

DICHOTOMOUS KEY ASSIGNMENT

With a partner, you will design a dichotomous key for a group of organisms. This is an **in-class assignment**. Do **NOT** take the cards home. Pay very close attention to the criteria that is written below and that will given to you by your teacher.

1. Get a package of wildlife cards from your teacher. Write down the number of the package you have and **make sure you include this number on your final copy of your dichotomous key**. These cards contain pictures and information for a number of organisms which you will use to make your own branching dichotomous key. **THINK** carefully about how you are going to make your dichotomous key and what descriptions or characteristics you are going to include.
2. You should **NOT** use where the animal lives (e.g. lives in Africa, lives in the Arctic, etc.) nor are you allowed to use the **BINOMIAL NOMENCLATURE** of the organisms (e.g. *Homo sapiens*) → these classification categories are located on the back of the cards and are "off limits" to use.

You need to use observable characteristics such as what an organism HAS (e.g. 2 wings, 4 fins, scales, etc.) and NOT what organisms CAN DO (e.g. runs fast, eats fish, sleeps during the day)!!!!

3. Make a rough copy of your key and **TEST** it with another person in class. Have the tester critique your key. Do the descriptions make sense to other people?? How could the **WORDS** you use be made **MORE CLEAR** or **LESS CONFUSING?**

It is very important to get **FEEDBACK** on your key. **Once you have someone check over your key, call the teacher over to get a stamp.** You need this stamp to get a mark for your rough copy.

4. Once you have your rough copy checked, transfer the information onto 11 x 17 paper.
5. You will need to include pictures and/or drawings.

The criteria are:

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| ✓ Rough copy checked by classmate and stamped by teacher | /1 |
| ✓ Title on poster (easy to read/see, colourful and eye-catching) | /2 |
| ✓ Partners' names and number of wildlife package used | /1 |
| ✓ Key must be in the form of a dichotomous key → can only have 2 branches at one time and must use arrows (→) in your key | /3 |
| ✓ Pictures/drawings → to get full marks for this part you should have a picture (clip art, magazine, Internet, etc.) or drawing for EACH organism (that way the reader has a visual image of what each organism looks like) | /5 |
| ✓ Creativity → Colourful, eye-catching | /2 |
| ✓ Neatly presented → neatly glued (no edges sticking up), straight edges (used a ruler and scissors to cut out paper), used colour borders/matting | /2 |
| ✓ Neatly organized → easy to read, not too crowded, good use of the whole paper | /2 |
| ✓ Descriptions and characteristics → makes sense, not confusing/vague, used observable characteristics about what each organism HAS and not what it CAN DO (you will lose ½ - 1 mark for every confusing description) | /12 |

This project is worth **30 marks** and is due _____

**CREATIVITY & QUALITY ARE VERY IMPORTANT!
MAKE SURE YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS THE BEST IT CAN BE!!!**