Activity 2: Initial Design of a `Deck` Class

Introduction:

Think about a deck of cards. How would you describe a deck of cards? When you play card games, what kinds of operations do these games require a deck to provide?

Exploration:

Now consider implementing a class to represent a deck of cards. Describe its instance variables and methods, and discuss your design with a classmate.

Read the partial implementation of the `Deck` class available in the **Activity2 Starter Code** folder. This file contains the instance variables, constructor header, and method headers for a `Deck` class general enough to be useful for a variety of card games. Discuss the `Deck` class with your classmates; in particular, make sure you understand the role of each of the parameters to the `Deck` constructor, and of each of the private instance variables in the `Deck` class.

Exercises:

1. Complete the implementation of the `Deck` class by coding each of the following:

   - `Deck` constructor — This constructor receives three arrays as parameters. The arrays contain the ranks, suits, and point values for each card in the deck. The constructor creates an `ArrayList`, and then creates the specified cards and adds them to the list.
     For example, if `ranks = {"A", "B", "C"}`, `suits = {"Giraffes", "Lions"}`, and `values = {2,1,6}`, the constructor would create the following cards:

     ```
     ["A", "Giraffes", 2], ["B", "Giraffes", 1], ["C", "Giraffes", 6],
     ["A", "Lions", 2], ["B", "Lions", 1], ["C", "Lions", 6]
     ```

     and would add each of them to `cards`. The parameter `size` would then be set to the size of `cards`, which in this example is 6.

     Finally, the constructor should shuffle the deck by calling the `shuffle` method. Note that you will not be implementing the `shuffle` method until Activity 4.

   - `isEmpty` — This method should return `true` when the size of the deck is `0`; `false` otherwise.

   - `size` — This method returns the number of cards in the deck that are left to be dealt.

- `deal` — This method "deals" a card by removing a card from the deck and returning it, if there are any cards in the deck left to be dealt. It returns `null` if the deck is empty. There are several ways of accomplishing this task. Here are two possible algorithms:

  Algorithm 1: Because the cards are being held in an `ArrayList`, it would be easy to simply call the `List` method that removes an object at a specified index, and return that object. Removing the object from the end of the list would be more efficient than removing it from the beginning of the list. Note that the use of this algorithm also requires a separate "discard" list to keep track of the dealt cards. This is necessary so that the dealt cards can be reshuffled and dealt again.

  Algorithm 2: It would be more efficient to leave the cards in the list. Instead of removing the card, simply decrement the size instance variable and then return the card at `size`. In this algorithm, the `size` instance variable does double duty; it determines which card to "deal" and it also represents how many cards in the deck are left to be dealt. **This is the algorithm that you should implement.**

2. Once you have completed the `Deck` class, find `DeckTester.java` file in the **Activity2 Starter Code** folder. Add code in the `main` method to create three `Deck` objects and test each method for each `Deck` object.

Questions:

1. Explain in your own words the relationship between a `deck` and a `card`.

2. Consider the deck initialized with the statements below. How many cards does the deck contain?

```
String[] ranks = {"jack", "queen", "king"};
String[] suits = {"blue", "red"};
int[] pointValues = {11, 12, 13};
Deck d = new Deck(ranks, suits, pointValues);
```

3. The game of Twenty-One is played with a deck of 52 cards. Ranks run from ace (highest) down to 2 (lowest). Suits are spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs as in many other games. A face card has point value 10; an ace has point value 11; point values for 2, …, 10 are 2, …, 10, respectively. Specify the contents of the `ranks`, `suits`, and `pointValues` arrays so that the statement

```
Deck d = new Deck(ranks, suits, pointValues);
```

   initializes a deck for a Twenty-One game.

4. Does the order of elements of the `ranks`, `suits`, and `pointValues` arrays matter?