

Nova's Classification Challenge

Learning objective: To create a classification key to identify different living things based on observable characteristics.

Help Nova the owl sort the woodland creatures! Use your knowledge of characteristics to complete the classification key diagram below. Start at the top and follow the arrows, answering 'Yes' or 'No' at each branch.

Draw: Create a clear, structured flow-chart style diagram on a piece of A4 paper. At the top, draw a large circle representing the 'Animal Kingdom'. Branch downwards using clear lines. Include small sketches of a hedgehog, a beetle, a robin, and a snail at the terminal ends of your branches. Use neat boxes for your 'Yes' and 'No' decision points. Ensure the style is scientific and tidy, with plenty of room for labels.

Label words: Vertebrate · Invertebrate · Fur · Feathers · Exoskeleton · Classification Key · Characteristics · Species

Steps:

1. Explain why it is important to choose 'Yes/No' questions when creating a classification key.
2. Step 1: Draw a box at the top labelled 'Animal'. Draw two arrows leading to 'Has a backbone?' and 'Does not have a backbone?'.

3. Step 2: Add two examples of invertebrates to your key and label them.
4. Step 3: Add a final branch that separates mammals from birds using a physical characteristic.
5. Identify one feature that would help you distinguish between an insect and an arachnid.