Example of How to Create a Dichotomous Key

This sample is based on dividing leaves into their prospective groups based on their characteristics. Based on this bracket and its correlated dichotomous key, proceed to create your own bracket and key to describe how your group has divided your seeds.

Leaf ID Key

1a. Leaves are needle-like.......................................................Go to 2
1b. Leaves are not needle-like.................................................Go to 3

2a. Needles are short(< 1 inch).............................................Douglas fir
2b. Needles are long (> 1 inch).................................Ponderosa pine

3a. Leaves are scaly.........................................................Utah juniper
3b. Leaves are not scaly.......................................................Go to 4

4a. Leaf arrangement is compound........................................Go to 5
4b. Leaf arrangement is simple..............................................Go to 6

5a. Leaflets are alternate...................................................Black walnut
5b. Leaflets are opposite..................................................Boxelder

6a. Leaf edges are jagged...................................................Quaking Aspen
6b. Leaf edges are smooth.................................................Scrub Oak