

**Background Information**

A good classification system will assign a scientific 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.

**Procedure**

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**

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

**Analysis and Conclusions**

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 a dork 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 dweezlebug?  
 a. red                      b. brown                      c. green                      d. cannot tell from the key
  
7. Which animal is most likely to be able to climb trees?  
 a. dweezlebug                      b. nessie                      c. skateroo                      d. dork
  
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 your lab partner can guess which one you have drawn.

<b>Skateroo</b>	<b>Your Choice</b>