

Fun with Fictitious Animals

A good classification system will assign a single name to each organism and place organisms into groups that have real biological meaning.

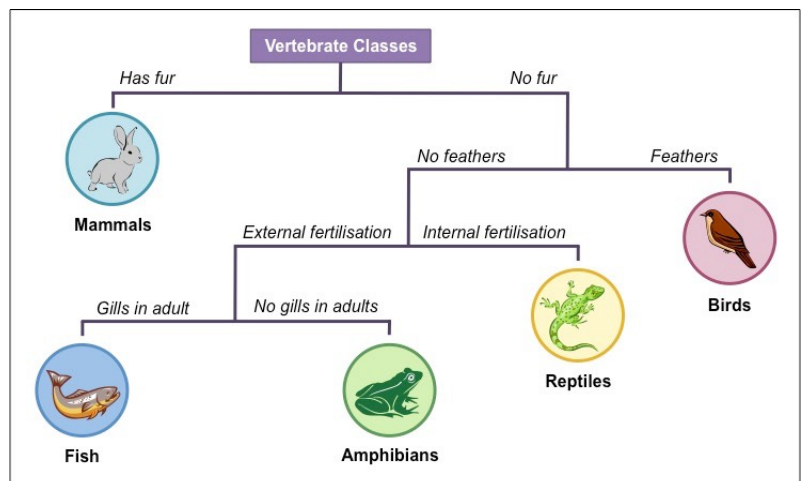
Researchers using a good classification system can expect members of a group to share important characteristics. Read over the following taxonomic, or classification, key that describes ten fictitious animals.

Using the information given in the key, answer the questions that follow.

A Taxonomic Key

1	A. Body covered with hair	Go to 2
	B. Body covering is not hair	Go to 6
2	A. Has four legs	Go to 3
	B. Has more than four legs.....	Go to 4
3	A. Has two heads and two tails.....	Double Trouble
	B. Has one head and a short bushy tail	Grenabar
4	A. Has one horn on its head	Tamboro
	B. Has two horns on head	Go to 5
5	A. Has wheels for feet	Skateroo
	B. Has feet with three sharp claws	Dweezlebub
6	A. Body covered with scales	Go to 7
	B. Body covered with feathers.....	Go to 8
7	A. Has flippers for its six feet and tail	Nessie
	B. Has pincers for its six feet and has a long forked tail.....	Marfwheelzel
8	A. Has beak with no teeth	Go to 9
	B. Has mouth with sharp teeth.....	Tearitup
9	A. Has two antennae and short tongue.....	Quib
	B. Has four antennae and long tongue	Ork

- Using a blank piece of paper, create a flow chart to identify the characteristics of each member of the group. When finished, draw a picture of what the organism looks like. Remember that they should look like members of a similar groups of organisms.



Flowchart:

2. When finished answer the following

- I. A tamboro is most like a
 - a. bird. b. fish. c. mammal. d. reptile.
2. Where would a nessie be most likely to live? .
 - a desert b. ocean c. forest d. meadow
3. How many legs does a dweezlebub have?
 - a. two b. three c. four d. more than four
4. What kind of body covering does an ork have?
 - a feathers b. hair c. scales. d. none
5. Which animal is most like a real animal?
 - a. double trouble b. skateroo c. grenabar d. marfwheel
6. What colour is a dweezlebub?
 - a. Red b. Brown c. Green d. Cannot tell from key
7. Which animal is most likely to be able to climb trees?
 - a. Dweezlebub b. nessie c. skateroo d. ork

