Dichotomous Keys

Name _____
Date _____
Block _____

What is a Dichotomous Key?

- A series of _____ used to identify organisms based on physical characteristics, behaviours, etc.
- Paired statements start off _____.

How to Create a Dichotomous Key

1. Make a _____that divides up all organisms so that EVENTUALLY each organism has it's own box (in the flow chart).

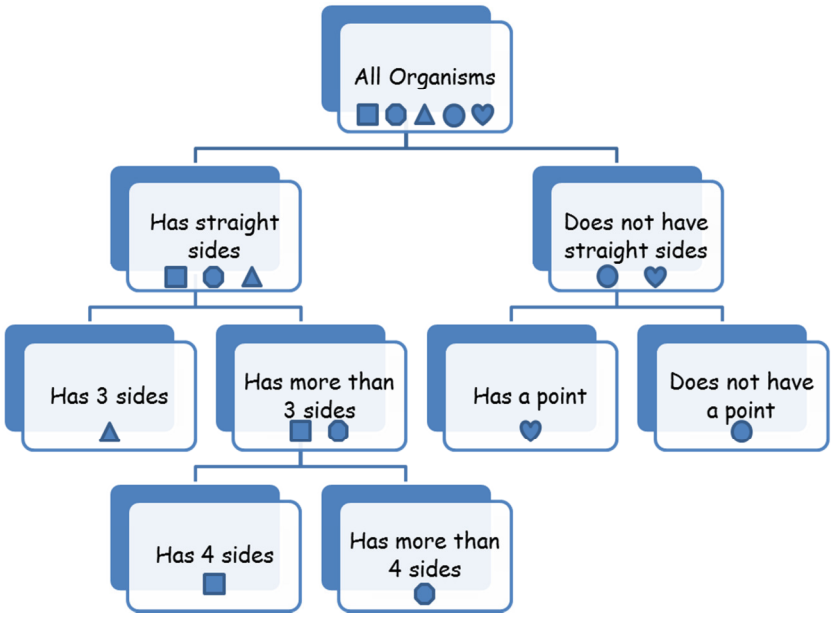
2. _____ the flow chart to reflect paired statements.
   - Each paired statement will receive the _____.
   - The first of the pair will receive the letter "___", and the second, the letter "___".
   - *Keep left (as you number) and then move right when you have no where else to go.*

3. Write contrasting paired statements _____.

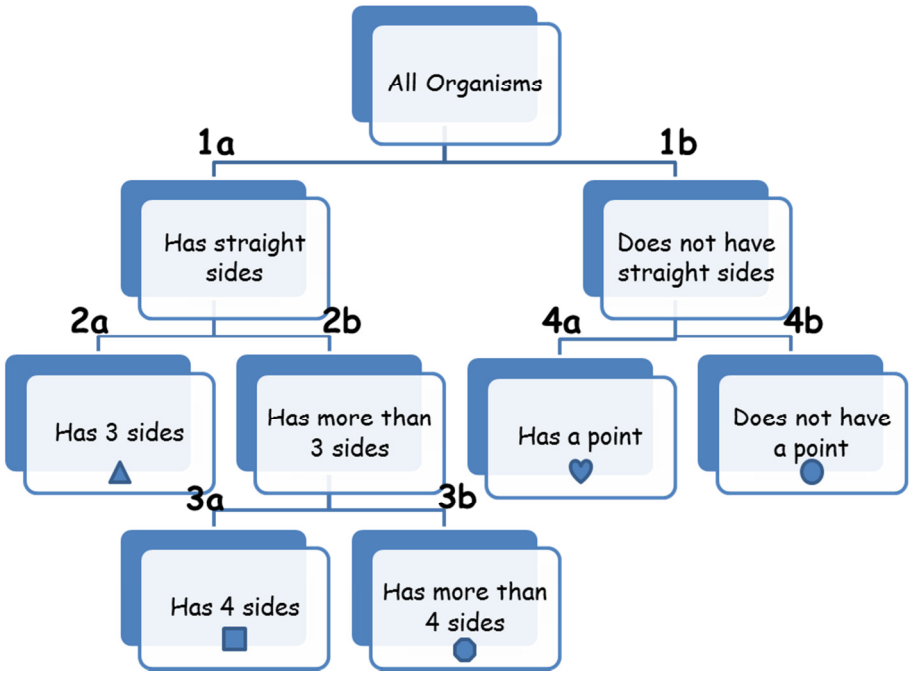
- Example:

Create a dichotomous key for the following set of organisms:

Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:

1a	Has straight sides	Go to 2
1b	Does not have straight sides	Go to 4
2a	Has 3 sides	*Triangulus pointious*
2b	Does not have 3 sides	Go to 3
3a	Has 4 sides	*Squarus blockus*
3b	Has more than 4 sides	*Stopus singeous*
4a	Has a point	*Lovus heartus*
4b	Does not have a point	*Roundus ballus*

NOTE: *This is your dichotomous key. All other work (i.e. flow chart) was to guide you to produce this product.*

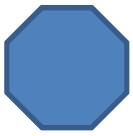
How to Use a Dichotomous Key

- Select _____ organism to identify.
- Start at the _____ and read the first set of paired statements.
- Select the statement (from the pair listed in step 2) that _____the organism.
- _____ related to that statement (i.e. "Go to 2"). *If there are no instructions, the name of the organism will be listed.*

- Continue following instructions until you have _____.
- Repeat _____ for all organisms you are identifying.

Example:

Using the dichotomous key (below) identify the following organism:



1a	Has straight sides	Go to 2
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