



ANIMAL DETECTIVE

CASE FILE 001

The Mystery Tracks



Something wandered through the Crazy Scientist LAB overnight!

The animal has disappeared...

All that's left are mysterious footprints.

Can you solve the mystery without ever seeing the animal?

EVIDENCE

These are the only clues you have.
Don't guess the animal yet!



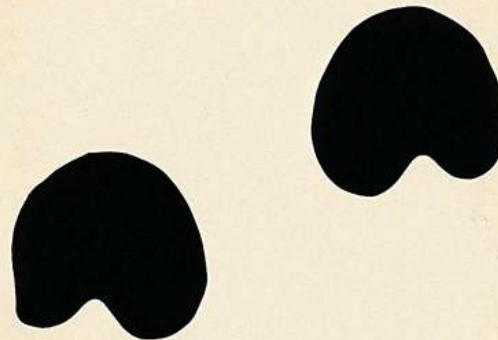
EVIDENCE A



EVIDENCE B



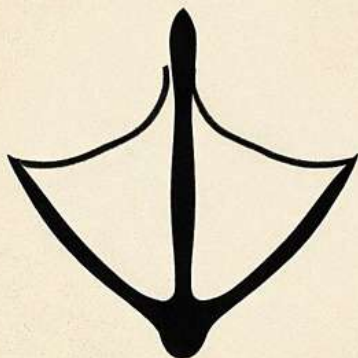
EVIDENCE C



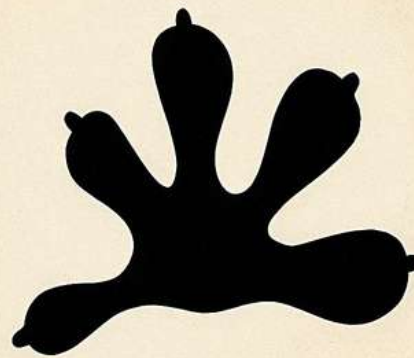
EVIDENCE D



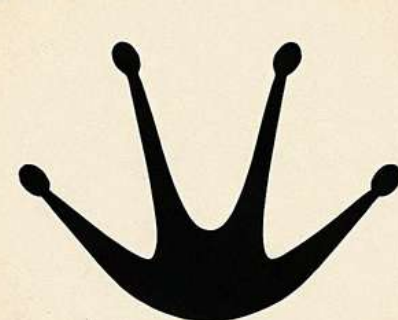
EVIDENCE E



EVIDENCE F



EVIDENCE G



DETECTIVE'S CHALLENGE



- ✓ Look carefully.
- ✓ Don't guess yet.
- ✓ You'll build your own classification key first.
- ✓ Then you can reveal the mystery!





DETECTIVE NOTES



A good detective observes carefully.
Record your clues below.



What do you notice?



Evidence	What do you notice?
A	_____
B	_____
C	_____
D	_____
E	_____
F	_____
G	_____

Clues I Found

☐

claws

☐

long toes

☐

three toes

☐

webbed feet

☐

short toes

☐

four toes

☐

hooves

☐

round print

☐

bipedal (two feet)

☐

paw pads

☐

narrow print

☐

other:

☐

split hoof

☐

wide print

Remember: Don't try to guess the animal yet.
Collect clues first—just like a real scientist!





Scientists use dichotomous keys like this one!



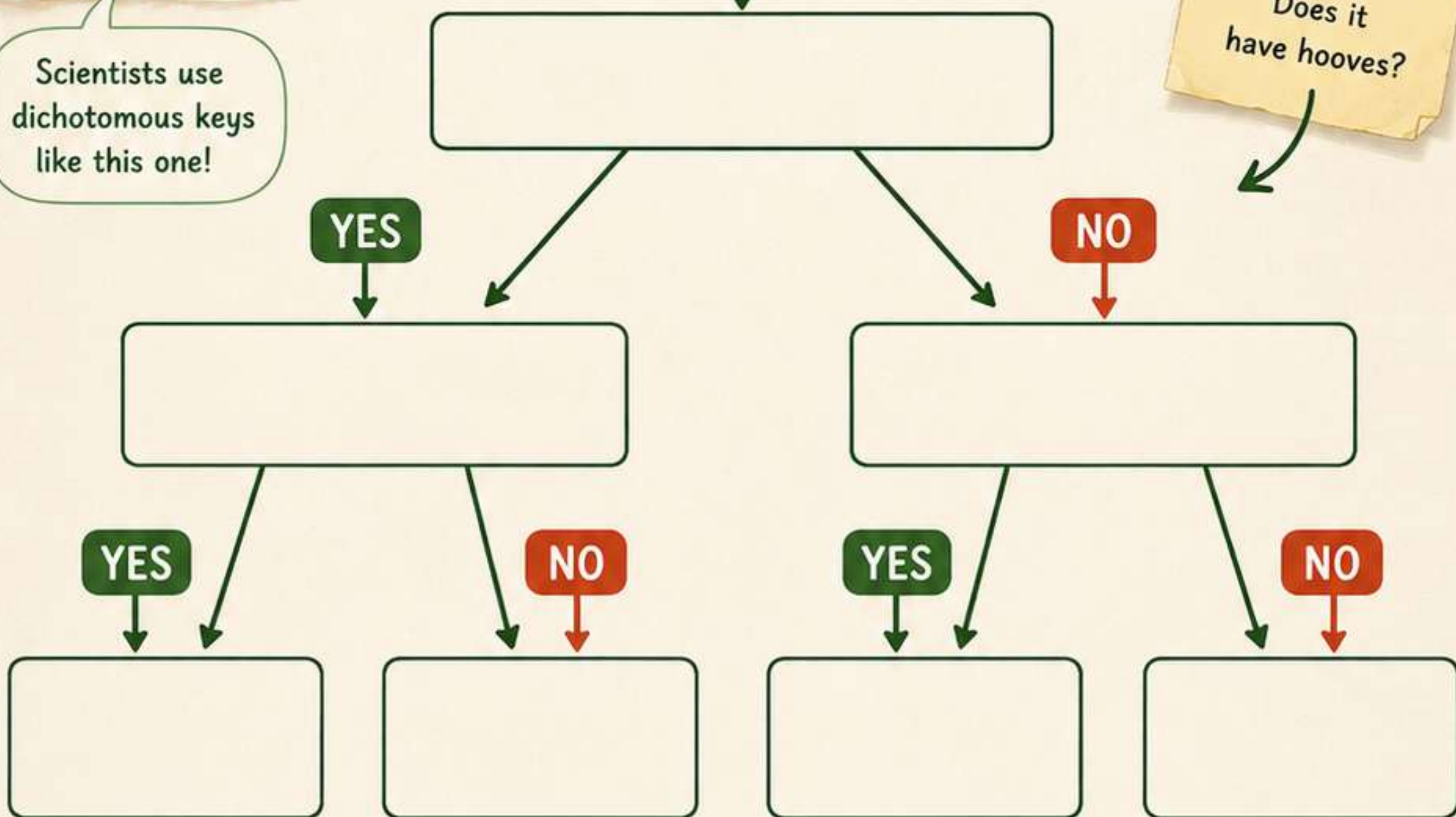
Build Your Classification Key

Write YES/NO questions to separate the footprints into groups. Follow the branches until you can identify every animal.



★ Example question:
Does it have hooves?

START



Helpful tip:



Start with a big difference like hooves or no hooves. Then keep asking questions to split the groups smaller and smaller!

My Key Checklist ☒

- ☐ My questions are YES/NO.
- ☐ Each question splits the group.
- ☐ Every footprint leads to one answer.
- ☐ Someone else could use my key.



Remember: Test your key on the next page!

Can another detective correctly identify all the footprints using only your questions?





Animal Detective REFERENCE GUIDE

YOU DID IT,
DETECTIVE!



Now match each Evidence letter from your case file to the animal below. Use your classification key to help you!

ELEPHANT



Evidence Letter: _____

- Huge and round
- No visible toes or claws
- Heavy animals

HORSE



Evidence Letter: _____

- One hoof
- Hard and strong
- Fast runners

DOG



Evidence Letter: _____

- Four toes and a large pad
- Sharp claws
- Great for running and digging

DUCK



Evidence Letter: _____

- Webbed toes
- Helps for swimming
- Common in water

CROW



Evidence Letter: _____

- Three toes forward, one back
- Strong and sharp
- Great for perching

GECKO



Evidence Letter: _____

- Wide, sticky toes
- Helps climb walls
- Small and agile

FROG



Evidence Letter: _____

- Long, spread toes
- No claws
- Lives near water



REMEMBER: You observed. You thought. You solved.
That's what real scientists do!





GREAT WORK, DETECTIVE!

You've solved Case File 001!

Every detective needs more cases to solve!

Head to the Detective Bureau for your next missions!
New cases coming from early 2027.

EARLY 2027 LAUNCH!

New cases and resources added regularly!

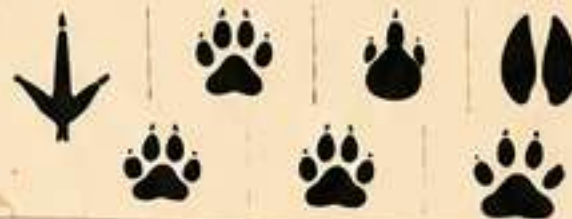
UPGRADE TO THE CRAZY SCIENTIST LAB

Get even more detective cases, resources and fun!



MORE DETECTIVE CASES

New animal tracks, harder cases and exciting mysteries to solve!



REAL ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS

Compare real footprints in mud, sand and snow.
Think like a true detective!



DETECTIVE CHALLENGE CARDS

Extra challenge cards with bonus evidence, missing clues and red herrings!



ANIMAL FACT FILES

Amazing photos and facts about where animals live, what they eat and how their feet are built.



TEACHER RESOURCES

Complete lesson plans, printable worksheets, answers, assessments and extension activities.



YOUR NEXT CASES ARE WAITING...

CASE 002



Who stole the dinosaur eggs?

Follow the giant tracks and crack the case!



CASE 003



Who visited the pond overnight?

Webbed or not webbed? You decide!



CASE 004



Can you solve a crime using animal poo?

Scat clues never lie!

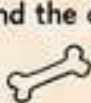


CASE 005



Which skeleton belongs to which animal?

Match the bones and find the owner!



CASE 006



Can you identify a bird from just one feather?

Tiny clues, big mysteries!



CASE 007



Whose fur is this?

Texture, colour and length matter!



NEW CASES ADDED FROM EARLY 2027!

TOP DETECTIVE!

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE LAB:

- ★ Exciting science experiments
- ★ Printable worksheets & challenges
- ★ Monthly story episodes & podcasts
- ★ Would You Rather? questions
- ★ Hook videos & more!



UNLOCK THE CRAZY SCIENTIST LAB!

Instant access to detective cases, printables, activities and exclusive resources.



PRINT



INVESTIGATE



LEARN

★ JOIN THE LAB TODAY! ★



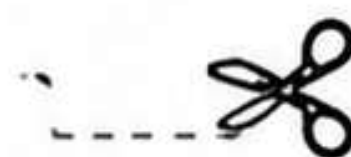
Be curious. Be careful. Be a detective!





MYSTERY FOOTPRINT CARDS

CUT OUT & CLASSIFY!



Cut out the footprint cards below.

Use them with your classification key to **solve the mystery!**

EVIDENCE A



EVIDENCE B



EVIDENCE C



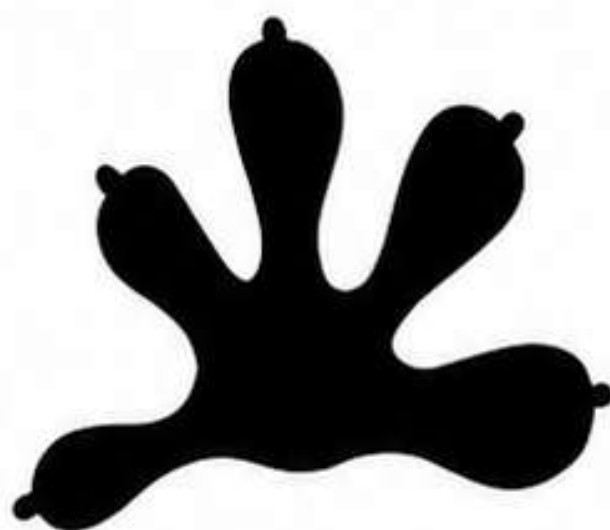
EVIDENCE D



EVIDENCE E



EVIDENCE F



EVIDENCE G

