



A Dichotomous Key Activity for Seashells

Instructions: Using the images on the card set that your teacher gives you, you should be able to correctly identify where a shell goes in the identification key. Write the number of each shell (noted on the card) on the line provided.

- I. Univalve _____
 - A. Outer projections (spikes) _____
 - 1. Spikes at two ends _____
 - a. Shell solid white in color _____
 - b. Shell not solid white _____
 - 2. Spikes at one end only _____
 - a. Shell is longer than it is wide _____
 - (1) Shell has vertical stripes _____
 - (2) Shell has no vertical stripes _____
 - b. Shell is wider than it is long _____
 - B. Spikes not present _____
 - 1. Shell is wider than longer _____
 - a. Shell has speckles _____
 - b. Shell has no speckles _____
 - 2. Shell is longer than wider _____
 - a. Shell is speckled _____
 - (1) Shell is approximately 7 cm from umbo to base _____
 - (2) Shell is approximately 5 cm from umbo to base _____
 - b. Shell is not speckled _____
 - (1) Shell is striped _____
 - (2) Shell has no stripes _____
 - (a) Curved at pointed end _____
 - (b) No curve at pointed end _____
- II. Bivalve _____
 - A. Two shells present (articulated) _____
 - 1. Umbo axial length is approximately 5.0 cm long _____
 - 2. Umbo axial length is less than 5.0 cm long _____
 - B. One shell present _____
 - 1. Shell has pointed umbo area _____
 - a. Shell is smooth _____
 - b. Shell is rough _____
 - 2. Shell has straight umbo area _____