

# 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 categorize 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)**

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**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)**

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**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)**

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**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)**

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

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*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?*