

# Taxonomy: Dichotomous Key

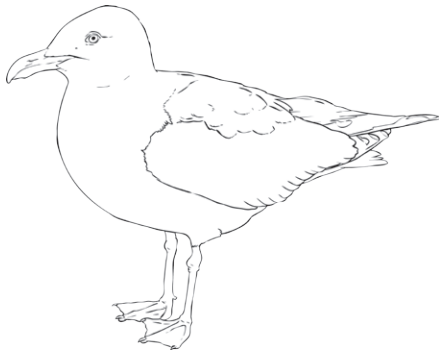
A **dichotomous key** is a series of questions and a useful tool for scientists to find out more about a living thing. Cut out the cards. Choose one card and go through the dichotomous key to find out about that living thing's classification. Write the classification fact you discover on the back of the card.



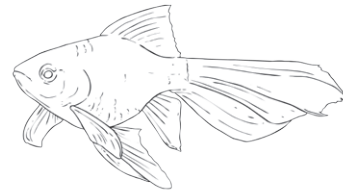
**Ant**



**Squirrel**



**Seagull**



**Goldfish**



**Grass**



**Sunflower**

# Dichotomous Key

- 1a. It has fur.....**It belongs to the class Mammalia.**
- 1b. It does not have fur.....**Go to number 2.**
- 2a. It cannot change locations (move) on its own.....**Go to number 3.**
- 2b. It can change locations on its own.....**Go to number 4.**
- 3a. It has a flower.....**It belongs to the phylum Phanerogams (flowering plants).**
- 3b. It does not have a flower.....**It belongs to the phylum Cryptogams (non-flowering plants).**
- 4a. It has feathers and can fly.....**It belongs to the class Aves.**
- 4b. It cannot fly.....**Go to number 5.**
- 5a. It does not have a backbone.....**It belongs to the phylum Cnidaria.**
- 5b. It swims in water.....**It belongs to the phylum Chondrichthyes.**

**Challenge:** Can you find the full classification of one of the cards above? (Find the Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species.)