Fun with Fictitious Animals

A good classification system will assign a single name to each organism and place organisms into groups that have real biological meaning. Researchers using a good classification system can expect members of a group to share important characteristics.

Read over the following taxonomic, or classification, key that describes ten fictitious animals. Using the information given in the key, answer the questions that follow.

A Taxonomic Key

1	A. Body covered with hair	Go to 2
	B. Body covering is not hair	Go to 6
2	A. Has four legs	Go to 3
	B. Has more than four legs	Go to 4
3	A. Has two heads and two tails	Double Trouble
	B. Has one head and a short bushy tail	Grenabar
4	A. Has one horn on its head	Tamboro
	B. Has two horns on head	Go to 5
5	A. Has wheels for feet	Skateroo
	B. Has feet with three sharp claws	Dweezlebub
6	A. Body covered with scales	Go to 7
	B. Body covered with feathers	Go to 8
7	A. Has flippers for its six feet and tail	Nessie
	B. Has pincers for its six feet and has a long forked tail	Marfwheezel
8	A. Has beak with no teeth	Go to 9
	B. Has mouth with sharp teeth	Tearitup
9	A. Has two antennae and short tongue	Quib
	B. Has four antennae and long tongue	Ork

1. A tamboro is most like a
   a. bird.   b. fish.   c. mammal.   d. reptile.

2. Where would a nessie be most likely to live?
   a. desert   b. ocean   c. forest   d. meadow

3. How many legs does a dweezlebub have?
   a. two   b. three   c. four   d. more than four

4. What kind of body covering does an ork have?
   a. feathers   b. hair   c. scales   d. none

5. Which animal is most like a real animal?
   a. double trouble   b. skateroo   c. grenabar   d. marfwheezel

6. What color is a dweezlebub?
   a. red   b. brown   c. green   d. cannot tell from key

7. Which animal is most likely to be able to climb trees?
   a. dweezlebub   b. nessie   c. skateroo   d. ork

8. Describe what a quib looks like.

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9. Draw a picture of a skateroo, including all of its characteristics mentioned in the key.

10. Draw a picture of one of the animals and see if a friend can guess which one you have drawn.