Classifying using a dichotomous key:
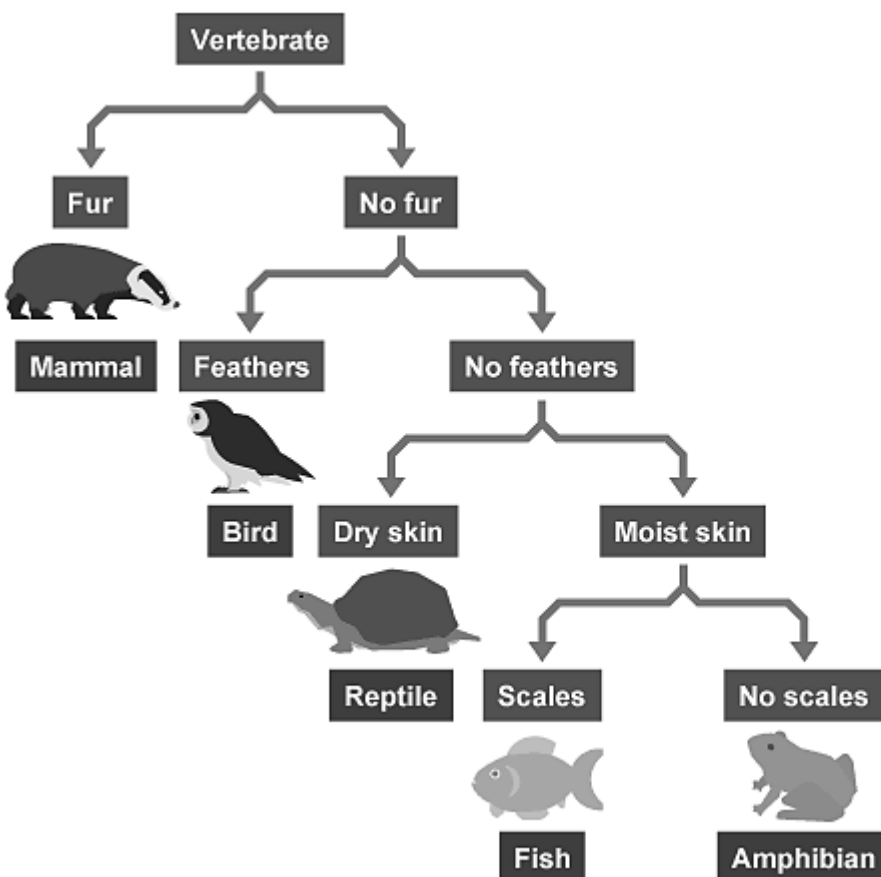
Dichotomous keys use questions to which there are only two answers. The questions can be arranged either in table, or as branching tree.

Branching tree example:

This tree could help you identify a new vertebrate. For example, if it had **no fur nor feathers** and **dry skin**, you would follow the right-hand pathway at the first and second junctions, but the left-hand pathway at the third junction. This would lead you to identify the animal as a reptile.

Let's say you discover a new species of animal. It has a backbone, but has neither fur nor feathers. It has moist skin and scales. What is it?

Note: In the above tree, you work your way down. But a tree might be flipped on its side, so you would work your way from left to right.