

Dichotomous Keys

Dinosaurs

By Jady Thone

1

Teacher Notes & Parts of a Dinosaur

Ideas and tips for teaching dichotomous keys (how students can achieve success) + bonus “parts of an dinosaur” diagram.

2

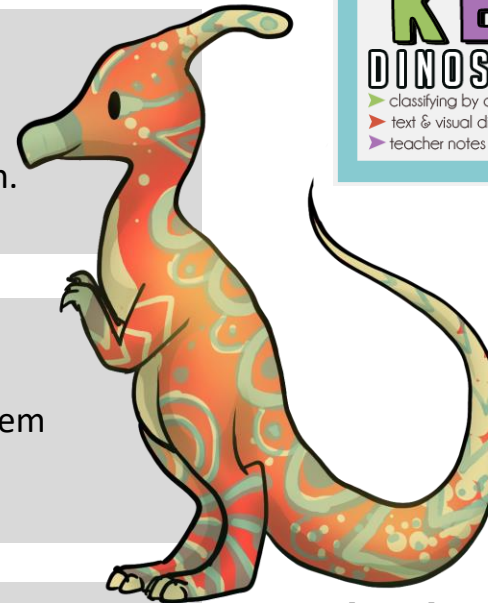
Dichotomous Key – Dinosaurs

Can students classify objects by their characteristics? Get them practising their skills!

3

Answer Keys

Included are possible student responses and a blank master copy for your own personal use!



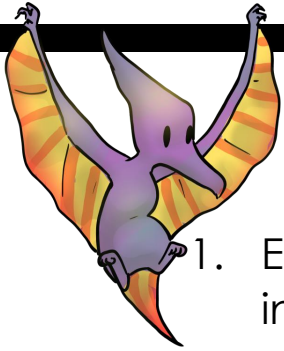
Thank you!

I hope this resource is useful in your classroom. Please don't hesitate to email me with questions at jadythone@outlook.com

Clipart: [Lemon Lani](#)

Dichotomous Keys

Teacher Notes



Dinosaurs

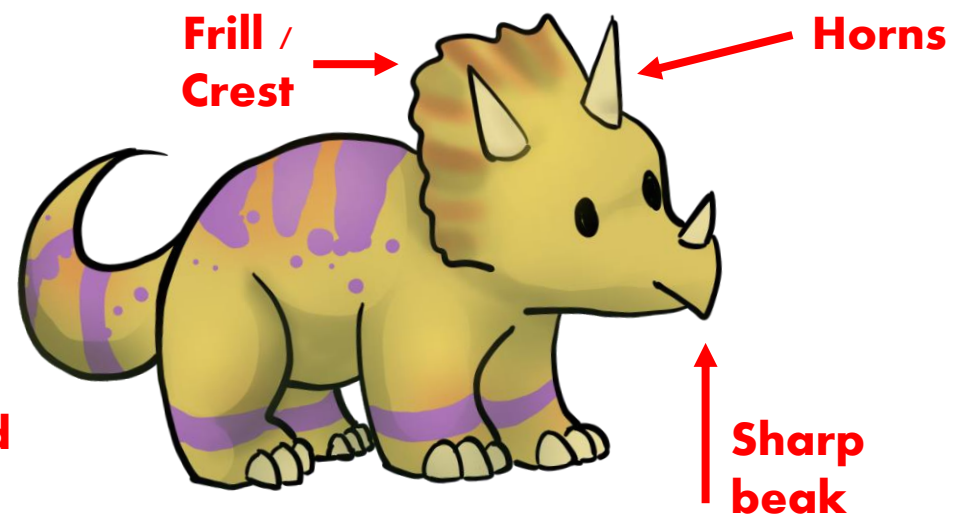
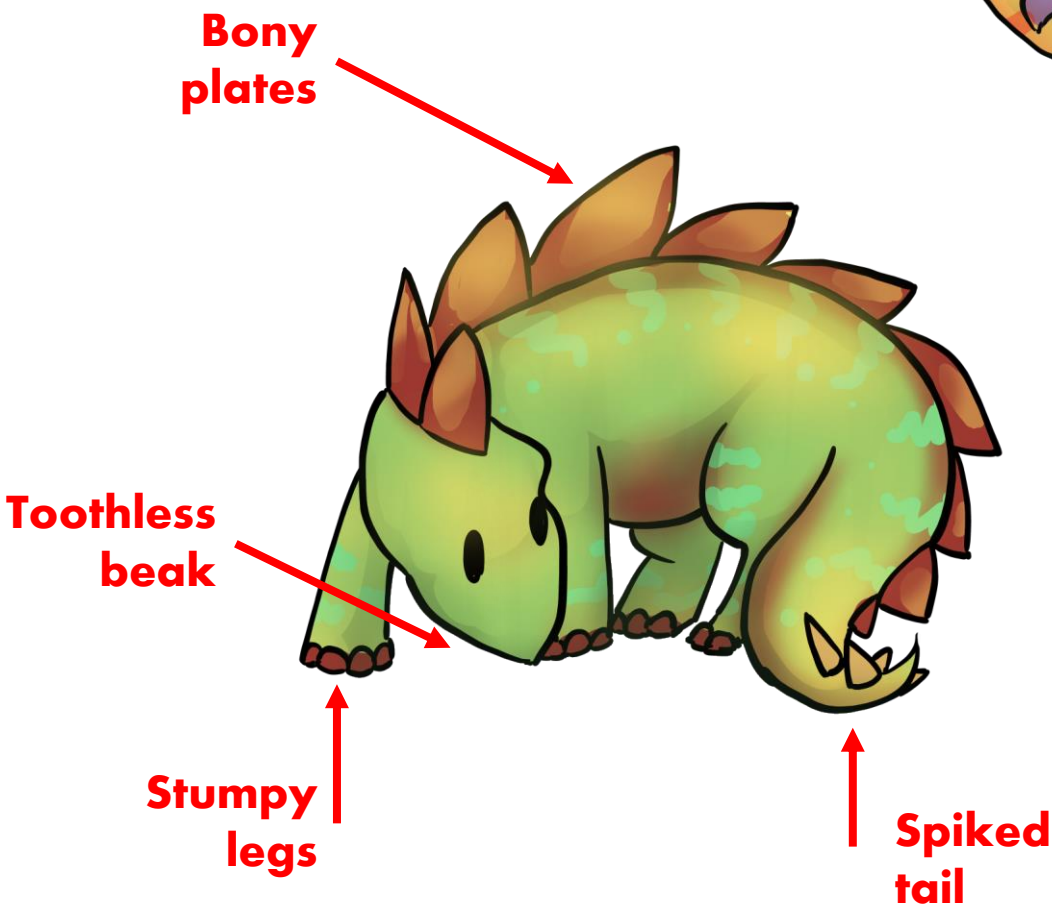
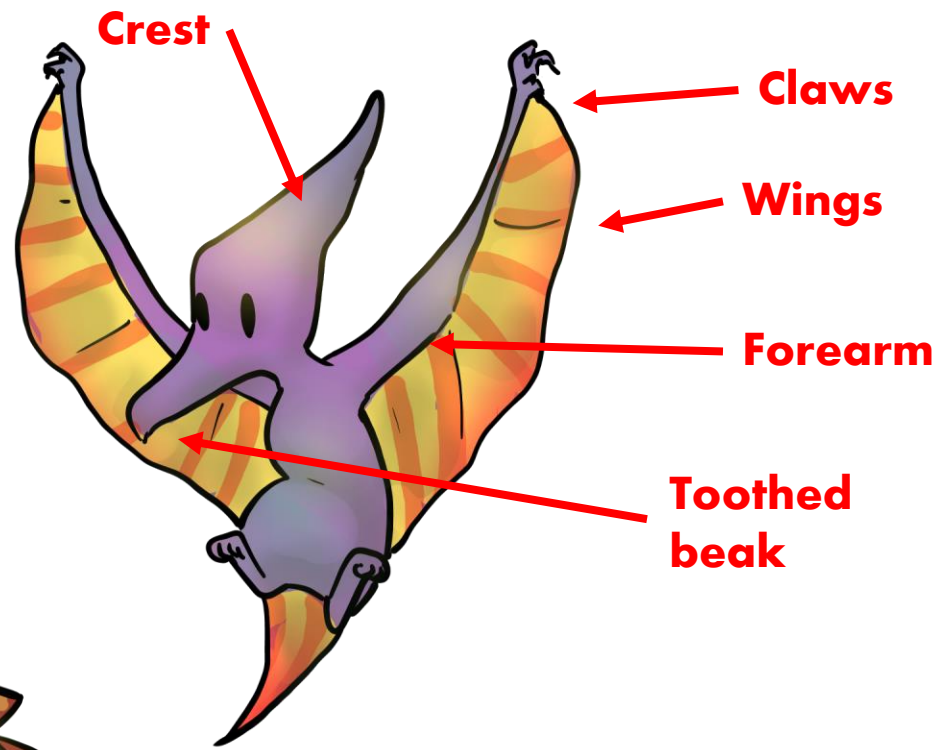
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1. Ensure students are aware of the parts of an dinosaur. You can use the informational slide I've included to teach these parts so students can **experience success** with identifying common/distinct characteristics of the dinosaur.
2. Students should use the table of characteristics to really **scaffold the difference/similarities** between the subjects of the key. I've included two copies of each problem, where the characteristics are present, or removed for easy differentiation.
3. Remind students that they can complete the visual or text key in whichever order is easier/makes sense to them. Expect different answers from the students, as they can use whichever characteristics that make sense for them to create their own keys.
4. OPTIONAL: Task students to create **more than one key** for the dinosaurs! This way they are practising with the same stimulus, but are further developing their skills at choosing characteristics to branch from.

Dinosaur Characteristics

By Jady Thone



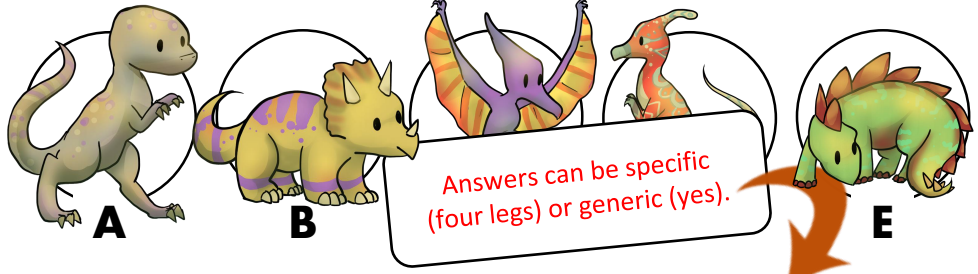
Dichotomous Keys

Classifying by Characteristics

Name: _____



Study the following organisms carefully. Using a table of information to help you, draw a visual and text key to classify the dinosaurs.



	A	B	C	D	E
Wings					
Horns					
Forearms					
Spiked tail					

Students must come up with their own common characteristics.

Room for your own subject "F"

F

Text Key

Organisms A to E

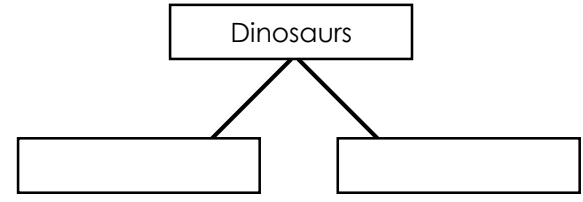
1	a
	b
2	a
	b
3	a
	b
4	a
	b
5	a
	b

Steps should be clear and precise.

Students may not need steps 4 and 5, depending on how well they've grouped their objects. The 5th step is provided in the event you want to add your own "subject F" as a curveball or extension activity.

Visual Key

Organisms A to E



Plenty of space for students to DRAW the organisms too!

Depending on how your school does dichotomous keys, you may or may not want to use the notation I recommend, but I have found it resonates with the students.

If there is not enough room on this half of the page for the full visual key (there should be), students can complete the keys in their books or on a separate paper.

The bottom of this page could be used for a multitude of checking for understanding activities. Here are a few examples:

- reflection (how they feel about their understanding)
- making another visual or text key with different characteristics
- additional similar/different characteristics mindmap
- how would the key change if a new subject was added
- a fun quiz/self-check of the key with answers

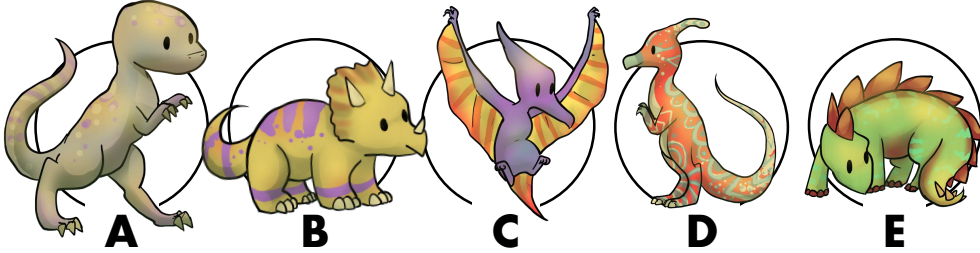
Ideas included in the "my answer" pages for clarity. Enjoy! 😊 - Jadyn

Dichotomous Keys

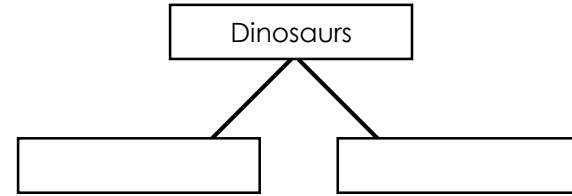
Classifying by Characteristics

Name: _____ 

Study the following organisms carefully. Using a table of information to help you, draw a visual and text key to classify the dinosaurs.



Visual Key Organisms A to E



	A	B	C	D	E
Wings					
Horns	No				
Forearms					No
Spiked tail					

Text Key Organisms A to E

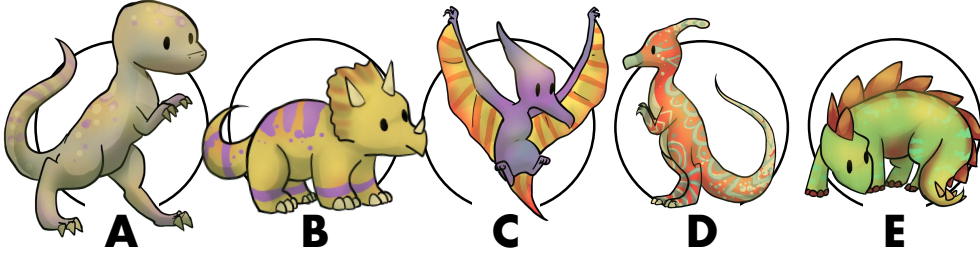
1	a
	b
2	a
	b
3	a
	b
4	a
	b
5	a
	b

Dichotomous Keys

Classifying by Characteristics

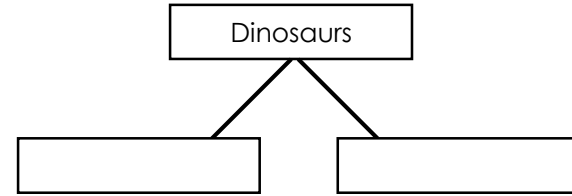
Name: _____ 

Study the following organisms carefully. Using a table of information to help you, draw a visual and text key to classify the dinosaurs.



Visual Key

Organisms A to E



	A	B	C	D	E

Text Key

Organisms A to E

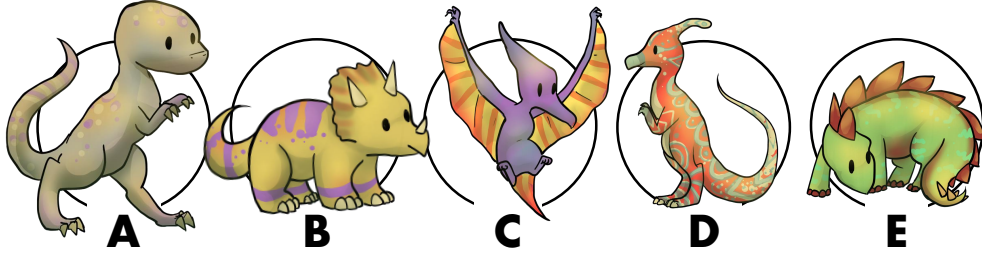
1	a
	b
2	a
	b
3	a
	b
4	a
	b
5	a
	b

Dichotomous Keys

Classifying by Characteristics



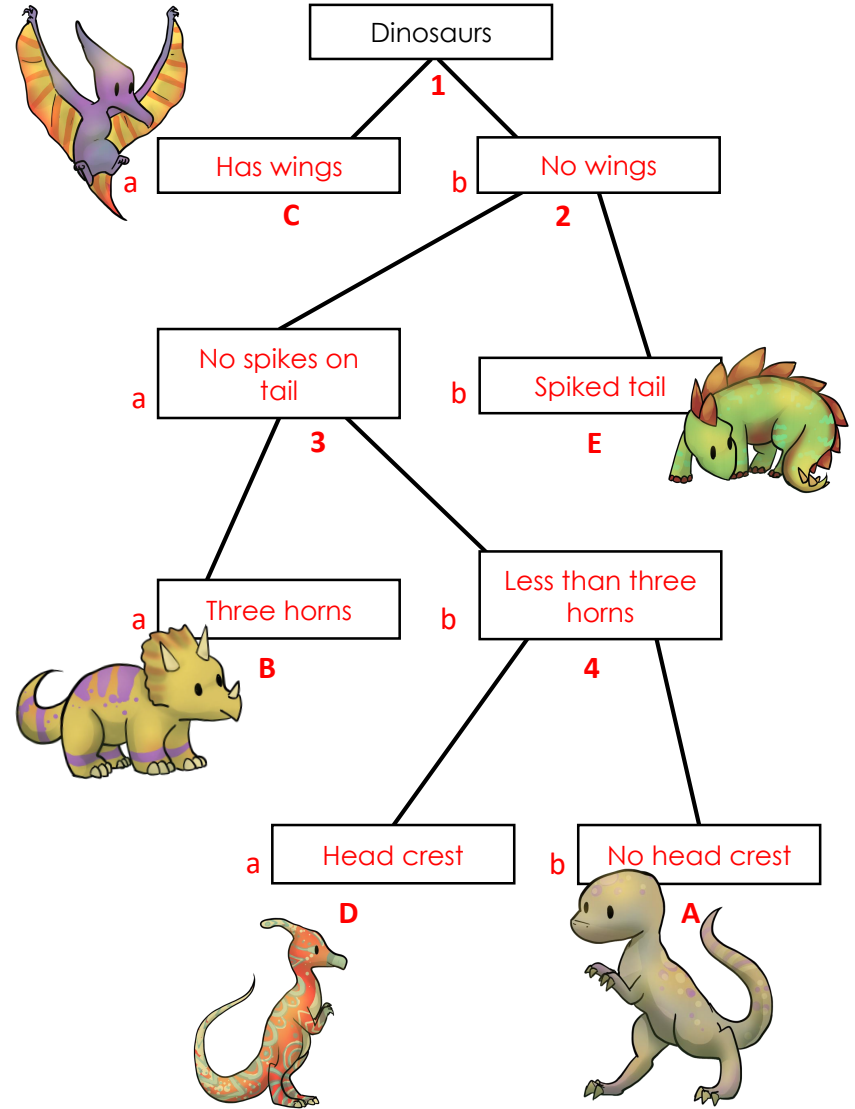
Study the following organisms carefully. Using a table of information to help you, draw a visual and text key to classify the dinosaurs.



	A	B	C	D	E
Wings	No	No	Yes	No	No
Horns	No	Yes	No	No	No
Forearms	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Spiked tail	No	No	No	No	Yes
Head crest	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Visual Key

Organisms A to E



Text Key

Organisms A to E

1	a	Has wings	C
	b	Does not have wings	Go to 2
2	a	No spikes on tail	Go to 3
	b	Spikes on tail	E
3	a	Three horns	B
	b	Less than three horns	Go to 4
4	a	Has head crest	D
	b	Has no head crest	A
5	a		
	b		

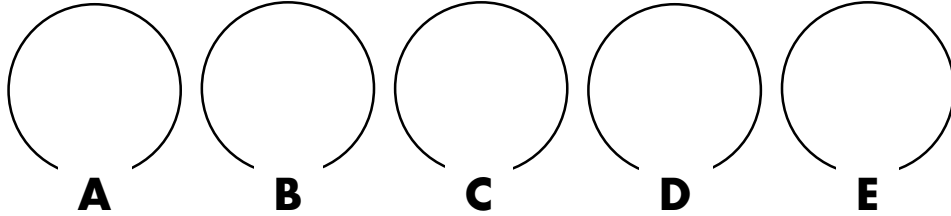
Dichotomous Keys

Classifying by Characteristics

Name: _____



Study the following _____ carefully. Using a table of information to help you, draw a visual and text key to classify the _____.

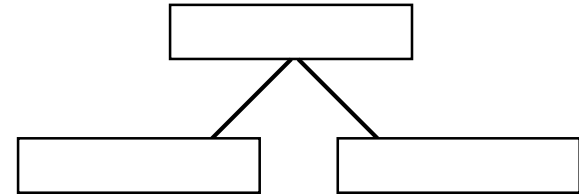


	A	B	C	D	E

Text Key
_____ **A to E**

1	a
	b
2	a
	b
3	a
	b
4	a
	b
5	a
	b

Visual Key _____ **A to E**

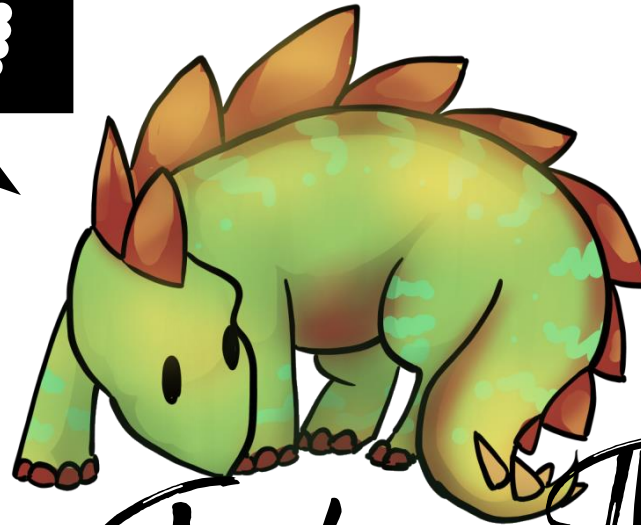


TPT

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Jadyn Thone

Who Am I?

My name is **Jadyn Thone** and I am an Australian Secondary teacher of Science, Technology, Math and English. During my time as a teacher I have taught many age groups of varying skill and ability. I found that I needed to create resources that suited my students. All my resources are tried and tested in authentic school settings. I upload new materials all the time, so don't forget to check back in! All the best!



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