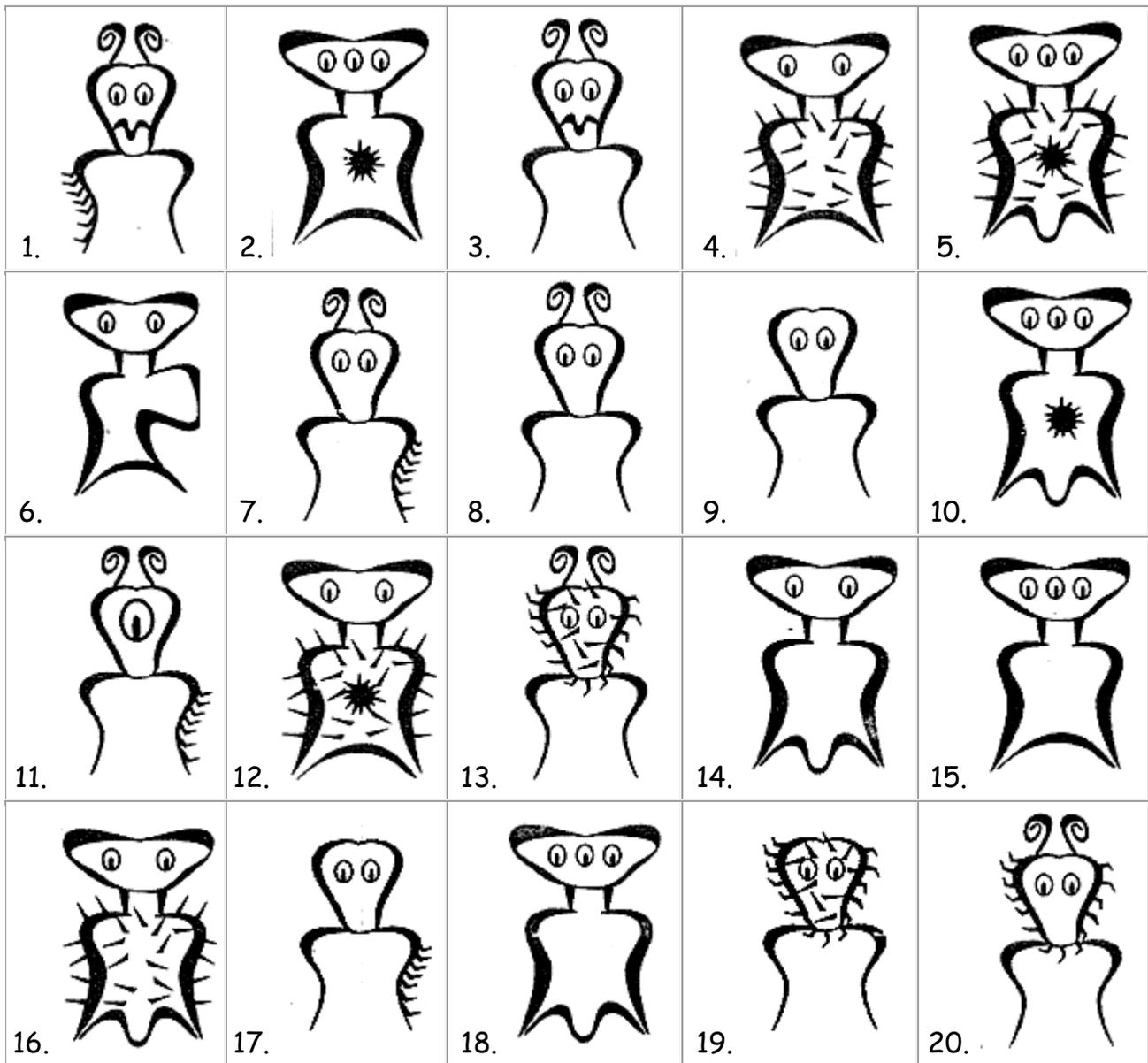


Alien Invasion

Help! Aliens have landed on Earth from another planet. Before scientists can release the aliens, they want to identify and classify them. Use the dichotomous key on the next page to identify these creatures.



A Key to Alien Creatures:

1. a. The creature has a large wide head.....go to 2
b. The creature has a small narrow head.....go to 11
2. a. It has 3 eyesgo to 3
b. It has 2 eyesgo to 7
3. a. There is a star in the middle of its chest.....go to 4
b. There is no star in the middle of its chestgo to 6
4. a. The creature has hair spikes**Broadus hairus**
b. The creature has no hair spikes.....go to 5
5. a. The bottom of the creature is arch-shaped**Broadus archus**
b. The bottom of the creature is M-shaped**Broadus emmus**
6. a. The creature has an arch-shaped bottom**Broadus plainus**
b. The creature has an M-shaped bottom.....**Broadus tritops**
7. a. The creature has hairy spikesgo to 8
b. The creature has no spikes.....go to 10
8. a. There is a star in the middle of its body**Broadus hairystarus**
b. There is no star in the middle of its bodygo to 9
9. a. The creature has an arch shaped bottom**Broadus hairyemmus**
b. The creature has an M shaped bottom**Broadus kiferus**
10. a. The body is symmetrical**Broadus walter**
b. The body is not symmetrical.....**Broadus anderson**
11. a. The creature has no antennaego to 12
b. The creature has antennaego to 14
12. a. There are spikes on the face**Narrowus wolfus**
b. There are no spikes on the facego to 13
13. a. The creature has no spike anywhere**Narrowus blankus**
b. There are spikes on the right leg**Narrowus starboardus**
14. a. The creature has 2 eyes.....go to 15
b. The creature has 1 eye.....**Narrowus cyclops**
15. a. The creature has a mouth.....go to 16

- b. The creature has no mouth.....go to 17
16. a. There are spikes on the left leg**Narrowus portus**
 b. There are no spikes at all**Narrowus plainus**
17. a. The creature has spikesgo to 18
 b. The creature has no spikes**Narrowus georgia**
18. a. There are spikes on the headgo to 19
 b. There are spikes on the right leg.....**Narrowus montanian**
19. a. There are spikes covering the face**Narrowus beardus**
 b. There are spikes only on the outside edge of head**Narrowus fuzzus**



Return to Earth

Alien Invasion Dichotomous Key Short Answers

1. Why is it more advantageous to have only two choices at each step? Why would it be difficult to have more than two?
2. Do dichotomous keys go from general to specific characteristics or from specific to general characteristics? Explain why.
3. What does the first and second part of the Latin name represent in the scientific name of the alien names?
4. How can common names for organisms be confusing? (Why are scientific names more helpful for scientists than common names?)