

# What a Strange Group!

## Summary

Students will learn and then practice using a classification key to identify imaginary creatures. (The teacher will model the process with two of the creatures, then monitor the students as they identify the remaining creatures.)

## Time Frame

1 class periods of 30 minutes each

## Group Size

Individual

## Materials

- [student worksheet](#)  
(attached)  
overhead copy of worksheet  
overhead projector or front board

## Instructional Procedures

Begin by giving this explanation to students:

*One of the uses of a classification tree or key is to identify unknown organisms, rocks, or other natural things. The important thing to remember is to look at the unknown thing and start at the top of the key or tree, even if some of the clues later in the key look like they might have to do with the unknown. Choices are always organized into related categories, so follow the trail without randomly skipping around the key.*

## Assessment Plan

### Scoring guide

: You can have the students compare their results with a key. If there are any errors, have the students show you how they followed the choices and they will probably find their own mistakes.

## Bibliography

Lesson Design by Jordan School District Teachers and Staff.

## Authors

[Utah LessonPlans](#)