Assignment: Creating a Dichotomous Key   Name: _____

1. Record the scientific and/or common names of the 8 organisms that you observed during your pond study in the space provided below the rubric.
2. Using the organisms that you observed during the pond study, identify characteristics that are similar and different between them.
3. Create a numbered dichotomous key for these organisms using easily identifiable characteristics. Use obvious characteristics that aren't subject to interpretation. <u>Be sure to use only yes/no forms of a question</u>. (Eg. Blue stripes across the abdomen. No blue stripes across the abdomen).
   Hint: It may be helpful to first organize them into a spider key and then write out the key in numbered form.
4. Double check that you can classify all of your organisms, one by one.
5. Please attach this rubric to your dichotomous key.

Marking Rubric					
	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Weight
Question Format	All pairs of questions used to separate the organisms were yes/no variations	Almost all pairs of questions used to separate the organisms were yes/no variations	Most pairs of questions used to separate the organisms were yes/no variations	A few pairs of questions used to separate the organisms were yes/no variations	X1=
Ease of Use	All questions are based on easy to identify, relevant characteristics	Almost all questions are based on easy to identify, relevant characteristics	Most questions are based on easy to identify, relevant characteristics	A few questions are based on easy to identify, relevant characteristics	X1=
Organization	All questions are in order and are logically sequenced. Each set of questions directs the user to the next set of questions based on their answer.	All questions are in order. Each set of questions directs the user to the next set of questions based on their answer.	The order of questions is confusing or difficult to follow.	Questions are out of order or not numbered. Very confusing or difficult to follow.	X1=
Usefulness	All organisms can be identified using the key	The key does not distinguish between two similar organisms.	The key does not distinguish between a few organisms.	The key only distinguishes a couple of organisms.	X2=
				Total:	

List of organisms:
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