

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Target: I can make a dichotomous key to classify organisms

LE Standards: Appendix A Lab Skills; 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.2.1

A dichotomous key is a tool that scientists use to help identify a particular specimen. The specimen could be a chemical that is identified by its physical properties, an insect identified by physical traits, or even a rock sample based on its different properties. The term dichotomous begins with the prefix of "di" which means two. The dichotomous key allows for the scientist to ask a series of questions with yes or no answers. Each question should be phrased so that the answer will either be yes or no.

Now that you've learned how to use a dichotomous key, you get to practice making your own.

Make careful observations of these organisms and list the fundamental characteristics in the tables provided. Identify only those traits that you believe will be useful criteria for classification.

Animal:  Characteristics:	Animal:  Characteristics:
Animal:  Characteristics:	Animal:  Characteristics:
Animal:  Characteristics:	Animal:  Characteristics:

A. What is one trait that could be used to separate these organisms into two groups?

B. Use this trait to write statement set #1 in the table below.

The statements should be mutually exclusive. In other words, either the organism has the trait or it doesn't.

C. Observe the organisms described by statement #1a.

Identify one trait that could be used to differentiate them and use it to write statement set #2.

D. Repeat this step for the organisms described by statement #1b.

Use it to write statement set #3.

	Characteristic Description	Organism Or Go to #
1a.		
1b.		
2a.		
2b.		
3a.		
3b.		
4a.		
4b.		
5a.		
5b.		
6a.		
6b.		

Group Members:

	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dichotomous Key</b>	Dichotomous key is neat, accurate and easy to complete and understand.	Dichotomous key is mostly neat, accurate and easy to complete and understand.	Dichotomous key is not neat, inaccurate, difficult to complete, and is confusing.
<b>Drawings</b>	All drawings are colored, neat, and easy to see. All images contain features needed to complete the dichotomous key.	Most drawings are colored, neat, and easy to see. Most images contain features needed to complete the dichotomous key.	Few drawings are colored, neat, and are easy to see. Few images contain features needed to complete the dichotomous key.
<b>Scientific Names</b>	All scientific names are correctly written.	The assigned scientific names are mostly written correctly with a few mistakes.	The assigned scientific names are not correct.

Comments: