

Nova's Nature Classification Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and use classification keys to group, identify, and name a variety of living things in the local and wider environment.

Help Nova the owl sort the creatures she has spotted in the forest! Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of classification to find the right answer.

Answer Key: 1) C*, 2) True, 3) Invertebrate, 4) A*, 5) False, 6) Vertebrate, 7) B*, 8) False, 9) Key, 10) True.

Word bank: Vertebrate · Invertebrate · Classification · Key · Mammal · Amphibian · Reptile · Species

1. 1. Nova finds a creature with a backbone. What do we call this group? A) Invertebrate B) Plant C) Vertebrate* D) Fossil (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A classification key is a tool used to help identify living things. (1 mark)

3. 3. If a creature has no backbone, such as a garden snail, what is it called? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these is a question you might find in a classification key? A) Does it have feathers?* B) What is its favourite colour? C) How fast can it run? D) Where does it sleep? (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: All living things are classified as plants. (1 mark)

6. 6. Is a fish a vertebrate or an invertebrate? (1 mark)

7. 7. Which group of animals has fur or hair and feeds their young with milk? A) Reptiles B) Mammals* C) Birds D) Insects (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: You can only use a classification key for animals, never for plants. (1 mark)

9. 9. A branching diagram used to sort items by their features is known as a classification _____. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: An amphibian is a vertebrate that can live both on land and in water. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a simple classification key for three different garden creatures (e.g., a spider, a worm, and a ladybird) using 'Yes' and 'No' questions.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to group the creatures in her garden! Create your own classification key for five different animals you might find at the park. Remember to start with a 'Yes' or 'No' question that splits your group in half.