

Activity #6 - Mastery Exercise: Shoe Dichotomous Key

Objectives:

- *Students will generate their own dichotomous key in the classroom.*

Materials:

- ✓ *Pencil or Pen*
- ✓ *Paper (lined notebook paper works the best)*
- ✓ *Optional – Computer with Printer (not required)*

Procedure:

1. *Students work in one giant group as an entire class.*

Note: In very large classes (30-40), students can be divided into two groups (15-20). Even large classes can work as one large group, but the teacher may opt for smaller groups based on behavior of the class, ability levels, or time constraints (smaller groups = less time needed).

1. *Have each student remove one shoe (not both), and place it in a pile.*

Note: It doesn't matter if it is the left or right shoe (it is actually better if it is a random mixture of left and right shoes). Students may wish to remove both shoes to be able to walk around more comfortably. Make sure the shoe in the pile is not mixed in with the other removed shoe (as left and right may become a criteria in the students dichotomous key).

2. *Have students generate a dichotomous key classifying each person's shoe. Once completed the key should indicate the owner of the shoe.*
3. *Key out random shoes once students have finished and check for correctness.*