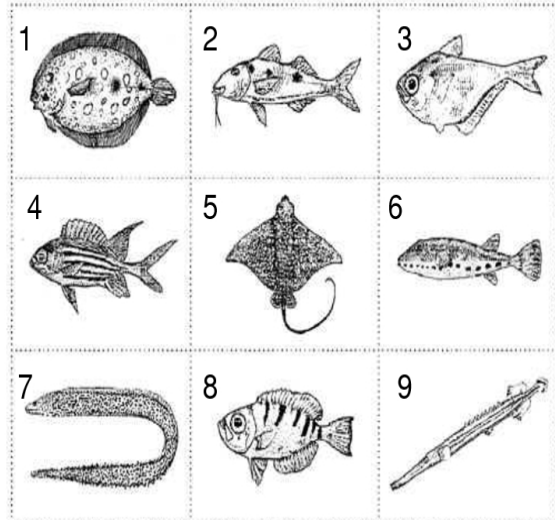Coral Reef Fish Dichotomous Key
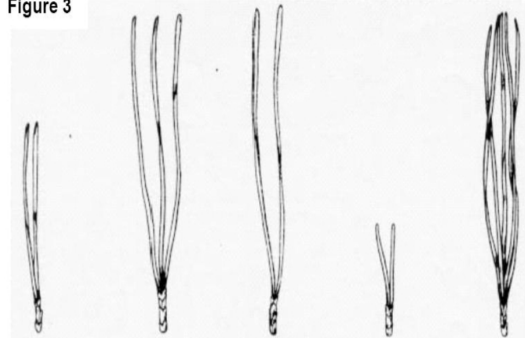

Use the dichotomous key to determine the species of each fish. Write the number of the fish picture next to its name.

Step 1	a. If fish shape is long and skinny then go to step 2
	b. If fish shape is not long and skinny, then go to step 3
Step 2	a. If fish has pointed fins, it is a trumpet fish = _____
	b. If fish has smooth fins, it is a spotted moray eel = _____
Step 3	a. If fish has both eyes on top of the head, then go to step 4
	b. If fish has one eye on each side of the head, then go to step 5
Step 4	a. If fish has long whip-like tail, it is a spotted eagle ray = ____
	b. If fish has short, blunt tail, it is a peacock flounder = _____
Step 5	a. If fish has spots, then go to step 6
	b. If fish does not have spots, then go to step 7
Step 6	a. If fish has chin "whiskers," it is a spotted goat fish = _____
	b. If fish does not have chin "whiskers," it is a band-tail puffer = _____
Step 7	a. If fish has stripes, then go to step 8
	b. If fish does not have stripes, it is a glassy sweeper = _____
Step 8	a. If fish has a v-shaped tail, it is a squirrel fish = _____
	b. If fish has a blunt tail, it is a glass-eye snapper = _____

Adapted from Smith Life Science http://www.smithlifescience.com/FishCoralReefDichotomousKey.htm

Pine Needle Dichotomous Key

Make your own key for the above species of pine needles. You may use a ruler – use metric measurements!

1a

1b

2a

2b

3a

3b

4a

4b

5a

5b

6a

6b

How many steps did it take you?