

Keys

Keys are used to **identify** organisms. Keys are a **series of questions**, based on the **characteristics** of the organisms you are trying to identify.

By answering more and more questions you **narrow down your options further** until you are left with one possible species your organism could be.

Example

A pupil saw the following living things in a pond.



Frog



water lily



dragonfly



fish

Use the key provided to work out what each organism is.

- Q1. Can the organism produce its own food? YES Water lily If NO go to question 2.
 Q2. Does the organism have six legs? YES dragonfly If NO go to question 3.
 Q3. Does the organism have gills? YES Fish NO, then it's a Frog

Pupil Task

- Q1. Design a key for the **five classes of vertebrate**, by asking **four** questions.
- Q1. Does the vertebrate carry out oviparous?
 YES No - Fish, Amphibians, reptile and birds. NO - mammals yes - Mammals.
- Q2. Is the vertebrate cold blooded?
No - Fish and reptile and amphibiuns. NO - Birds
- Q3. Does the vertebrate absorb oxygen by the gills? YES - Fish and yound amphibians. NO - Reptat
- Q4. Does the vertebrates have a drie skin
NO - Reptile
- Q2. What is the **phylum** called for vertebrate? Explain your answer.
The phylum is called chordata because it has a rod like sturcuture in the back

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reasons for
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Keep prac

fur?

You have no
 the dog can
 with the

a
 dolphin,

but they