

A. Fossil Dichotomous Key

Fossil Identification Lesson Plans

Materials: Brachiopod(s), Crinoid(s), Stromatoporoid(s), Hexagonaria, Favosite, Branching Stromatoporoid(s), Lacy Bryozoan(s), Dichotomous Key

B. Objective: To practice fossil identification from the Devonian Period.

Time: 85 minutes

Procedure:

1. Students will be given numbered fossils. They will list the characteristics by observation.
2. Give students Dichotomous key and let them try to identify fossils.
3. Go over the answers for the dichotomous key.
4. Have students answer questions.

* Optional- go over questions together as a class or grade individually.

Questions:

1. What characteristics that you listed BEFORE you used the key matched up with the characteristics from the key? BE SPECIFIC for each fossil.
2. What were the challenges you faced for this activity?
3. What were some things you knew about fossils BEFORE we did this activity?

C. We look at the major events, plants and animals that live in each period. This activity will help students identify some of the main plants and animals from the Devonian Period.

D. Since students are using a dichotomous key, they should be able to find the names of the fossils. The main point of this activity is not necessarily to get the correct answers the first time around (hopefully they do), but to get into the mindset of looking for details at fossils. Hopefully if I was to have the students complete this assignment again, they would be able to identify some (or all) of the fossils without using the key.