

# Make your Own Dichotomous Key Lab

- Dichotomous means "divided in two parts".
- Each step has two choices; what you choose leads you to another question until the item is identified.
- Choices are based on physical characteristics.

## PROCEDURE

1. First make and answer key.
  - Write the names of your partners and bag # on your ANSWER key.
  - Assign a number to each object and then put the name of the object next to the number. If you like, create a "scientific name" for each object. For example: paper clip ----- *Wire curlis*.
2. Make a dichotomous key for all objects in your bag.
  - Actual names can NOT be used in the description of dichotomous key.
  - Create your key to describe the object and then use the number you assign it as the final identification.
3. Dichotomous Key Grading
  - You will be grading another groups key.
  - Label a piece of paper 1-10 or 12 depending on how many objects are in the bag.
  - Write down the name of the object next to the correct # object you just keyed out.
  - Each number and object description is worth 2 points. If ALL objects were described with great detail and easily keyed out, give the key 2 points for each object correctly keyed out.
  - If you get lost on a step and cannot easily get to the object number, do not give them any points for that object.