

Which amphibian is which?

The Dichotomous Key Worksheet



Teacher's Guide

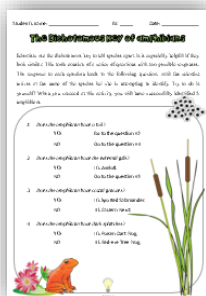
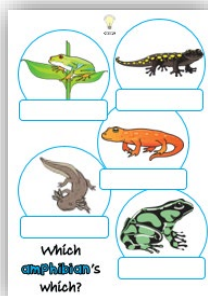
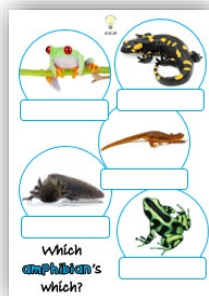
A dichotomous key is a tool that can be used to identify organisms or objects in the natural world, such as plants, animals, or rocks. Dichotomous keys consist of a series of statements with two choices in each step that will lead users to the correct identification.

After a brief background presentation on Classification in Life Science, use this complimentary set of printables as a hands-on practice to the introduction of the concept of biological classification. Also, they will understand that dichotomous keys are one method by which scientists identify living things and will practice observation and recording skills.

Purpose: to introduce students to the concept of scientific classification. Students will be classifying the illustrated amphibians: Red-eyed Tree Frog, Spotted Salamander, Eastern Newt, Axolotl, and Poison Dart Frog. This can later be linked to the classification system used by scientists. (Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species).

Objectives:

- to understand the reasons for classification in science;
- how a dichotomous key is used to classify organisms.



Color version. Print this definitely bright and uplifting printables (page #3 photos and page #4 clip art of amphibians), so your kids easier visualize when observing the listed animals.

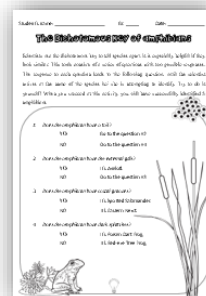
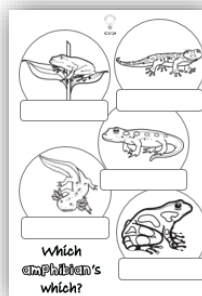
← pages #3 - 5

Printer-friendly version. Use the B&W set of printables so your kids will engaged in their creative side when coloring adorable clipart, once they finished identifying the amphibians.

pages #6 & 7



Key answers. refer to the page #8 for the identified amphibians for guidance.





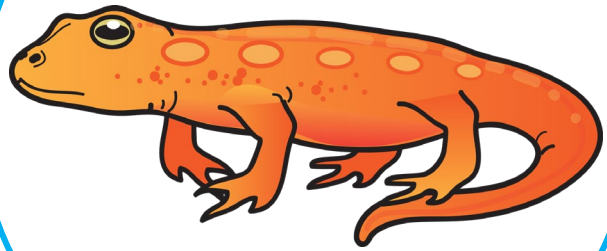
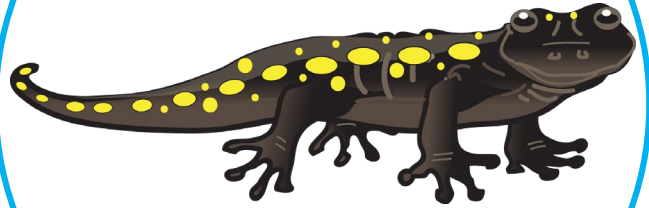
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Which
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which?



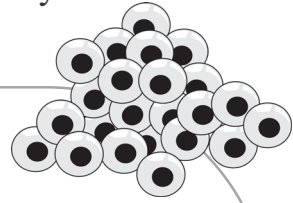
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The Dichotomous Key of amphibians

Scientists use the dichotomous key to tell species apart, it is especially helpful if they look similar. This tools consists of a series of questions with two possible responses. The response to each question leads to the following question, until the scientist arrives at the name of the species he/ she is attempting to identify. Try to do it yourself! When you succeed at this activity you will have successfully identified 5 amphibians



1. *Does the amphibian have a tail?*

YES

Go to the question #2

NO

Go to the question #4

2. *Does the amphibian have the external gills?*

YES

It's Axolotl.

NO

Go to the question #3

3. *Does the amphibian have costal grooves?*

YES

It's Spotted Salamander.

NO

It's Eastern Newt.

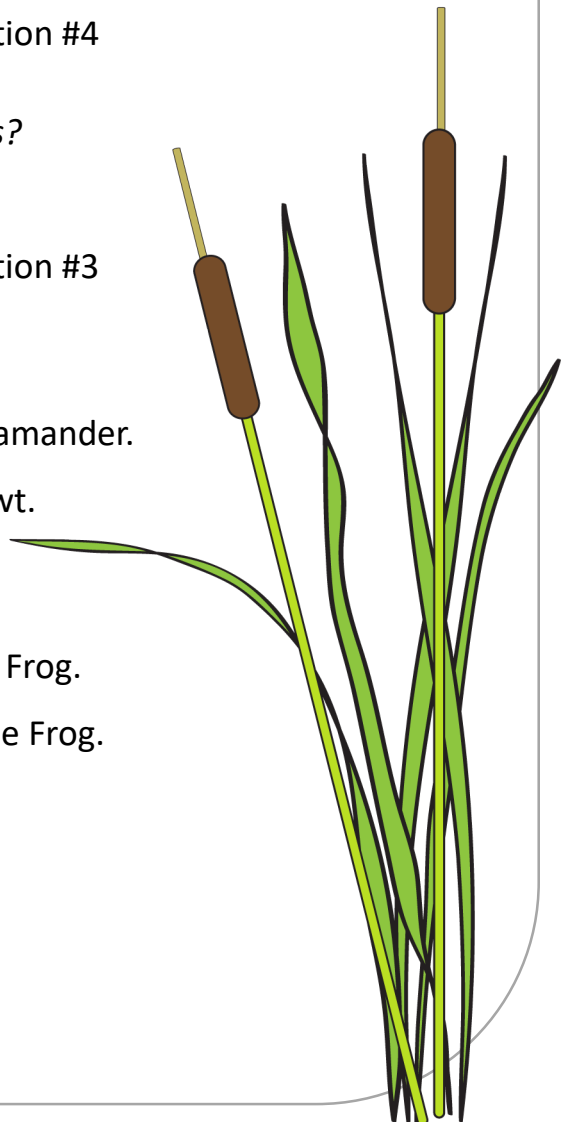
4. *Does the amphibian have dark splotches?*

YES

It's Poison Dart Frog.

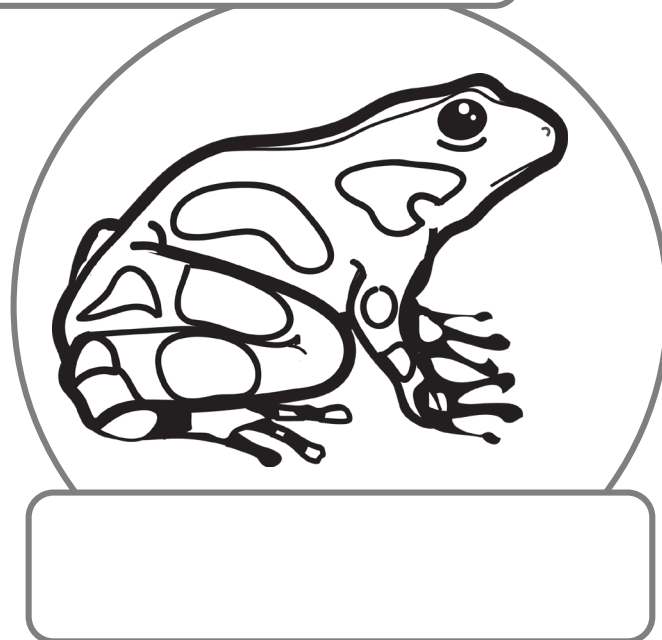
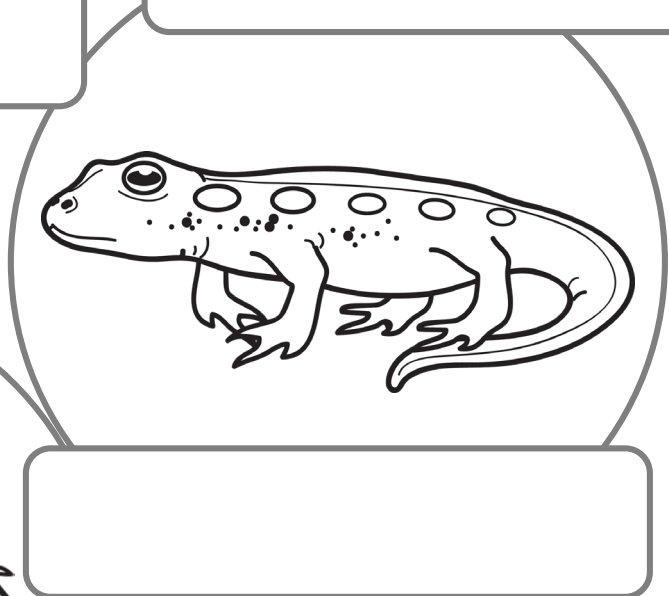
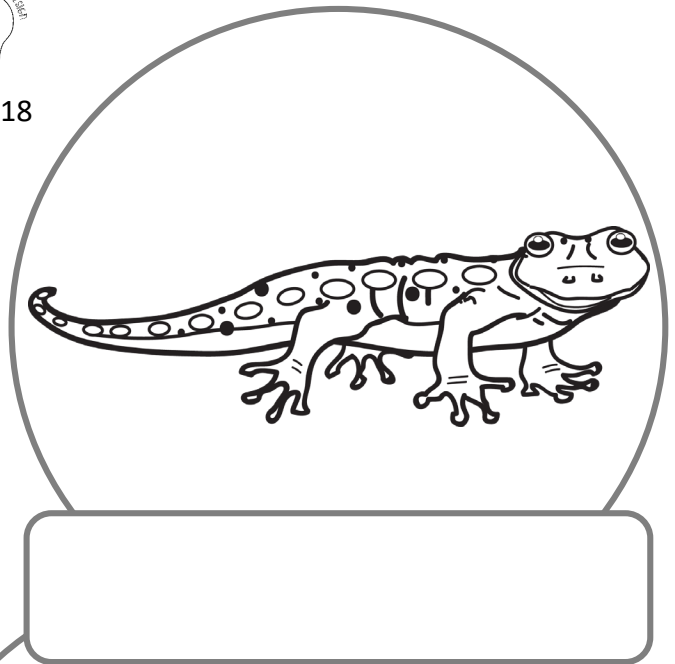
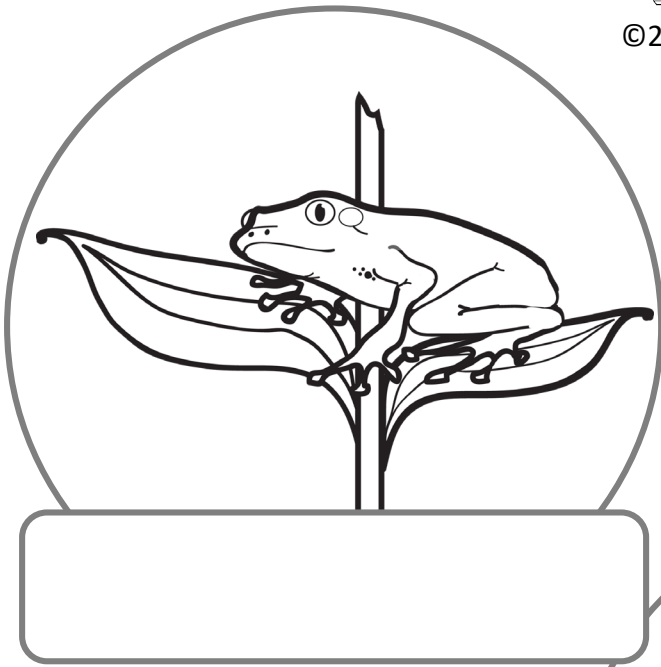
NO

It's Red-eye Tree Frog.





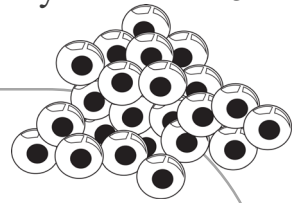
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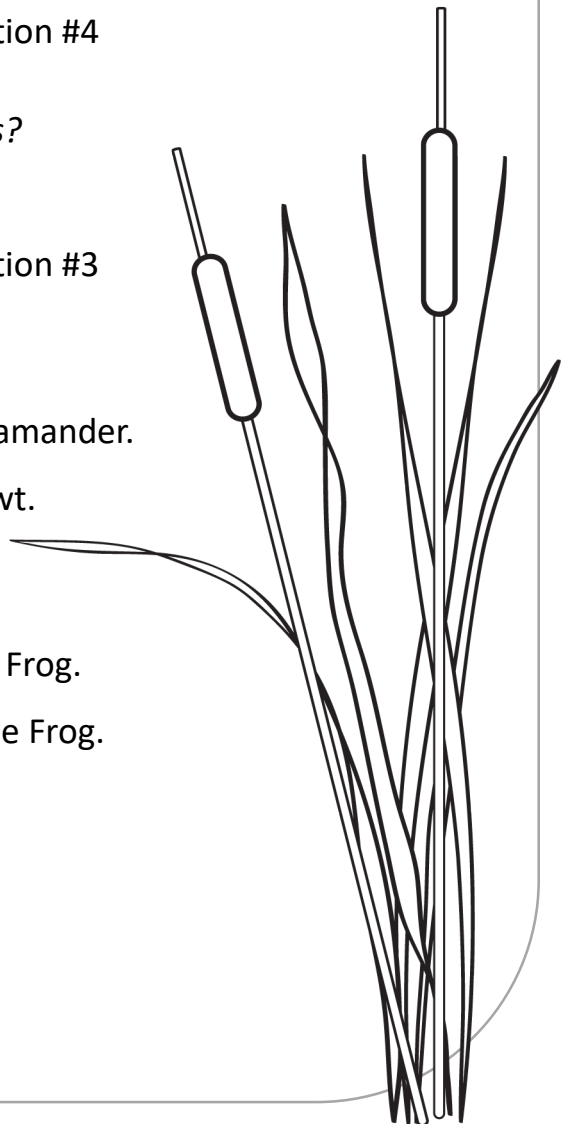
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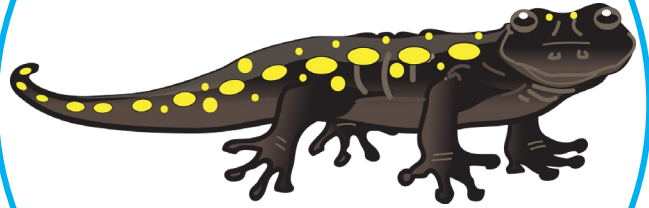




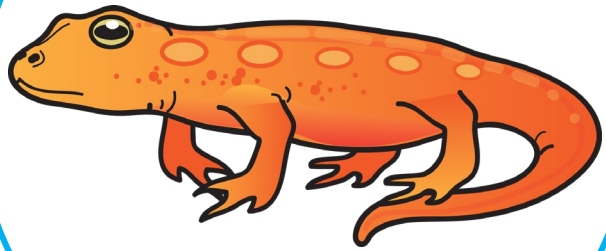
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Red-eye Tree Frog



Spotted Salamander



Eastern Newt



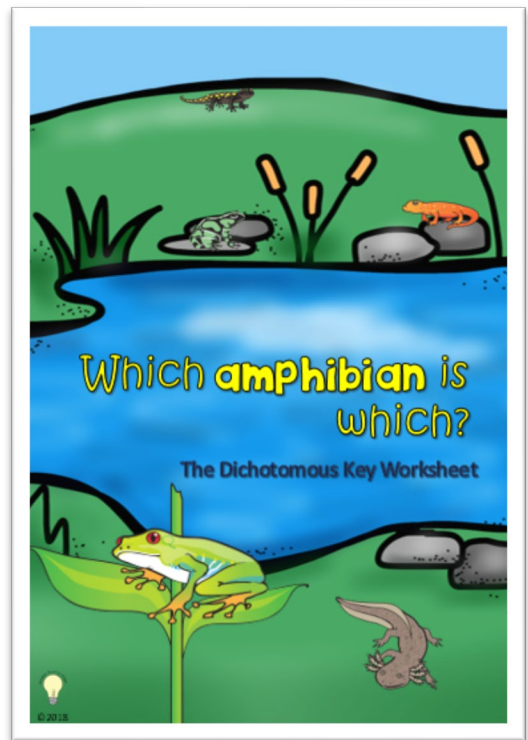
Axolotl



Poison Dart Frog

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Clipart:



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