Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIY Dichotomous Key**

1. Use the most general traits that can be used to divide organisms into two categories. These two categories will become 1a and 1b. Example:

1.a………………. Go to 2

1.b……….……….Go to 3

1. The second step (2a and 2b) needs to consist of a pair of statements that will allow for the identification of one organisms (2b should ID one organism).
2. Every statement after the second should allow for the identification of one or two organisms.
3. The last pair of statements (i.e. 10a and 10b) should identify two organisms (1 organism each).
4. There should be one less step than the total number of organisms (ex. If you have 6 organisms, you should have 5 paired statements to identify them all).
5. The more similarities the group of organisms has, the more difficult the key is to develop. Try to choose characteristics that are different to make classifying the organisms easier.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Steps** | **Go to # OR Name of Creature** |
| 1 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 2 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 3 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 4 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 5 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 6 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 7 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 8 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 9 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |
| 10 | a. |  |
|  | b. |  |

Questions:

1. What is the purpose of a dichotomous key (not just this key, but any key)?
2. What do them Latin roots in dichotomous mean? Why do you think it is called a “dichotomous” key?

Di-: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-Chot: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-Tome: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Is it possible to create more than one dichotomous key for classifying the same group of objects?
2. When two people use the same dichotomous key to identify the same object, should it be possible for them to have different results?