

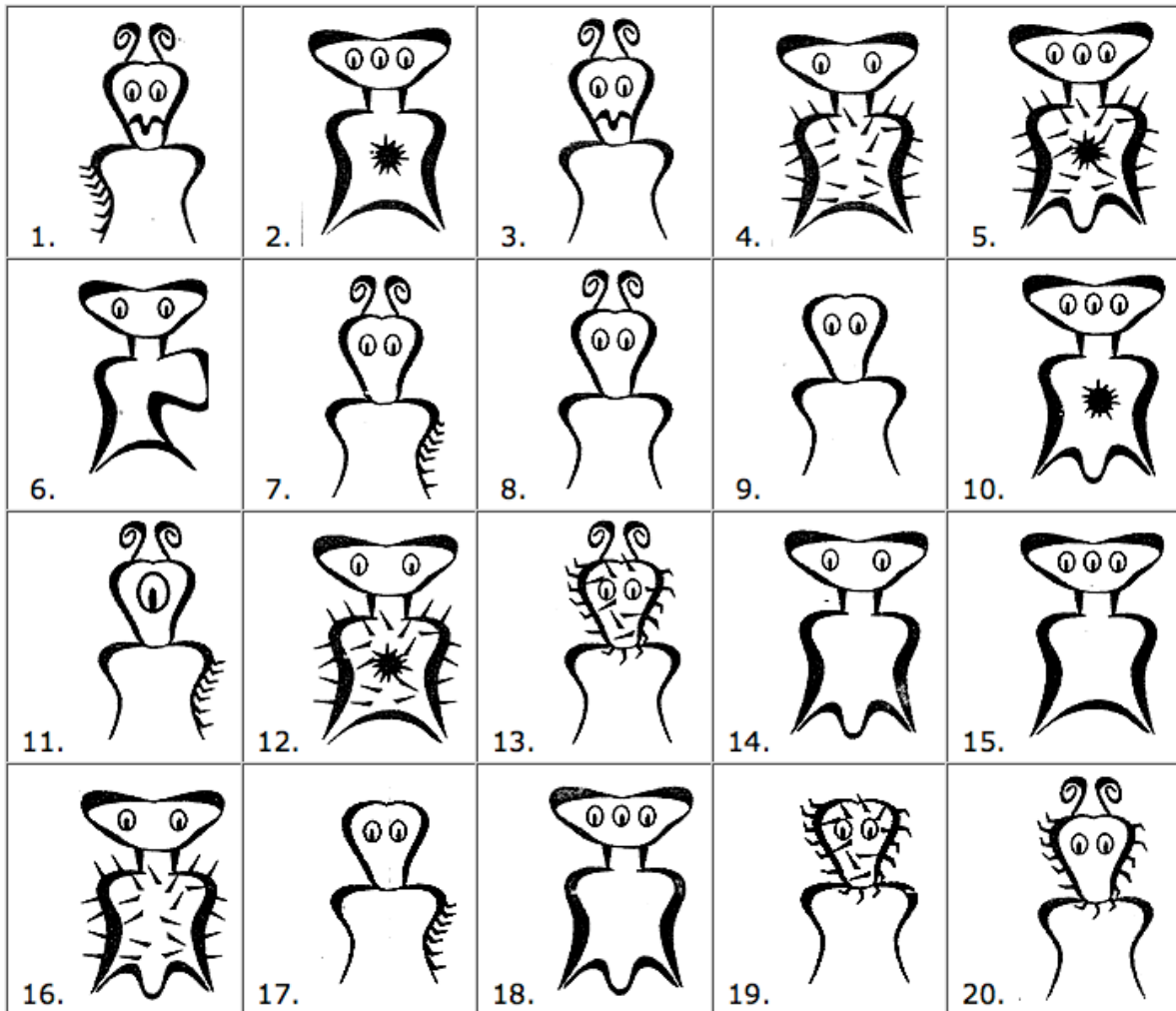
UNIT  
8

## ACTIVITY

## Dichotomous Keys

**Purpose:** To learn how to use dichotomous keys

**Problem:** Several "alien" organisms have been discovered below. Scientists have already classified them. Using the dichotomous key, can you identify them?



**The Key**

1. a. The creature has a large wide head.....go to 2  
b. The creature has a small narrow head.....go to 11
2. a. It has 3 eyes .....go to 3  
b. It has 2 eyes .....go to 7
3. a. There is a star in the middle of its chest.....go to 4  
b. There is no star in the middle of its chest .....go to 6
4. a. The creature has hair spikes .....*Broadus hairus*  
b. The creature has no hair spikes.....go to 5
5. a. The bottom of the creature is arch-shaped .....*Broadus archus*  
b. The bottom of the creature is M-shaped .....*Broadus emmus*
6. a. The creature has an arch-shaped bottom .....*Broadus plainus*  
b. The creature has an M-shaped bottom.....*Broadus tritops*
7. a. The creature has hairy spikes .....go to 8  
b. The creature has no spikes.....go to 10
8. a. There is a star in the middle of its body .....*Broadus hairystarus*  
b. There is no star in the middle of its body .....go to 9
9. a. The creature has an arch shaped bottom .....*Broadus hairyemmus*  
b. The creature has an M shaped bottom .....*Broadus kiferus*
10. a. The body is symmetrical .....*Broadus walter*  
b. The body is not symmetrical.....*Broadus anderson*
11. a. The creature has no antennae .....go to 12  
b. The creature has antennae .....go to 14
12. a. There are spikes on the face .....*Narrowus wolfus*  
b. There are no spikes on the face .....go to 13
13. a. The creature has no spike anywhere .....*Narrowus blankus*  
b. There are spikes on the right leg .....*Narrowus starboardus*
14. a. The creature has 2 eyes.....go to 15  
b. The creature has 1 eye.....*Narrowus cyclops*
15. a. The creature has a mouth.....go to 16  
b. The creature has no mouth.....go to 17
16. a. There are spikes on the left leg .....*Narrowus portus*  
b. There are no spikes at all .....*Narrowus plainus*
17. a. The creature has spikes .....go to 18  
b. The creature has no spikes .....*Narrowus georgia*
18. a. There are spikes on the head .....go to 19  
b. There are spikes on the right leg.....*Narrowus montanian*
19. a. There are spikes covering the face .....*Narrowus beardus*  
b. There are spikes only on the outside edge of head .....*Narrowus fuzzus*

*Results.* In the following spaces, write the scientific name of each organism.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_