Dichotomous Key

Procedure

1. **Observe**  Look carefully at the photos. You are going to classify them with a dichotomous key.

2. **Classify**  Record your classification in the graphic organizer below. Which of the items come from trees and which do not? Fill in the names of the items in the right-hand side boxes on the flow chart.

   - **Comes from tree?**
     - Yes
     - No

   ![Flowchart](image)

3. **Classify**  Choose the group of items that come from trees. Divide it again by a characteristic that some items have and others do not. Record the names of the items on the key. Continue to divide the group until an item is by itself. When you have completed one side of the key, do the same thing with the group of items that do not come from trees.

4. Share your dichotomous key with your teacher and classmates. Explain how you classified the items.
Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. Collaborate  Work with other students to collect more examples of plants. On a separate sheet of paper, develop a more detailed dichotomous key based on characteristics of each plant.

2. Infer  Think about your observations in developing your dichotomous key. What do you think scientists may use as characteristics to further classify plants?

Investigate More!

Research  Collect leaf samples from your neighborhood. Determine the type of plant by using a reference book or the Internet. Make a poster that shows each leaf and an explanation of how you found out what type of plant it came from.