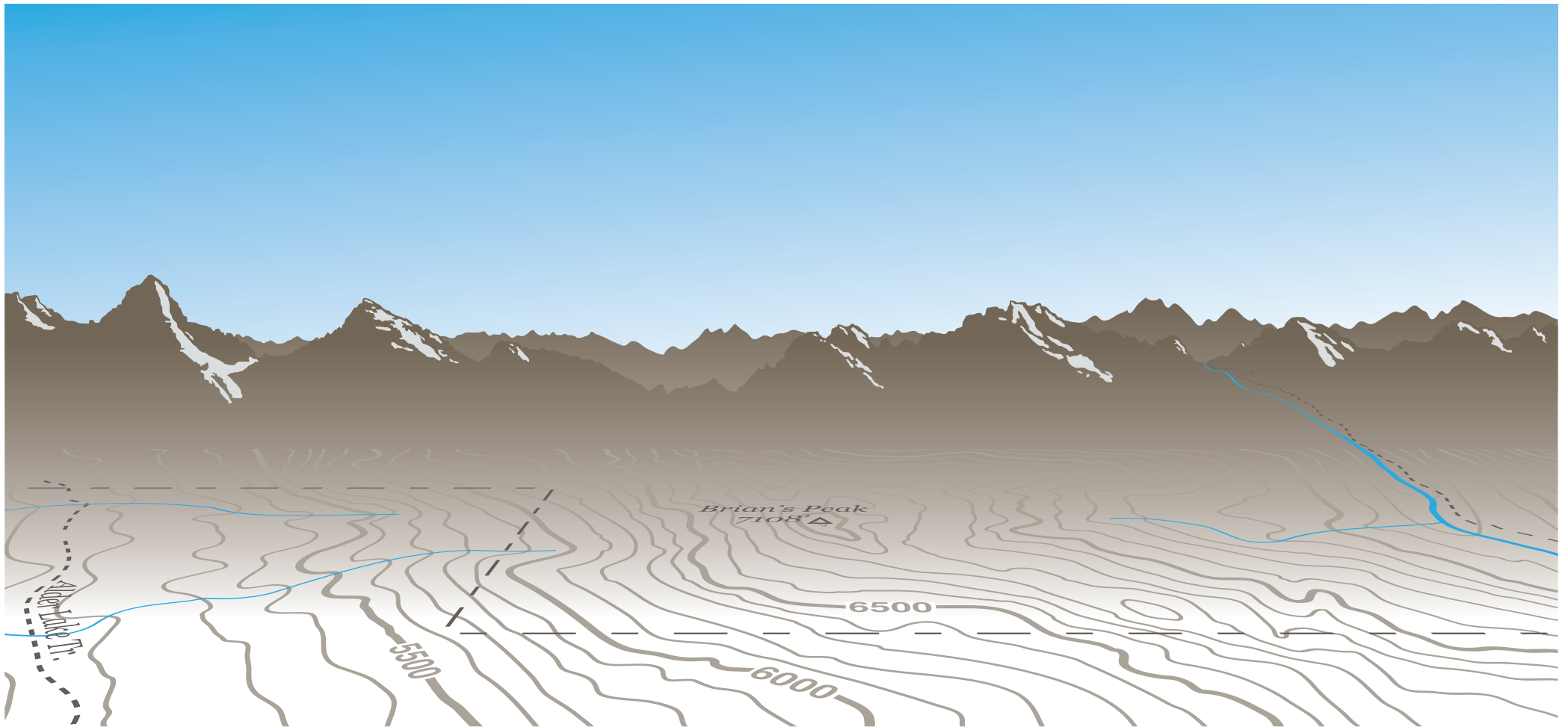


A topographic map showing contour lines, blue water bodies, and green shaded areas. The map is used as a background for the text.

Topographic Maps

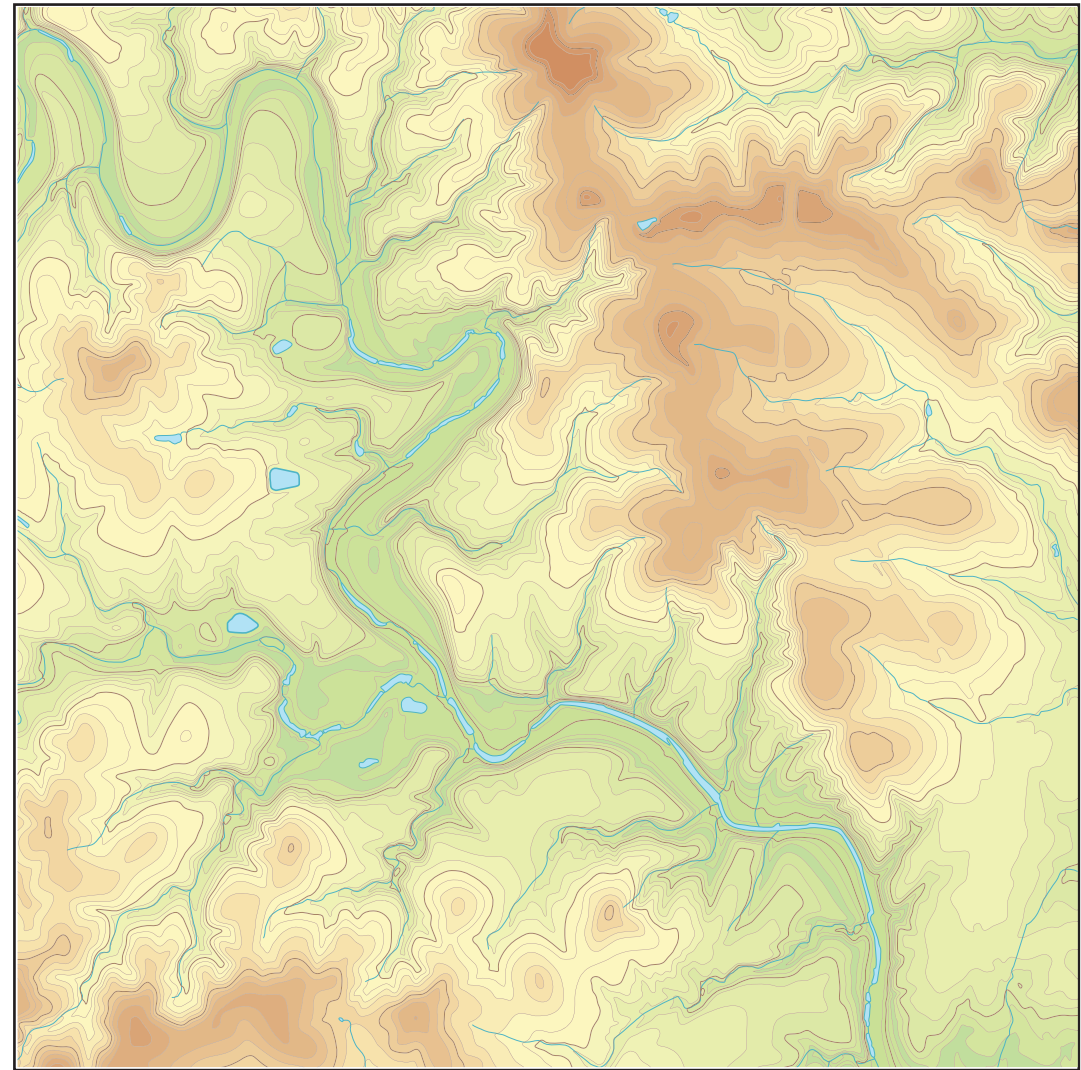
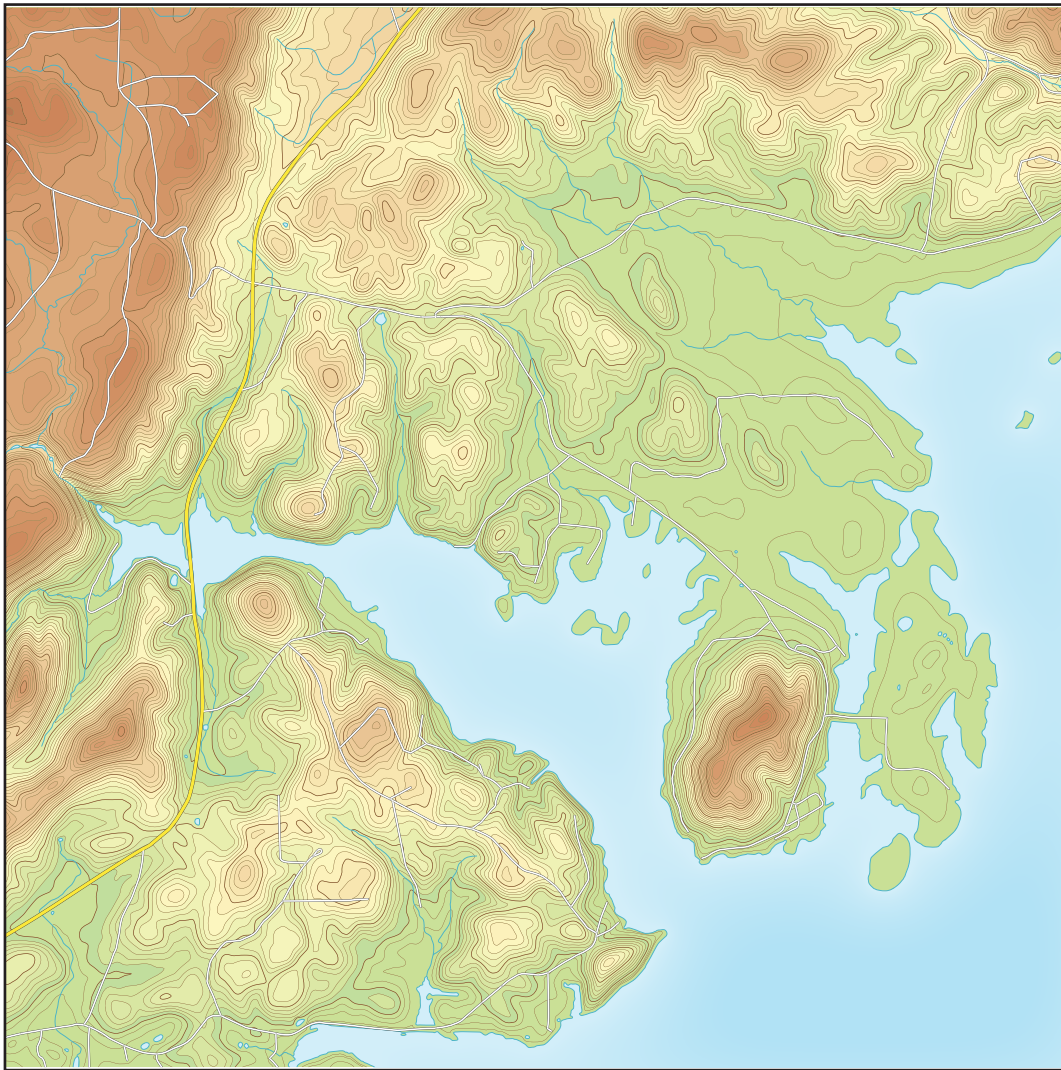
Discussion Questions

- 1) What is a topographic map?
- 2) How do you read the key on a topographic map?
- 3) How are topographic maps used?



















What is a topographic map ?

Topographic maps are detailed maps that show natural and built environments. They show the elevation of the land and the position of landforms and waterways. Areas that have the same elevation are joined by a line. These are often labelled, showing the height above sea level. Sometimes areas of similar elevation are coloured. Topographic maps are a 2-dimensional representation of the land.



These topographic maps show a coastal area and part of a river system. The blue areas represent water. A key is used to show the heights above sea level. Elevation changes are represented by gradual changes of colour. The green areas show land with the lowest elevation. The darkest brown areas represent the highest land.

Key:

	0 m		200 m		400 m		lake
	50 m		250 m		450 m		creek
	100 m		300 m		500 m		road
	150 m		350 m		550 m		major road