

# DICHOTOMOUS KEY ASSIGNMENT

## Introduction:

While trudging through the wooded trails of Surrey, B.C., you come across a small stream bubbling over a rotten log. As you sit down beside the stream to rest your weary feet, a flicker of movement catches your attention. Something the size of a large bullfrog just moved beside the log. Your heart pounds as you move closer, when you realize that it is not a frog! In fact, it does not resemble anything that you have ever encountered before. Slowly, you reach down to capture this interesting creature when it springs at your throat, latches on and kills you instantly... (just kidding). As you reach to capture the creature, it moves further into the log. You break away the top of the log and to your amazement there are 29 of these strange organisms. Having collected the "wee" beasties, you trudge home happily. Upon arrival at home, your superior scientific knowledge urges you to accomplish 2 things:

1. Create a flow chart to organize the 29 organisms.
2. Create a scientific name for each of the 29 organisms.
3. Create a dichotomous key.

## Instructions:

Your task is to create a dichotomous key to identify the **29 species** belonging to the **same genus**. Your dichotomous key should have the following features:

- ♦ Clear and concise contrasting statements identifying the 29 different species. *Remember a dichotomous key is based only on observable characteristics (i.e. physical and behavioural characteristics)!*
- ♦ Binomial names of the 29 organisms (*Genus species* or Genus species).

## Evaluation:

PLO #s	Criteria	Your Score	Total Possible Score
A3a	Paired statements are contrasting and based on observable characteristics.		28
A3b	Dichotomous key is effective (i.e. Given a random organism (one of the 29) your dichotomous key will be used to identify its name and number).		30 (out of 3, scaled to 30)
B1e	Binomial names of all the 29 organisms are in correct form.		29