

Nova's Guide to Classification Keys

Follow the path to find the name of the creature!

- A classification key is a tool used to identify living things by looking at their physical features.
- Each question in a key must have two choices, usually 'yes' or 'no'.
- Look for features like feathers, fur, scales, or how many legs an animal has to help you group them.
- A good key starts with a big group and breaks it down into smaller groups step by step.
- When you reach the end of the branches, you will find the name of the living thing you are looking for.

Did you know? Did you know? Scientists use classification keys like a detective uses clues! By asking 'yes' or 'no' questions about what a living thing looks like, you can sort animals into smaller and smaller groups until you find their exact name.

Key vocabulary: Classification · Branching · Key · Identify · Feature · Group