

Learn How to Use a Dichotomous Key - Common Animals

Use the dichotomous key to reach the names of each of the 12 animals AND the pathway you used to get there. This is about learning to use a key – not about knowing the names of these common animals (it is assumed you know their names). So use the blanks under the animal pictures to write the animal names AND the numbers in the key you follows to reach their names.

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| 1. Does the animal have a backbone? | Yes - Go to 3
No - it is an insect - Go to 2 |
| 2. Does the animal change (go through metamorphosis) from a caterpillar to an adult form? | Yes - it is a butterfly.
No - it is a grasshopper. |
| 3. Does the animal lay eggs? | Yes - Go to 4
No - Go to 9 |
| 4. Does the animal have feathers? | Yes - it is a bird.
No - Go to 5 |
| 5. Does the animal lay eggs in the water? | Yes - Go to 6
No - Go to 7 |
| 6. Does the animal live on land but come back to the water to lay its eggs. | Yes - Go to 8
No - it is a fish. |
| 7. Does the animal have a protective shell? | Yes - it is a turtle.
No - it is a snake. |
| 8. Does the animal have lots of warty bumps and no tail? | Yes - it is a toad.
No - it is a newt (red eft). |
| 9. Is the animal a carnivore (eats mostly meat)? | Yes - it is a fox.
No, Go to 10 |
| 10. Is the animal an omnivore (eats meat and plants)? | Yes - it is a raccoon.
No - it is a herbivore - Go to 11 |
| 11. Is the animal a rodent? | Yes - it is a squirrel.
No - it is a moose. |

Dichotomous Key Animals - Answer KEY

