

Nova's Creature Classification

Learning objective: To be able to use a branching key to identify living things.

Hello! I am Nova the owl. Scientists use keys to sort animals into groups. Look at the questions. Follow the arrows to find the name of the animal. Use the word bank to help you spell the names.

Look at the key below:

Does it have feathers?

Yes -> It is a Bird.

No -> Does it have fur?

Yes -> It is a Mammal.

No -> It is a Fish.

Word bank: Classification · Key · Branch · Group · Feature · Mammal · Bird · Fish · Reptile

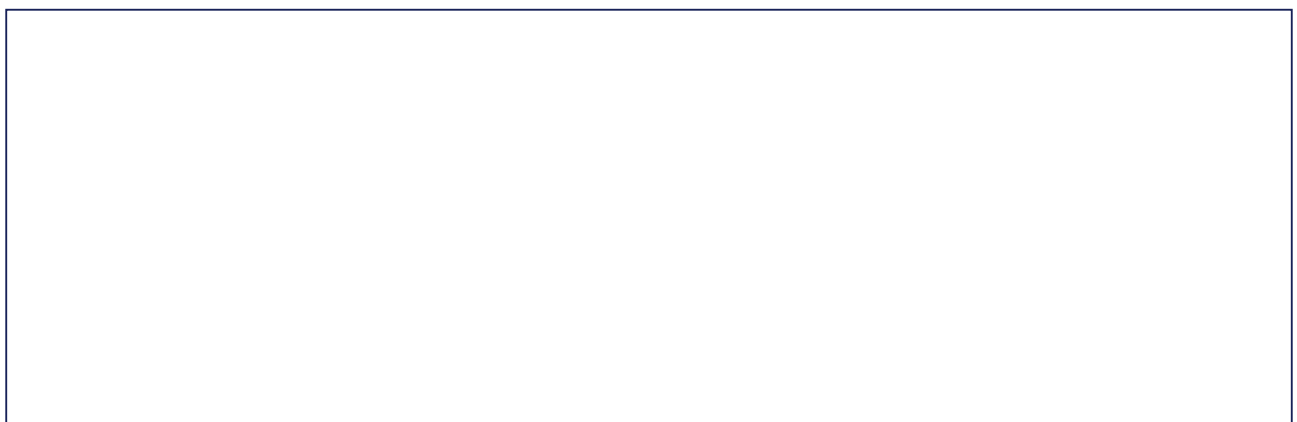
1. 1. If an animal has feathers, which group does it belong to? (1 mark)

2. 2. An animal has fur. Does it have feathers? Use the key to name the group. (2 marks)

3. 3. If an animal does not have feathers and does not have fur, what group is it in? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why do scientists use a classification key? (Hint: Is it to sort things or to mix them up?) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a bird and a mammal. Label them using the words from the word bank.



Extension challenge: Think of one more question you could add to the key to help sort the animals even more. For example: 'Does it live in water?'