

Nova's Classification Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and classify living things into broad groups according to observable characteristics and use classification keys.

Join Nova the owl as she explores the forest! Use your knowledge of classification keys to answer these 10 questions. Remember, a good key helps us group living things based on their features.

Answer Key: 1. B, 2. True, 3. Vertebrate, 4. C, 5. False, 6. D, 7. True, 8. Invertebrate, 9. A, 10. False. Classification keys are tools used to group living things by asking 'yes' or 'no' questions about their physical features.

Word bank: Invertebrate · Vertebrate · Characteristic · Classification · Key · Micro-organism · Mammal · Amphibian

1. 1. Nova is looking at a creature with a backbone. What is this group called? A) Invertebrate B) Vertebrate* C) Plant D) Fungi (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A classification key uses a series of questions to help identify an organism. (1 mark)

3. 3. If an animal does not have a backbone, what is the scientific name for this group? (1 mark)

4. 4. Which of these is a key characteristic used to classify a mammal? A) Lays eggs B) Has feathers C) Feeds young with milk* D) Has cold blood (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: All living things that live in water are classified as fish. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which question would be most helpful at the start of a classification key? A) Does it like cheese? B) Is it blue? C) Does it have legs?* D) Does it have a name? (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Classification keys can be presented as a branching diagram. (1 mark)

8. 8. An insect has six legs and no backbone. Is it a vertebrate or an invertebrate? (1 mark)

9. 9. Which group of animals has moist skin and spends part of its life in water? A) Amphibian* B) Bird C) Reptile D) Mammal (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: A classification key should always have more than 100 questions. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a simple branching classification key that helps Nova identify three different animals found in a garden (e.g., a beetle, a robin, and a frog).



Extension challenge: Design your own classification key for five different items in your classroom (e.g., stationery items). Ensure your questions result in a unique 'yes' or 'no' path for each item.