Classification of Aliens

**Background:** How do we know that all organisms are related to one another? Scientists have devised a way to show how organisms are related by their similar characteristics. Grouping organisms by similar characteristics is called **classification**. Scientists group organisms into groups going from broad, general characteristics to narrow, specific characteristics. These groups are called “**The 7 Levels of Classification**.” The 7 levels of classification become smaller and more specific from the kingdom level to the species level. These levels are **Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species**.

**Directions:**

1. Complete the back first! Use the dichotomous key to classify the aliens in the pictures. Write the letter that represents each alien on the line under its picture.
2. When all the aliens are identified on the back arrange the aliens belonging to the Kingdom Feet by listing the alien’s name (letter only) that has the characteristic in the vbox. Complete by adding the species.

**KINGDOM FEET**

- Phylum Socks
- Phylum No Socks
- Class Eyes On Stalks
- Class Eyes Not On Stalks
- Class Eyes On Stalks
- Class Eyes Not On Stalks
- Antennae
- No Antennae
- Antennae
- No Antennae
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*N= Nose *NN= No Nose (list letter under correct position)
*Write the species name (Arms or No Arms next to the alien’s letter. Example K No Arms

3. When classifying organisms, which group is the largest and most general? Which group is the smallest and most specific? Support your answer with evidence from the Kingdom Feet classification above.
Alien Dichotomous Key

1. A. Does the alien have feet?  
   B. Does the alien have no feet?  
      Go to #2

2. A. Does the alien have socks?  
   B. Does the alien have no socks?  
      Go to #5

3. A. Does the alien have antennae?  
   B. Does the alien have no antennae?  
      Go to #4

4. A. Does the alien have 2 eyes?  
   B. Does the alien have less than 2 eyes?  
      Alien R

5. A. Does the alien have toes?  
   B. Does the alien have no toes?  
      Alien T

6. A. Does the alien have long hair?  
   B. Does the alien have no long hair?  
      Alien Z

7. A. Does the alien have eyes on stalks?  
   B. Does the alien have eyes not on stalks?  
      Go to #8

8. A. Does the alien have a nose?  
   B. Does the alien have no nose?  
      Alien X

9. A. Does the alien have arms?  
   B. Does the alien have no arms?  
      Alien V

Alien Pictures