

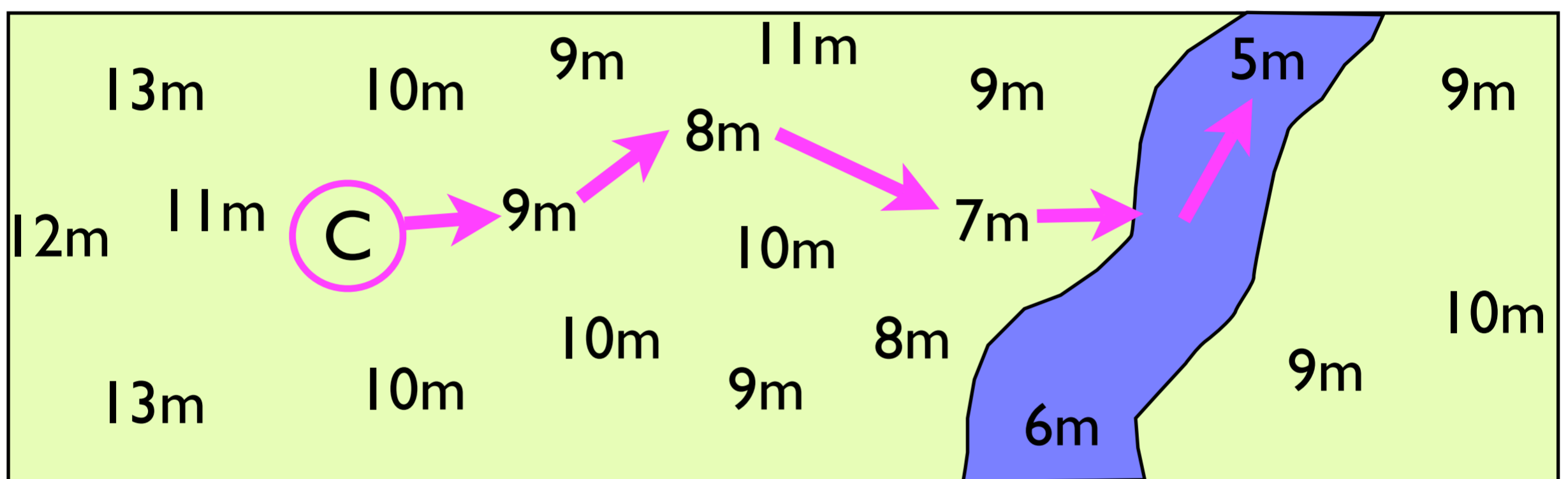
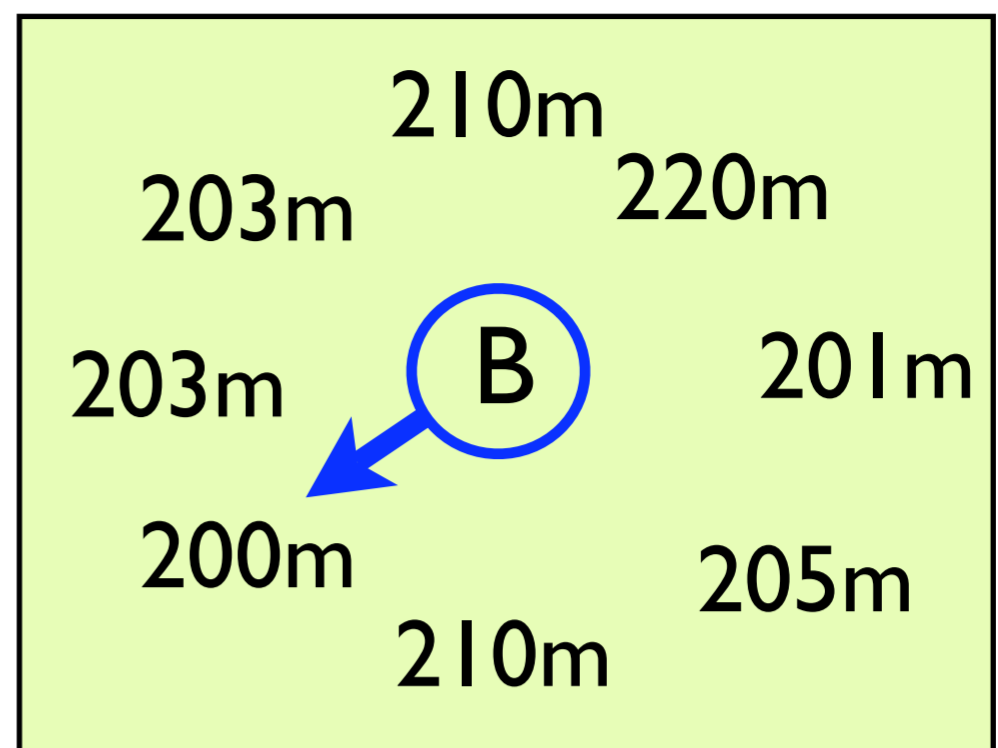
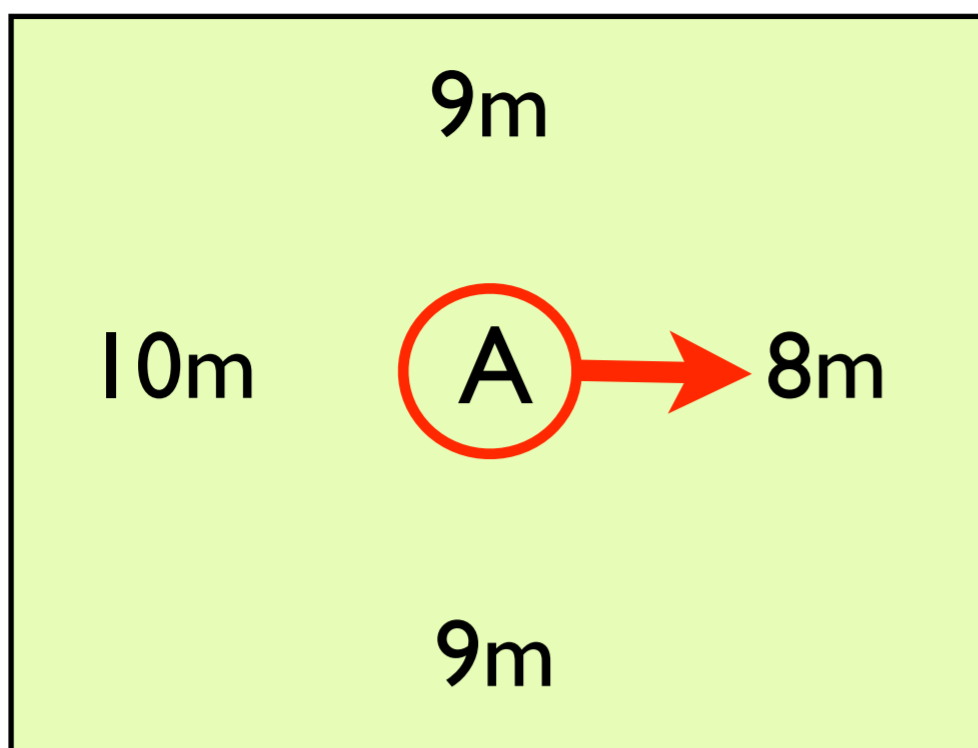
# Mapping your watershed



watershed ( $n$ ): the area of land where all of the water goes to the same place

The purpose of Lesson 2 and Activity 2 is to make the connection between runoff from the student's home and the ocean. Start by defining the term watershed.

# which way will water flow?



This slide has notes for slides 2–9 in Lesson 2 (you don't need notes for each slide). When you ask students which way water flows, they will almost always give the correct answer, "downhill." However, given a map of elevation many students have a difficult time figuring out which direction water will flow from a given point. These slides give simple demonstrations of picking the water's path. The starting point in each panel is given by the circled letter, and elevations are given by the numbers, as if you were looking at a map with elevation data. The arrows give the direction of water flow, and the blue region in the bottom panel represents a river.

Top left: ask students which way the water will flow from A. Which way is uphill, which way is down hill?

Top right: builds on the first panel.

Bottom: determine which direction is downhill in steps. First, find the lowest elevation near the starting location and draw an arrow to that point, then find the lowest elevation from that point and repeat. The string of arrows should follow the topography downhill along the water's path. Water generally flows towards creeks and rivers, and then to bigger rivers and eventually the ocean (or a lake). Rivers often have very small elevation changes and some common sense or local knowledge might be needed to determine the direction it flows. Once water enters a river or stream it stays in that waterway and makes its way towards bigger waterways. Several times I have witnessed students who trace a water path into a river and then back out towards what they think is lower elevation nearby.

## Mapping your watershed:

- find where you live on a map
- find the water's path from your home to the ocean
- what does your water flow through?
- think: what ecosystems does the water travel through?  
how far does the water travel?

This is an intro slide for Activity 2. The questions posed above are part of the activity, but I like to leave them up on the projector while the students are working to give them some guidance.