

Science Assessment: Sorting Living Things

Learning objective: To use classification keys to group, identify, and name a variety of living things.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you. Fill in the boxes and answer the questions below. You can do this!

Nova the owl is helping us sort animals. A classification key is a way to sort animals by asking 'Yes' or 'No' questions. We look at features like feathers, fur, or scales to help us identify them.

Word bank: Classification key · Group · Characteristic · Living things · Identify · Flowchart

1. 1. What is the name of the tool we use to sort living things into groups? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. 2. Look at these animals: a dog, a goldfish, and a parrot. Name one characteristic you could use to sort them. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. 3. If you are using a key to sort a cat and a frog, why is the question 'Does it have fur?' a good question to ask? (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. 4. Complete this simple key for a dog and a fish.

Question: Does it live in water?

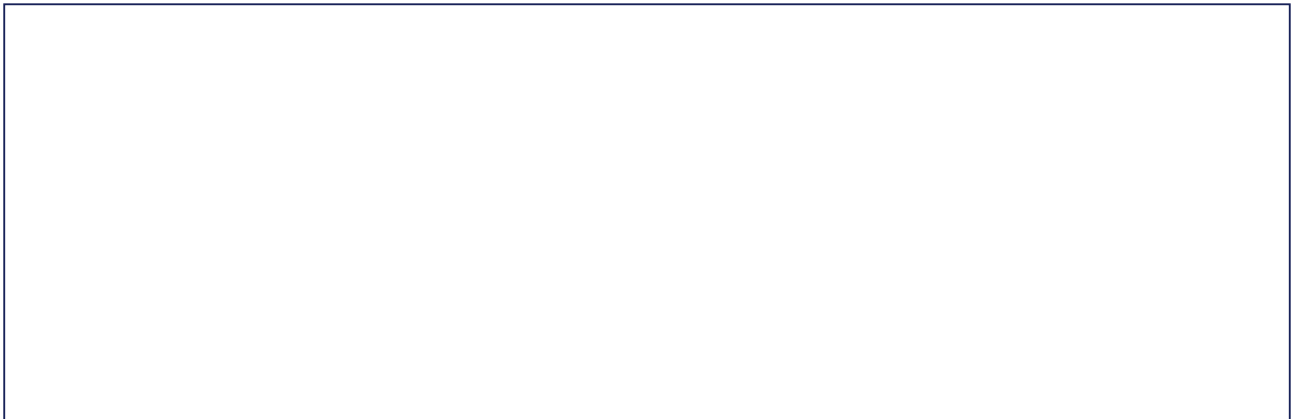
If Yes: _____

If No: _____ (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. 5. Think about a bird and a worm. Write 5 sentences to explain how you would build a key to tell them apart. Use the sentence starters:

- First, I would ask...
- If the answer is yes, it is a...
- If the answer is no, it is a...
- I chose this question because...
- This helps me to... (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple flowchart (classification key) to sort a beetle and a cat. Show the question in a box and two arrows leading to the correct animals.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Can you add a third animal to your flowchart? Write the new question you would need to add to your key.