

Fun with Fictitious Animals

A good classification system will assign a single name to each organism and place organisms into groups that have real biological meaning. Researchers using a good classification system can expect members of a group to share important characteristics.

Read over the following taxonomic, or classification, key that describes ten fictitious animals. Using the information given in the key, answer the questions that follow.

A Taxonomic Key

1	A. Body covered with hair	Go to 2
	B. Body covering is not hair	Go to 6
2	A. Has four legs	Go to 3
	B. Has more than four legs.	Go to 4
3	A. Has two heads and two tails	Double Trouble
	B. Has one head and a short bushy tail	Grenabar
4	A. Has one horn on its head	Tamboro
	B. Has two horns on head	Go to 5
5	A. Has wheels for feet	Skateroo
	B. Has feet with three sharp claws	Dweezlebug
6	A. Body covered with scales	Go to 7
	B. Body covered with feathers.	Go to 8
7	A. Has flippers for its six feet and tail	Nessie
	B. Has pincers for its six feet and has a long forked tail.	Marfwheelzel
8	A. Has beak with no teeth	Go to 9
	B. Has mouth with sharp teeth.	Tearitup
9	A. Has two antennae and short tongue	Quib
	B. Has four antennae and long tongue	Ork

1. A tamboro is most like a
 - a. bird.
 - b. fish.
 - c. mammal.
 - d. reptile
2. Where would a nessie be most likely to live?
 - a. desert
 - b. ocean
 - c. forest
 - d. meadow
3. How many legs does a dweezlebug have?
 - a. two
 - b. three
 - c. four
 - d. more than four
4. What kind of body covering does an ork have?
 - a. feathers
 - b. hair
 - c. scales
 - d. none

- 5. Which animal is most like a real animal?
a. double trouble b. skateroo c. grenabar d. marfwheel
- 6. What color is a dweezlebub?
a. red b. brown c. green d. cannot tell from key
- 7. Which animal is most likely to be able to climb trees?
a. dweezlebub b. nessie c. skateroo d. ork
- 8. Describe what a quib looks like.

- 9. Draw a picture of a skateroo, including all of its characteristics mentioned in the key.
- 10. Draw a picture of one of the animals and see if a friend can guess which one you have drawn.