

Nova's Garden Classification Key Template

Learning objective: To create a branching classification key to identify and group living things based on specific observable characteristics.

Nova the owl has been exploring the garden! Help her categorise the creatures she found. Choose four different animals, then design a series of 'Yes' or 'No' questions that lead to each animal. Use the boxes below to build your key step-by-step.

Word bank: vertebrate · invertebrate · mammal · insect · habitat · characteristic · classification · branching key · nocturnal

1. Step 1: Choose four animals. List the animals you have chosen to classify in your key: (2 marks)

2. Step 2: Create your first 'Yes' or 'No' question. What main characteristic will you use to split your four animals into two groups of two? (3 marks)

3. Step 3: Create your second set of questions. How will you split the remaining pairs into individual animals? Write your questions here: (3 marks)

4. Step 4: Draw your branching diagram. Use the space below to draw the lines and boxes that connect your questions to the correct animal names. (4 marks)

5. Step 5: Why is it important to use clear 'Yes' or 'No' questions when creating a classification key? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Can you add a fifth animal to your key? Which extra question do you need to add to your diagram to include it without confusing the other classifications?