

Dichotomous Key “Who am I?” Student Instructions:

1. Place a sticky note on your forehead (DO NOT LOOK). It will have the name of an animal.
2. Use Dichotomous Key (Part 1) to identify the CLASS that your organism belongs to.
3. You will walk around the class and ask a peer the yes/no questions to help you continue the steps of the dichotomous key.

NOTE: you may only ask one question to each person you talk to!

4. Once you have figured this out, find the dichotomous key for the appropriate class and identify your specific ORGANISM by repeating step #3.
5. Once you think you have the answer, go to the board and place your stickie under the appropriate class/category and check if you got it right!

If you do not know how to answer a question that another peer asks you, look at the powerpoint slide for clues or say “pass”. **Do not give the wrong answer** or else they will not be able to identify their animal correctly! Good luck!

PART 1) USE THIS FIRST DICHOTOMOUS KEY TO IDENTIFY THE CLASS OF YOUR ORGANISM:

ANIMAL KINGDOM:

1. Is the body covered with hair/fur?
If yes...mammal
If no.... go to 2
2. Does the animal use ONLY gills to breathe?
If yes...fish
If no.... go to 3
3. Does the animal lay eggs with a shell?
If yes...go to 4
If no.... amphibian
4. Is the animal an ectotherm/cold-blooded?
If yes...reptile
If no.... bird

After this Dichotomous Key, my guess is that my animal belongs to the _____ class.

PART 2) USE THE APPROPRIATE DICHOTOMOUS KEY DEPENDING ON YOUR GUESS FROM PART 1!

BIRDS:

1. Is this bird composed of more than 2 colours?
If yes.... go to 2
If no.....go to 3
2. Can this bird repeat words said by humans?
If yes.... parrot
If no.....peacock
3. Do humans eat this type of bird?
If yes...chicken
If no.... go to 4
4. Is this bird a shade of pink?
If yes.... flamingo
If no....dove

AMPHIBIANS:

1. Does this amphibian jump at its main form of movement?
 - a. If yes....go to 2
 - b. If no....go to 3
2. Does this amphibian have thick, dry skin?
 - a. If yes...toad
 - b. If no.....frog
3. Does this amphibian have spots on it?
 - a. If yes....spotted salamander
 - b. If no.....newt

MAMMALS:

1. Can this mammal be found on a farm?
If yes....go to 2
If no.....go to 3
2. Does this mammal have a long, straight tail?
If yes...cow
If no....pig
3. Does this mammal have spots?
If yes...giraffe
If no....go to 4
4. Does this mammal have stripes?
If yes...zebra
If no....panda

REPTILE

1. Does the reptile have limbs?
If yes...go to 2
If no....snake
2. Does the reptile have a hard shell?
If yes...turtle
If no...go to 3
3. Does the reptile change colours depending on its surroundings?
If yes....chameleon
If no...crocodile

FISH

1. Does this fish have whiskers?
 - a. If yes....catfish
 - b. If no....go to 2
2. Is this fish a gold/orange colour?
 - a. If yes....goldfish
 - b. If no....go to 3
3. Does this fish have an elongated (very long) body shape?
 - a. If yes....eel
 - b. If no....salmon

After this activity, my guess is that "I am a/an _____".

Check with Ms. Choi to see if you are right! Place your sticky in the appropriate group on the board.