

Nova's Classification Quest

Learning objective: To identify and classify living things using branching keys based on observable characteristics.

Read the clues carefully and join Nova the owl to sort the living things into their correct groups. Choose the best answer or write your answer clearly.

Answer Key: 1. A (Classification); 2. True; 3. Invertebrate; 4. B (Has a backbone); 5. False; 6. C (Classification Key); 7. True; 8. Vertebrate; 9. D (To identify organisms); 10. False. Nova reminds you: A classification key is a tool that asks 'yes' or 'no' questions to help us identify living things by their features!

Word bank: Classification · Key · Vertebrate · Invertebrate · Characteristic · Branching

1. 1. What is the process of sorting living things into groups called? A) Classification* B) Sorting C) Naming D) Listing (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: All living things can be sorted into groups based on their physical features. (1 mark)

3. 3. If an animal does not have a backbone, such as a spider or a snail, what do we call it? (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the main characteristic of a vertebrate? A) It has no legs. B) It has a backbone.* C) It lives in water. D) It has fur. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: A branching key is a type of map used to find buried treasure. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which tool helps us identify an unknown plant or animal? A) A magnifying glass B) A dictionary C) A Classification Key* D) A ruler (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: A flowering plant has different characteristics to a non-flowering plant like moss. (1 mark)

8. 8. Is a goldfish a vertebrate or an invertebrate? (1 mark)

9. 9. Why do scientists use classification keys? A) To make things harder B) To count how many animals exist C) To decorate their labs D) To identify organisms* (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: A classification key should always start with a question that has many different answers. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a simple branching key that sorts three animals: a butterfly, a dog, and a goldfish. Start with the question: 'Does it have a backbone?'



Extension challenge: Nova has found a mystery creature in the garden! It has six legs, wings, and a hard outer shell. Write three 'yes/no' questions that you would include in a classification key to identify this insect.