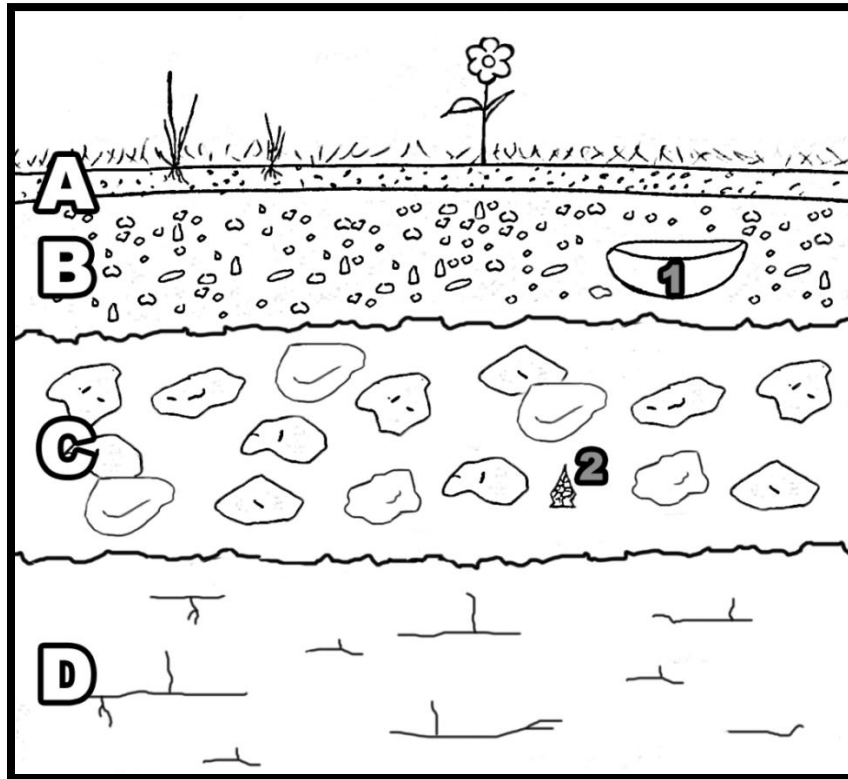


Background



The above picture shows a cross-section of the ground, like slicing through a layer cake. Just like a layer cake the ground is made of many layers with one on top of another. Usually the top layer is the most recent, and the bottom layer is the oldest.

Stratigraphy is the study of the layers of the earth. Archaeologists use stratigraphy to help determine what is older and what is younger. The Law of Superposition states that a layer that is on top is *younger* than a layer that is on bottom. Objects found inside a layer are around the same age as that layer.

In the example above layer D is older than layer A. Object 2 is older than object 1. Object 2 cannot be older or younger than layer C, but must have been left on the ground when layer C was still the surface.