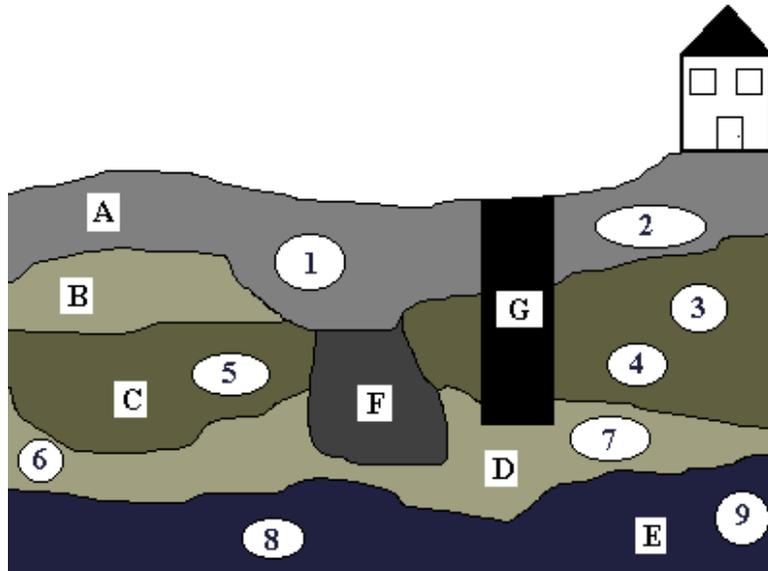


Name: _____

Fun with Stratigraphy

Stratigraphy is the oldest method that archaeologists use to date artifacts. It is based on the **Law of Superposition** which states that as long as layers of soil are undisturbed the oldest layer will be on the bottom and the most recent will be located on the top.

Directions: Below is a Stratigraphy Map showing the different layers of soil deposit, layers A-G. Within these layers different artifacts were found, numbered 1-9. Answer the following questions keeping in mind the Law of Superposition.



Artifacts

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Piece of a Glass Bottle | 4. Clay Pottery Sherd | 7. Sharpened Deer Bone |
| 2. Face from a Ceramic Doll | 5. Charred Fish Bones | 8. Mastodon Bone Fragment |
| 3. Arrowhead | 6. Stone Scraper | 9. Spear Point |

Questions:

1. Which is older: the **arrowhead** or the **spear point**?

2. If **G** is a well, who do you think dug it?

Name: _____

Questions: (cont.)

3. Is **layer B** older or more recent than **layer D**?

4a. Were there humans living here when **layer E** was being formed? Support your answer.

4b. What about when **layer B** was being formed? Support your answer.

5. Name an animal that lived here when **layer D** was being formed.

6. **Layer F** is a garbage pit. What layer was being formed when it was dug? What artifacts might have belonged to the person who dug it?

7. How might the **mastodon** have been killed? Who do you think might have killed it? Support your answers.

8. Which is older: the **clay pottery sherd** or the **sharpened deer bone**?

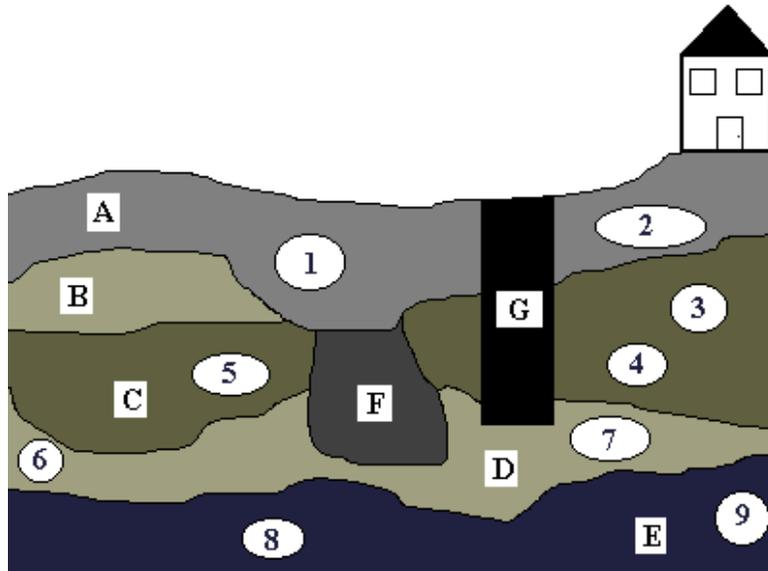
9. Which was deposited more recently: the **fish bones** or **level D**?

Fun with Stratigraphy

Answer Key

Stratigraphy is the oldest method that archaeologists use to date artifacts. It is based on the **Law of Superposition** which states that as long as layers of soil are undisturbed the oldest layer will be on the bottom and the most recent will be located on the top.

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Questions:

- Which is older: the **arrowhead** or the **spear point**? **Spear point**
- If **G** is a well, who do you think dug it? **People who live in the house**

Name: _____

Questions: (cont.)

3. Is layer B older or more recent than layer D? More Recent

4a. Were there humans living here when **layer E** was being formed? Support your answer.

Yes, because of the spear point

4b. What about when **layer B** was being formed? Support your answer.

No, there are no artifacts

Or

Yes, there is nothing left from the people

5. Name an animal that lived here when **layer D** was being formed.

Deer

6. Layer F is a garbage pit. What layer were the people who dug it living in? What artifacts might have belonged to the person who dug it?

Layer A, Glass Bottle or Ceramic Doll

7. How might the **mastodon** have been killed? Who do you think might have killed it? Support your answers.

By a spear, A Native American

8. Which is older: the **clay pottery sherd** or the **sharpened deer bone**?

Deer Bone

9. Which was deposited more recently: the **fish bones** or **level D**? **Fish Bones**