**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  
2. Face from a Ceramic Doll  
3. Arrowhead  
4. Clay Pottery Sherd  
5. Charred Fish Bones  
6. Stone Scrapper  
7. Sharpened Deer Bone  
8. Mastodon Bone Fragment  
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?
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.

**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
2. Face from a Ceramic Doll
3. Arrowhead
4. Clay Pottery Sherd
5. Charred Fish Bones
6. Stone Scraper
7. Sharpened Deer Bone
8. Mastodon Bone Fragment
9. Spear Point

**Questions:**

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

2. If G is a well, who do you think dug it? **People who live in the house**
**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**