



0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 Feet  
1:12,000

## Topographic Map

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) produced its first topographic map in 1879, the same year it was established. Today, more than 100 years and millions of map copies later, topographic mapping is still a central activity for the USGS. The topographic map remains an indispensable tool for government, science, industry, and leisure.

Topographic maps usually portray both natural and manmade features. They show and name works of nature including mountains, valleys, plains, lakes, rivers, and vegetation. They also identify the principal works of man, such as roads, boundaries, transmission lines, and major buildings. The colors represent the following: Contours - brown, Hydrography - blue, Public Land Survey System and other surveys - red, Updates - purple/magenta, Miscellaneous - black, and Vegetation - green.