

TxCETP Course Component for Classification: “*The paths most traveled*”

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Knowledge Level III

Inquiry Activity

- A. Objective: Students classify phyla using characteristics discussed.
- B. Time Frame for Activity: Previous lectures on diversity, 5 minutes to make assignment, 20 minutes to key out several specimens and review the design of the keys during the next class meeting.
- C. Materials:
1. One specimen from each group covered during the previous lectures on phyla.
 2. Original and photocopies of keys made by students outside of class.
- D. Procedure:
1. Students are given the out-of-class assignment to produce a key of 5 phyla or classes (as designated by the instructor) discussed during previous classes. Students are asked to photocopy the key that they make and bring it to the next class meeting.
 2. During the next class meeting, students study samples of organisms and/or photographs, and models of organisms and use their keys to identify the organism or objects.
 3. Students listen to the discussion of the organisms and re-evaluate/enhance/improve the design of their keys.
 4. At the end of class the students turn in the original with changes and the photocopy without changes.
- E. Formative Assessment:
1. Students send e-mails to professor addressing the following question:
 1. What was the most difficult part of designing your dichotomous key?
 2. Collect student keys for assessment.