Fun with Fictitious Animals

A good classification system will assign a single 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
Part A.

Read over the following taxonomic, or classification, key that describes ten fictitious animals.

A Taxonomic Key

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

Part B.

Using the information given in the key, answer the questions.

_____   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 dweezlebub have?
          A. two   B. three   C. four   D. more than four