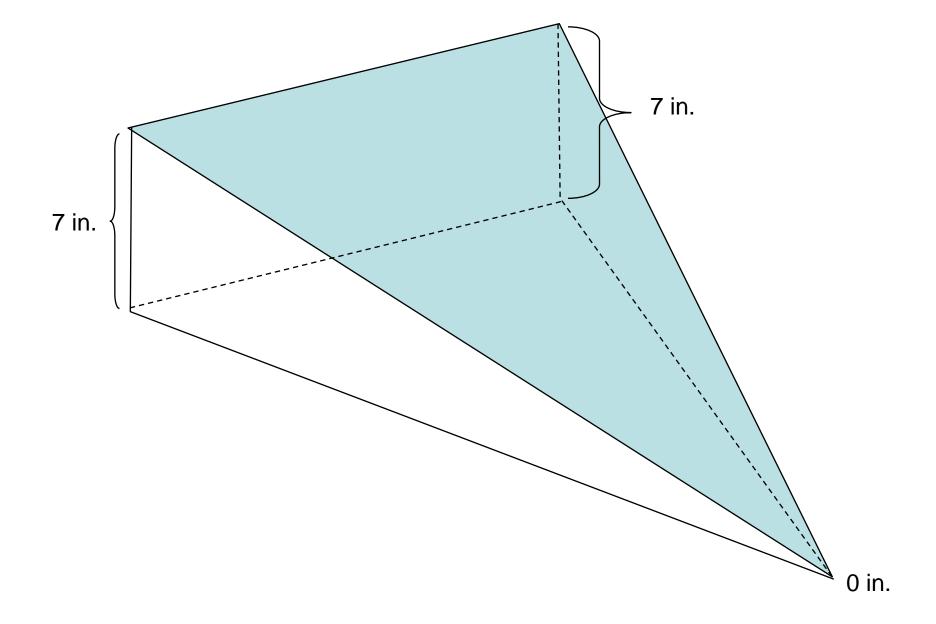
It'll Go With the Flow....

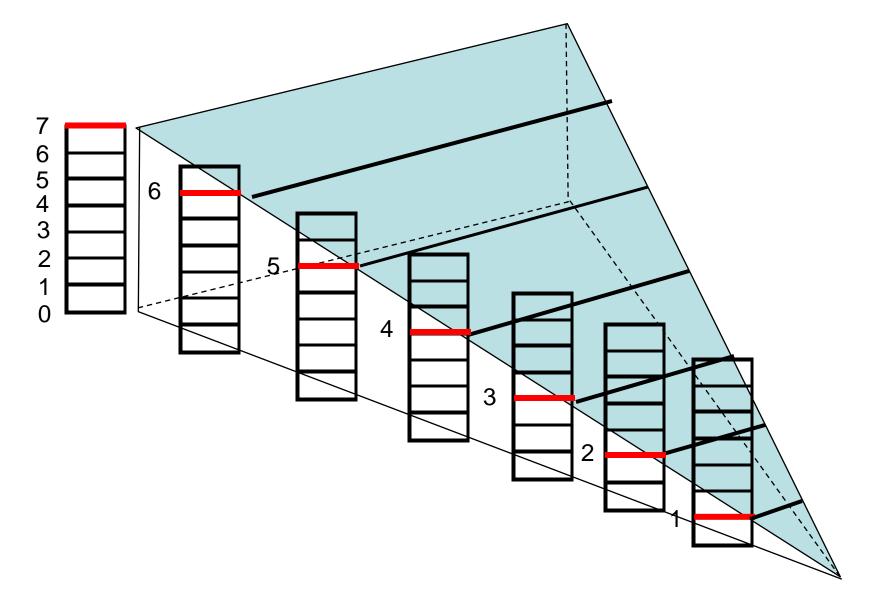


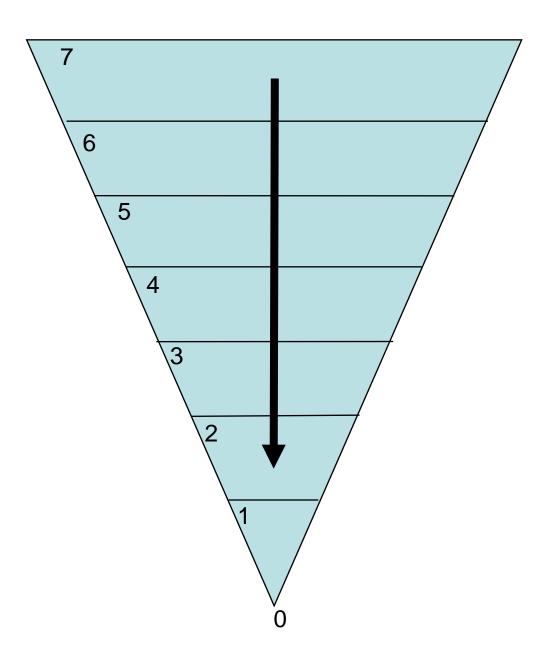
 Pleasant Valley is proposing to build a new landfill just outside of the city limits. You have just been hired by a local engineering firm to evaluate the proposed landfill site and give your recommendations to the local officials in Pleasant Valley.

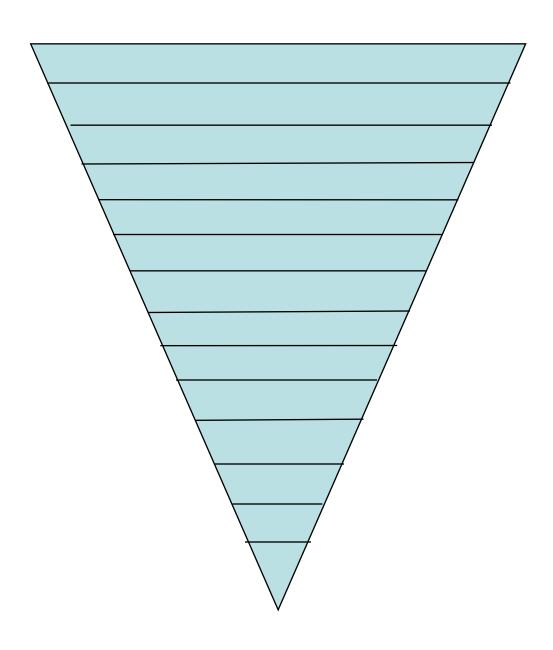


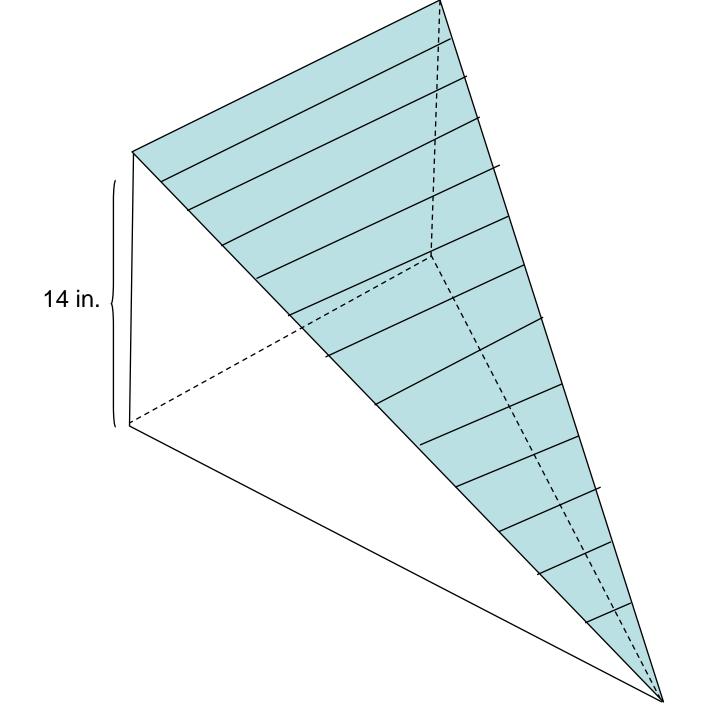


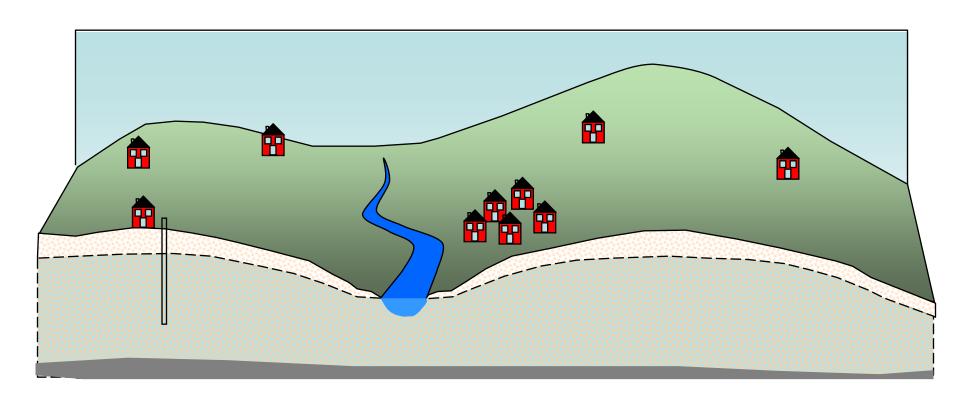


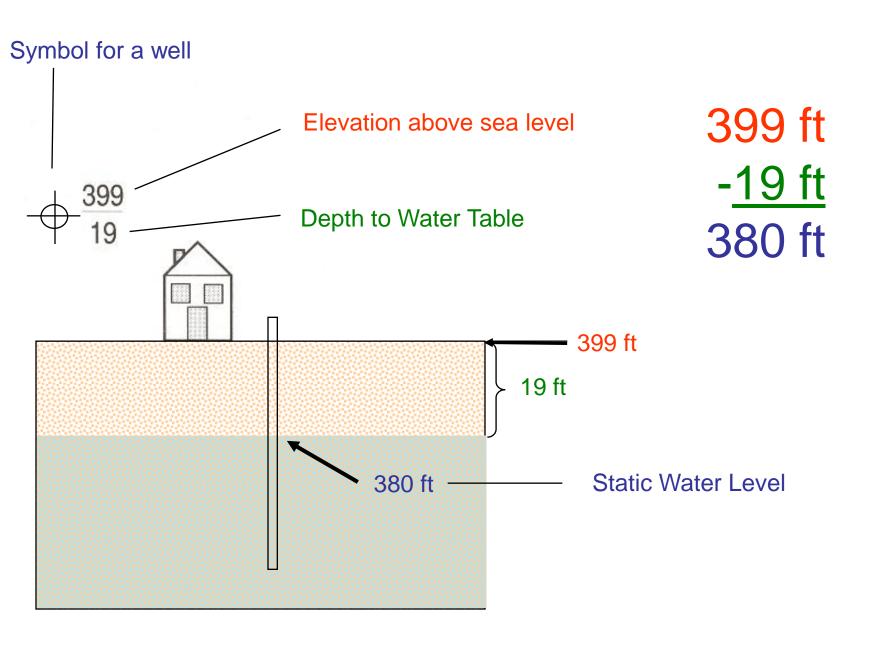












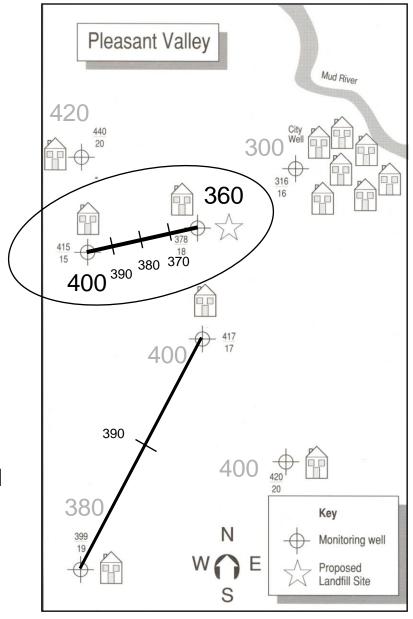
1. Calculate the number of 10 ft contour intervals between two adjacent wells.

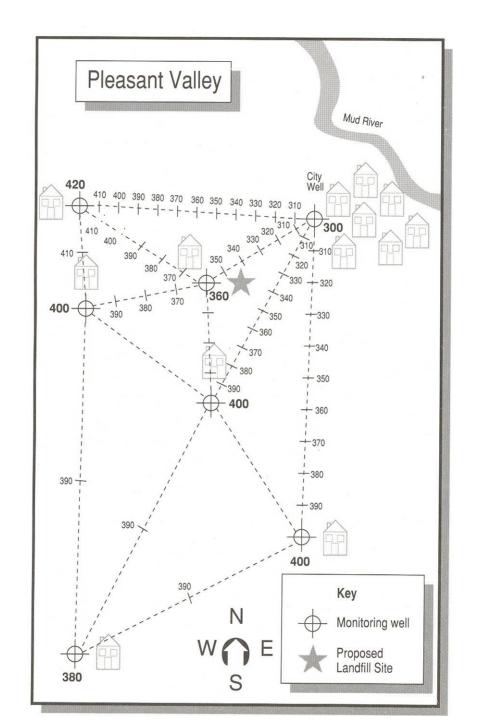
$$400 \text{ ft} - 360 \text{ ft} = 40 \text{ ft}.$$

$$40 \text{ ft}/10\text{ft} = 4 \text{ intervals}$$

2. Calculate the distance between each interval by measuring the distance between the two wells and dividing by the number of intervals.

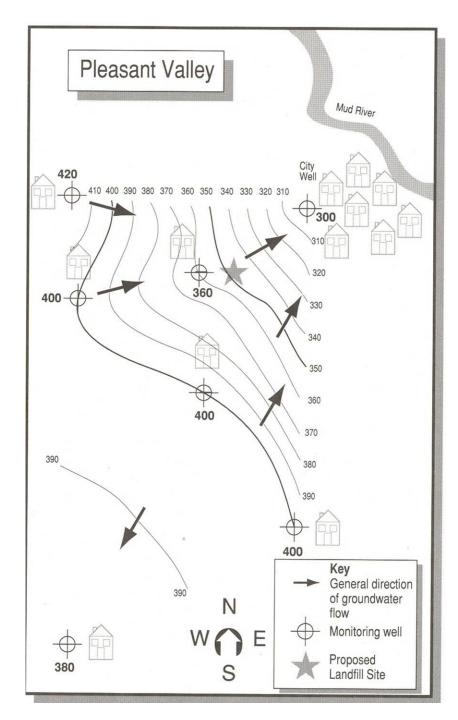
44 mm / 4 intervals = 11 mm/interval





Discussion Questions

- In general what direction does groundwater flow in Pleasant Valley?
- Can we make assumptions about the speed of groundwater movement at certain locations?
- Would the contour lines change if you had SWL information from more wells? Fewer wells?
- Based on the information we have is X a good location for the landfill? Why or why not? If why, can you suggest a better site.
- What is the elevation of Mud River as it passes town?

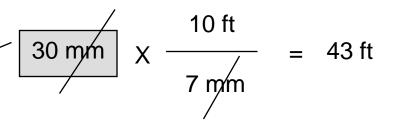


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Pleasant Valley Mud River 410 400 390 380 370 360 350 340 330 320 310 320 400 -340 350 370 390 400 Key General direction of groundwater N flow Monitoring well Proposed Landfill Site

What is the elevation of Mud River?



$$300 \text{ ft} - 43 \text{ ft} = 257 \text{ ft}$$