

Student Exploration: Dichotomous Keys

Vocabulary: dichotomous key, genus, organism, scientific name, species, traits

Prior Knowledge Question (Do this BEFORE using the Gizmo.)



Jerome is walking through a park when he sees the spider shown at left. How could Jerome find out what type of spider it is?

Jerome can use a chart called the Dichotomous Key to find out what characteristics and features the spider has to find out what the type of spider he sees is.

Gizmo Warm-up

In the field, scientists often have to identify an unfamiliar **organism** (living thing). A reliable way to identify organisms is to use a **dichotomous key**. A dichotomous key is a series of paired statements or questions that lead to the identification of an organism.

The *Dichotomous Keys* Gizmo allows you to use five different dichotomous keys to identify a variety of organisms. To begin, make sure **California Albatrosses** and **Organism A** are selected.



1. Read the two statements at lower right. Which of the two statements most closely matches the characteristics of the bird pictured?

Large areas of the bird's body are covered in white feathers.

2. Select that statement and click **Next**. Continue until you have correctly identified the albatross. If you change your mind about a choice, you can click the **Back** button. If you incorrectly identify the albatross, you can click the **Start Over** button and try again.
 - A. What is the name of the albatross? The name of the Albatross is identified as the Short-Tailed Albatross.
 - B. The **scientific name** is shown in italics. Scientific names have two parts: the **genus** name and the **species** name. What is the scientific name of this albatross?

The scientific name for the Short-Tailed Albatross is the *Phoebastria albatrus*.

Answers For Dichotomous Key Student Exploration Guide

Karen Rohrich Ansberry, Emily Morgan



Answers For Dichotomous Key Student Exploration Guide:

Resources for Teaching Middle School Science Smithsonian Institution, National Academy of Engineering, National Science Resources Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, 1998-04-30 With age appropriate inquiry centered curriculum materials and sound teaching practices middle school science can capture the interest and energy of adolescent students and expand their understanding of the world around them Resources for Teaching Middle School Science developed by the National Science Resources Center NSRC is a valuable tool for identifying and selecting effective science curriculum materials that will engage students in grades 6 through 8 The volume describes more than 400 curriculum titles that are aligned with the National Science Education Standards This completely new guide follows on the success of Resources for Teaching Elementary School Science the first in the NSRC series of annotated guides to hands on inquiry centered curriculum materials and other resources for science teachers The curriculum materials in the new guide are grouped in five chapters by scientific area Physical Science Life Science Environmental Science Earth and Space Science and Multidisciplinary and Applied Science They are also grouped by type core materials supplementary units and science activity books Each annotation of curriculum material includes a recommended grade level a description of the activities involved and of what students can be expected to learn a list of accompanying materials a reading level and ordering information The curriculum materials included in this book were selected by panels of teachers and scientists using evaluation criteria developed for the guide The criteria reflect and incorporate goals and principles of the National Science Education Standards The annotations designate the specific content standards on which these curriculum pieces focus In addition to the curriculum chapters the guide contains six chapters of diverse resources that are directly relevant to middle school science Among these is a chapter on educational software and multimedia programs chapters on books about science and teaching directories and guides to science trade books and periodicals for teachers and students Another section features institutional resources One chapter lists about 600 science centers museums and zoos where teachers can take middle school students for interactive science experiences Another chapter describes nearly 140 professional associations and U S government agencies that offer resources and assistance Authoritative extensive and thoroughly indexed and the only guide of its kind Resources for Teaching Middle School Science will be the most used book on the shelf for science teachers school administrators teacher trainers science curriculum specialists advocates of hands on science teaching and concerned parents Biology ,1987 Picture-Perfect Science Lessons Karen Rohrich Ansberry, Emily Morgan, 2010 How do you improve upon perfection For years new and experienced elementary school teachers alike have extolled the virtues of Picture Perfect Science Lessons the expertly combined appeal of children s picture books with standards based science content The award winning bestselling book presents ready to teach lessons complete with student pages and assessments that use high quality fiction and nonfiction picture books to guide hands on science inquiry This newly revised and expanded

2nd edition of Picture Perfect Science Lessons manages to surpass the original Classroom veterans Karen Ansberry and Emily Morgan who also coach teachers through nationwide workshops know elementary educators are usually crunched for science instructional time and could often use refresher explanations of scientific concepts So the authors added comprehensive background notes to each chapter and included new reading strategies They still show you exactly how to combine science and reading in a natural way with classroom tested lessons in physical science life science and Earth and space science And now they offer five brand new lessons Batteries Included The Secrets of Flight Down the Drain If I Built a Car and Bugs bringing the total to 20 Picture Perfect Science Lessons draws on such diverse and engaging books as Dr Xargle s Book of Earth Hounds A House for Hermit Crab Rice Is Life Oil Spill Sheep in a Jeep The Perfect Pet and Weird Friends Unlikely Allies in the Animal Kingdom As a result both reluctant scientists and struggling readers will quickly find themselves absorbed in scientific discovery You ll love how effective this book is and your students will love learning about science

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