Classification Pre-Test

Name _____________________    Date ________________

Part I: Creating a Dichotomous Key (4 points per box/ 28 points total)
Directions: Sort the following animals to completion by their observable characteristics within the simplified dichotomous key below using the animal pictures as your guide. Do not use color or size in your sort.

DOG    CAT    SNAKE   BIRD

They center on how to use and create a dichotomous key, pertinent vocabulary, the reason zoos exist and real life connections for sorting out our lives

Part II: Classification Rationale (4 points per box pair explanation/ 12 total points)
Directions: Explain why the animals were sorted using the descriptors chosen in the space provided. Explain how you know that the animals in each box are connected to the descriptor listed above it within the box.
Part III: Dichotomous Key Usage (2 points per descriptor/ 12 points total)
Directions: Fill in the descriptors that correspond to the animal observable characteristics sort for the 4 organisms below. Color and size are not to be used.
Part IV: Vocabulary (2 points each/ 20 points total)

Directions: Match the following term to their definition by drawing a straight line from the term to the proper definition.

1. animal classification
   - a method of writing the descriptors using the characteristic name in 1 box and the opposite (not the characteristic) in the box next to it

2. dichotomous key
   - a place where an organism lives that provides it with natural resources

3. descriptor
   - a trait that can be identified using the senses

4. property
   - the act of separating objects into groups

5. No/Not format
   - organizing animals by traits

6. observable characteristics
   - a characteristic that groups descriptors

7. consumer
   - a tool used to sort objects into 2 groups

8. habitat
   - a zoo habitat for an animal

9. exhibit
   - these describe the observable characteristics

10. sorting
    - an organism that gets food from its environment
Part V: Real Life Connection (7 points each/ 28 points total)
Directions: Answer the questions in the space provided.

1. Why do humans classify?

2. How do humans classify?

3. Explain one thing that you or your family classifies in your everyday life, outside of school.

4. Why is it important to you or your family to classify these objects properly?
Classification Pre-Test Teacher Exemplar (Answers may vary.)

Name _____________________    Date ________________

Part I: Creating a Dichotomous Key (4 points per box/ 28 points total)
Directions: Sort the following animals to completion by their observable characteristics within the simplified dichotomous key below using the animal pictures as your guide. Do not use color or size in your sort.

They center on how to use and create a dichotomous key, pertinent vocabulary, the reason zoos exist and real life connections for sorting out our lives

DOG    CAT    SNAKE   BIRD

DESCRIPTOR: Has Fur
ANIMALS: Dog  Cat

DESCRIPTOR: Does Not Have Fur
ANIMALS: Snake  Bird

DESCRIPTOR: Has Pointed Ears
ANIMAL: Cat

DESCRIPTOR: Does Not Have Pointed Ears
ANIMAL: Dog

DESCRIPTOR: Has Legs
ANIMAL: Bird

DESCRIPTOR: Does Not Have Legs
ANIMAL: Snake

Part II: Classification Rationale (4 points per box pair explanation/ 12 total points)
Directions: Explain why the animals were sorted using the descriptors chosen in the space provided. Explain how you know that the animals in each box are connected to the descriptor listed above it within the box.
Classification Rationale:

The primary sort was sorted by body covering. Cats and dogs are mammals, which have fur; while snakes are reptiles and the pigeon is a bird. The body covering on reptiles and birds is scales and feathers respectively—not fur.

The first secondary sort targeted the shape of the ears of the animals. I looked at the picture of the cat and dog, and the cat’s ears are pointed while the lab’s ears are rounded— not pointed.

The second secondary sort focused on appendages. The snake does not have legs because it slithers, whereas the bird is bipedal and walks on 2 legs.

Part III: Dichotomous Key Usage (2 points per descriptor/ 12 points total)

Directions: Fill in the descriptors that correspond to the animal observable characteristics sort for the 4 organisms below. Color and size are not to be used.

FROG           HORSE

FISH           COW
Part IV: Vocabulary (2 points each/20 points total)

Directions: Match the following term to their definition by drawing a straight line from the term to the proper definition.

1. animal classification
2. dichotomous key
3. descriptor
4. property
5. No/Not format
6. observable characteristics
7. consumer
8. habitat
9. exhibit
10. sorting

- animal classification: a method of writing the descriptors using the characteristic name in one box and the opposite (not the characteristic) in the box next to it.
- dichotomous key: a place where an organism lives that provides it with natural resources.
- descriptor: a trait that can be identified using the senses.
- property: the act of separating objects into groups.
- No/Not format: organizing animals by traits.
- observable characteristics: a characteristic that groups descriptors.
- consumer: a tool used to sort objects into 2 groups.
- habitat: a zoo habitat for an animal.
- exhibit: these describe the observable characteristics.
- sorting: an organism that gets food from its environment.
Part V: Real Life Connection (7 points each/ 28 points total)
Directions: Answer the questions in the space provided.

1. Why do humans classify?

Humans classify to organize their lives, identification purposes, etc.

2. How do humans classify?

Humans classify objects by function (clothes go in a closet, bureau), perishability (will it spoil quickly), alphabetically (Cds by artist), etc.

3. Explain one thing that you or your family classifies in you everyday life, outside of school.

Answers will vary. Examples include clothes, food, plates, cookware, books, CDs, etc.

4. Why is it important to you or your family to classify these objects properly?

Most items are classified in the home for organizational purposes, to find them with ease. Others are classified because they need to be refrigerated, frozen for food safety concerns (dairy, meat, etc.).