

Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIFTH GRADE

**Title of Lesson: Classification using a dichotomous key**

**Theme: Life Sciences**

**Unit Number: 1**

**Unit Title: Classification of Jelly Belly Beans**

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

**S5L1 (Classification lesson)**

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions**
- Uses numbers to quantify**
- Works in a group**
- Uses tools to measure and view**
- Looks at how parts of things are needed**
- Describes and compares using physical attributes**
- Observes using senses**
- Draws and describes observations**

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

**Why do we use classification? Scientist use classification to distinguish similarities and differences categorize the kingdoms of plants, animals, ect.**

**Define: Dichotomous key-tool used to identify items, uses yes or no questions to lead to the correct name of the item**

**Define: Taxonomy- helps name and group organisms according to their characteristics  
For example, invertebrate vs. vertebrates**

**Learning Activity (description in steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters): The students will be given a few jellybeans to classify using a provided dichotomous key. The color, pattern, and lastly the taste of the bean will lead the student to matching to correct flavor to the appropriate jellybean.**

**Details: After the experiment, students should be able to understand how to classify things and understand that this is how scientists classify living organisms into the five kingdoms.**

**Materials Needed (type and quantity): 1 bag of Jelly Belly Beans and the dichotomous key for Jelly Belly Beans**

**Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): Walk the students through an example and classify a jellybean using the dichotomous key. Make sure that each student has an idea of the possible flavor before eating the jellybean because this step cannot be repeated!**

**Sources/References:**

**1) Jelly Belly Bean Dichotomous key:**

**[http://www.elco.k12.pa.us/online\\_homework/Bicher\\_notes/6th/11\\_KeytoJellyBelly.pdf](http://www.elco.k12.pa.us/online_homework/Bicher_notes/6th/11_KeytoJellyBelly.pdf)**