

Figure 6.3 Some instances of archaeological associations. (a) The burial pit, dug from the uppermost layer, contains not only a skeleton but also a dagger that lies close to its feet. The dagger is associated with the skeleton, and both finds are associated with the burial pit and the layer from which the grave pit was cut into the subsoil. (b) In contrast, a pot and a stone ax are found in two different layers, separated by a sterile zone, a zone with no finds. The two objects are not in association. (c) Two different household clusters with associated pits and scatters of artifacts. These are in association with one another. (d) An association of two contemporary communities.

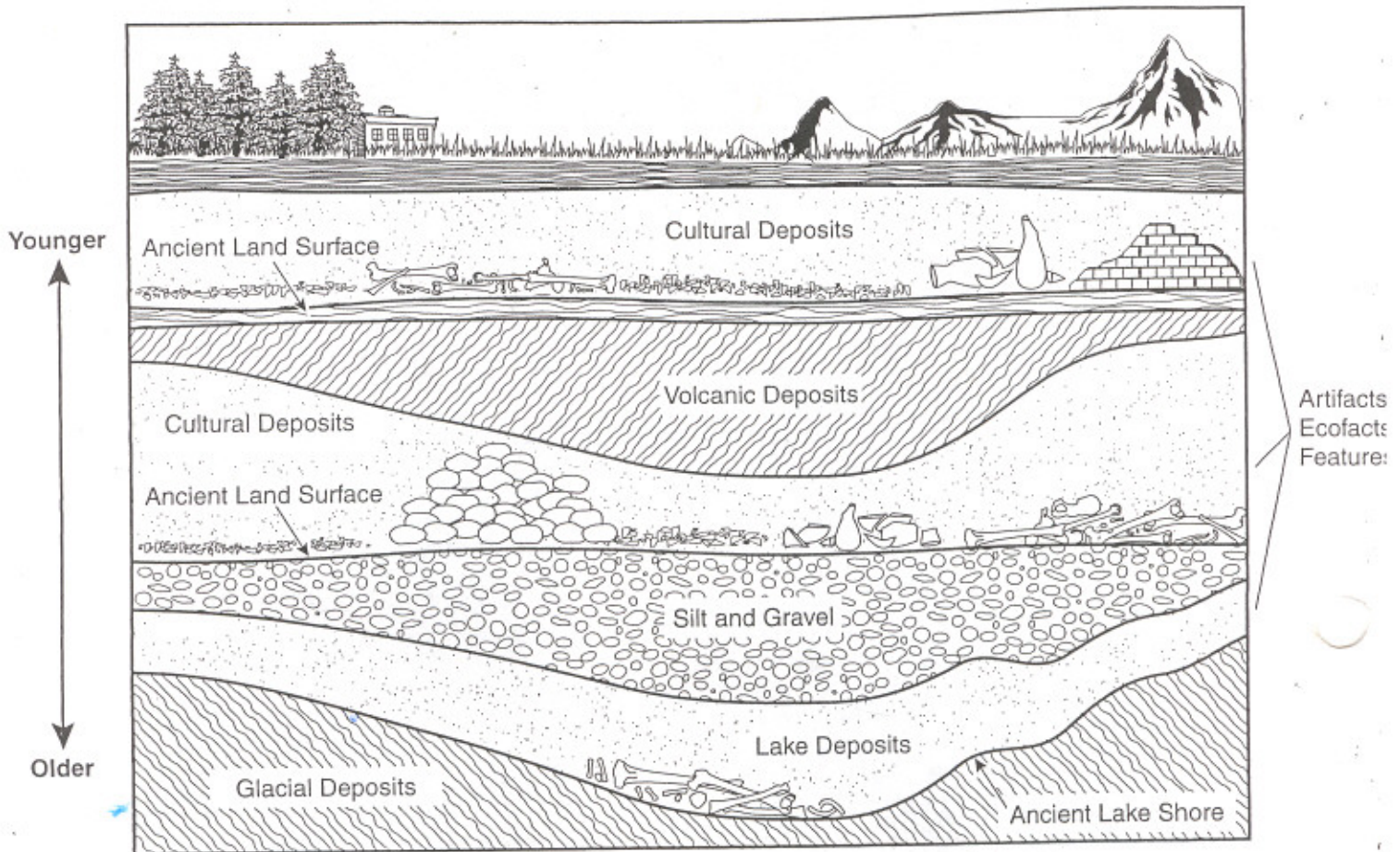


figure 1.1

Stratigraphy and the Law of Superposition. Here is an example of stratigraphy with layers containing archaeological materials intermingled with natural layers. Using the law of superposition, it is clear that the archaeological materials above the volcanic deposits must be younger than those in the layer below.