

# Dichotomous Key Practice

## Blizzard Bag # 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

A dichotomous key is made up of pairs of descriptions or questions. By continuing to answer simple yes or no questions or descriptions, the user is eventually led to the name of the organism. Dichotomous keys can be used for plants, birds, insects, rocks... you name it. It sometimes helps kids to start small, by classifying with easy or silly organisms, and then moving on. I hope that by working with the fictional monsters on this key, students will focus more on the process than the organism itself.

On the next page, you will see 12 different alien creatures. Use the Creature Identification Key to identify the aliens. Write the names of the alien creatures in the blanks at the bottom of this page. Note: These funny aliens with funny names are fictitious. At this time, there has not been alien life identified on Mars.

### CREATURE IDENTIFICATION KEY

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|--|--|
| 1. Does it stand or walk on its legs?<br>If YES, go to question #6.<br>If NO, go to question #2.           | 7. Does it have POINTED EARS?<br>If YES, the alien is a BELZARK.<br>If NO, go to question #8.            |
| 2. Does it have spots on its skin?<br>If YES, the alien is a SNERF.<br>If NO, go to question #3.           | 8. Does it walk on 6 LEGS?<br>If YES, the alien is a RUDARG.<br>If NO, go to question #9.                |
| 3. Does it have stripes on its skin?<br>If YES, the alien is a GORZAK.<br>If NO, go to question #4.        | 9. Does it have WINGS?<br>If YES, the alien is a SCHMELK.<br>If NO, go to question #10.                  |
| 4. Does it have 4 Legs?<br>If YES, the alien is a MOG.<br>If NO, go to question #5.                        | 10. Does it have THREE EYES?<br>If YES, the alien is a SNOOF.<br>If NO, go to question #11.              |
| 5. Does it have a FORKED TONGUE?<br>If YES, the alien is a BEM.<br>If NO, go to question #6.               | 11. Does it have FINGERS AND TOES?<br>If YES, the alien is a POG.<br>If NO, go to question #12.          |
| 6. Does it have HAIR on its back and head?<br>If YES, the alien is a WABBLER.<br>If NO, go to question #7. | 12. Does it have sharp POINTED TEETH?<br>If YES, the alien is a BIZZLE.<br>If NO, the alien is a YAZBAT. |

- |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 2. _____  | 3. _____  |
| 4. _____  | 5. _____  | 6. _____  |
| 7. _____  | 8. _____  | 9. _____  |
| 10. _____ | 11. _____ | 12. _____ |

1



2



3



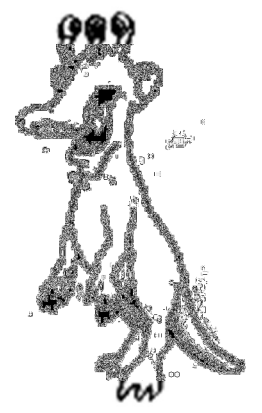
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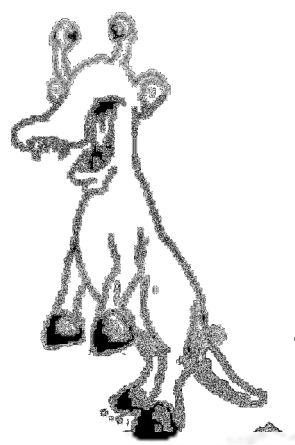
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