“Scaling” is enlarging or shrinking a shape without changing it. In this activity, you will learn how to scale up shapes to create a relief sculpture inspired by topographic maps.

**Age/Grade**  All

**Materials**

- Colored cardstock or construction paper
- Foam or cardboard - cut into small squares
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Optional: Ruler, maps, books, images of landscapes

**Activity Ideas**

- **PK–2: Identify Geometric and Organic Shapes**
  What is the difference between geometric and organic shapes? Identify these shapes in your home and in nature.

- **3–5: Explore Color Schemes or Gradients**
  Choose a color scheme that represents spring or the layers of the earth. What colors would those be to you? Maybe try using a gradient of warm or cool colors?

- **5–12: Topographic Maps**
  What is a topographic map? How does it work? What is it used for? View different topographic maps for inspiration for your sculpture. See the link below. Identify man-made vs. natural landforms on the maps. Determine which landforms are at higher and lower elevations.

- **Extra:**
  Collaborate on arranging multiple topographic sculptures to create a larger map.

**Resources**

*MyTopo* allows you to view and/or print topographic maps of cities in North Carolina.
Artmaking Directions

1. Start by drawing a small (about 2 inches) geometric or organic shape.

2. Cut out shape.

3. Place shape on paper and trace around the original shape leaving roughly ¼” on all sides.

   TIP: You can replicate the original shape or create a new shape for each layer.

4. Repeat until you have 8-10 shapes - each one should be larger than the last.

5. Attach the shapes by gluing small pieces of foam or cardboard between each layer.

Share your creations with us! Tag us: @artspacenc #ArtspaceAtHome