

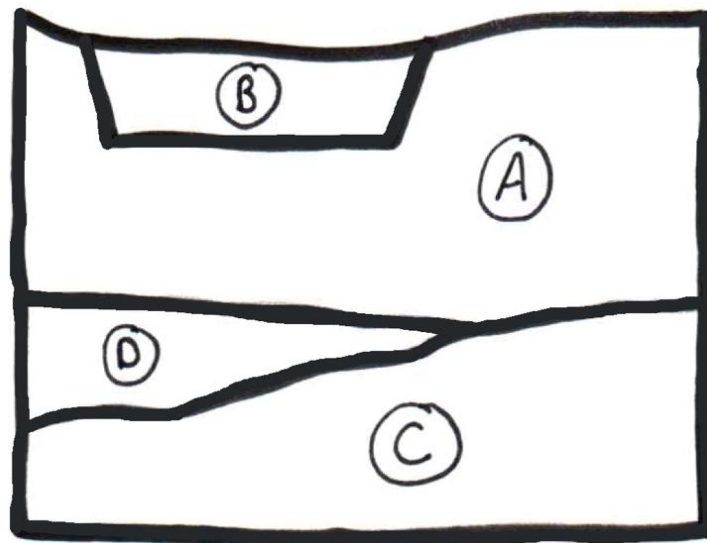
## The History Below Us

The ground beneath your feet is made up of many, many layers. If you dug a deep hole straight down, you would see layers of soil and rock in different colours and of different types.

Archaeologists use these layers during excavations to give them clues to help work out the order in which things happened and how old the objects they find are. This information can be incredibly useful when you want to know about who lived in a certain place and what kind of things they did there.

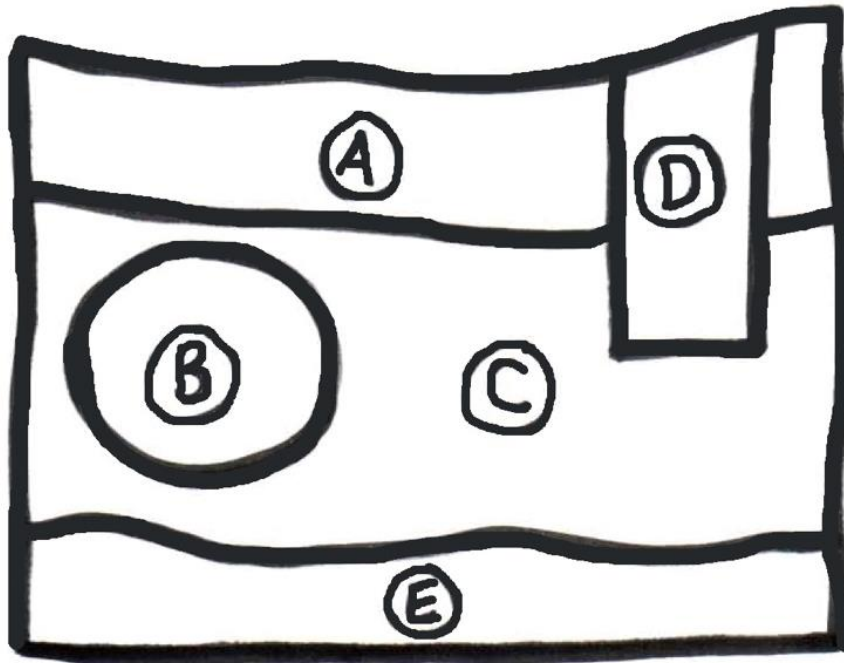
**These layers and how they're studied is called stratigraphy!**

A simple way to think about it would be to imagine making a cake – the first layer would be the bottom sponge, then a layer of jam, then cream, next the top sponge and finally, the icing. **Here's an example:**



Here we can see that C is the oldest layer – the further down the layer, the older it usually is. D would then be the next oldest, as it lies on top of C. Then A, then B. Pretty simple, right?

**Now for something a little more challenging...**



In this example, even though B is lower than the top of C, B would have happened after C. Think of a stone being pushed into a bowl of sand.

Similarly, D would come after C and A, even though it goes lower than A and cuts into C. Like a knife going into a cake, it would happen after the layers of the cake had been laid.

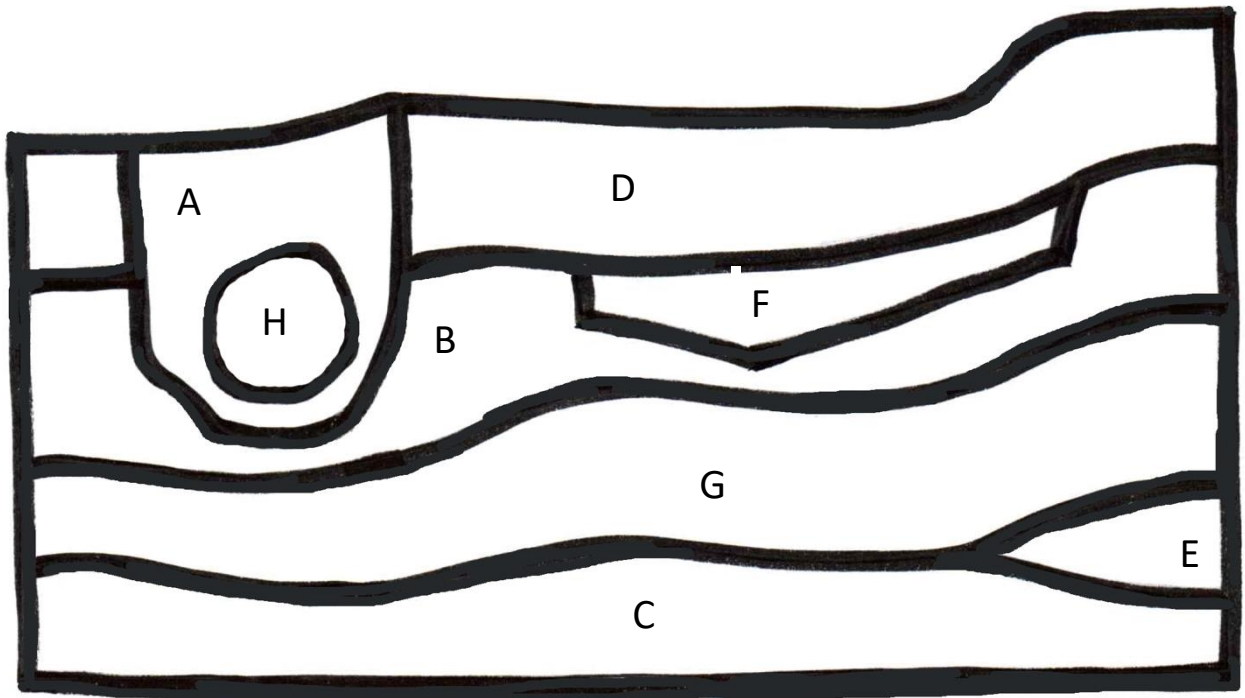
**Now it's your turn.** Look at these potential stratigraphy diagrams and see if you can place the layers in order of oldest to most recent.

**HANDY HINT!**

If you're stuck, a good question to ask is, **what would have come first?**

The answers can be found on our answers page.

1.



2.

