Name Period Date

**Where Do They Go?**

***Purpose*:** To ***classify*** means to sort objects into groups that are alike in some way. Scientists classify organisms to study them better. In this lab, you and your classmates will classify the same set of objects into 3 sets. Your sets must be mutually exclusive. ***Each object can only belong to one group!***In the data table below, title each set. Then list or draw the objects that belong in each category. Explain the logic of your classification in the Analysis section. Be prepared to present your classification and compare to that of other groups in the class.

***Materials*:** paper clip, scissors, drinking straw, clothespin, pencil, sharpie, pen, highlighter, plastic fork, plastic spoon, rock, table, napkin, chair, and ruler. (15 things)

*Data Table- Classification of Non-living Objects*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Set 1 Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Set 2 Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Set 3 Title:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |  |  |

***Analysis*:**

1. Explain of the logic of your classification.

2. What kinds of characteristics did the other groups use that were different then what your group came up with?

3. What senses can you use to determine characteristics?

A **dichotomous key** is a tool that allows the user to determine the identity of items in the natural world, such as trees, wildflowers, mammals, reptiles, rocks, and fish. **Keys** consist of a series of choices that lead the user to the correct name of a given item. "**Dichotomous**" means "divided into two parts".