Problem-Solving Lab

Calculating Gradients

Analyze changes in elevation

Gradient refers to the rate of change in the steepness of a slope. To measure gradient, divide the change in elevation between two points on a map by the distance between the points. Use the map to answer the questions; convert your answers to SI.

Analysis

- Use the map scale and a ruler to determine the distance from point A to point B. Record the change in elevation between the two points.
- If you were to hike this distance, what would be the gradient of your climb?



Thinking Critically

- **3.** Calculate the gradient from point B to point C. Would it be more difficult to hike from point A to point B, or from point B to point C? Explain.
- 4. Between point A and point C, where is the steepest part of the hike? How do you know?