

SCIENCE · GRADES 3–4

# Classification Key

Identify any animal in 4 questions

## How a key works

A classification key asks YES/NO questions, narrowing down the answer at each step. Real scientists use these to identify thousands of species. Try this one with five different animals.

## The key

1. Q1 — Does it have a backbone? YES → Q2. NO → INVERTEBRATE.
2. Q2 — Does it have hair or fur? YES → MAMMAL. NO → Q3.
3. Q3 — Does it have feathers? YES → BIRD. NO → Q4.
4. Q4 — Does it live in water its whole life? YES → FISH. NO → Q5.
5. Q5 — Is its skin moist and smooth (no scales)? YES → AMPHIBIAN. NO → REPTILE.

## Use the key on these animals

1. Frog → ?
2. Penguin → ?
3. Dolphin → ?
4. Crocodile → ?
5. Spider → ?
6. Salmon → ?
7. Bat (tricky!) → ?



8. Duck → ?

