Dichotomous Key to the Insects

Directions: Use the dichotomous classification key below to identify each of the insects that belong to the class *Insecta*. Follow these directions to learn how to use a dichotomous key.

1. Carefully observe the characteristics of the first insect.
2. Read the two choices in step #1 of the dichotomous key.
3. You must choose the correct choice for the insect you are trying to classify.
4. Once you have made your choice, follow the directions to move to the next appropriate line of the key.
5. Continue to make the correct choices for each insect until you have determined its correct name.

Dichotomous Key to the Class "Insecta"

1. a. Insect has wings that extend outward from the body ---------------------- Go to 2
   b. Insect has wings folded tightly against abdomen or no wings ---------- Go to 5

2. a. Insect has one pair of wings --- Go to 3
   b. Insect has two pairs of wings -- *Cordulia aenea*

3. a. Legs are longer than body --- *Tipula abdominalis*
   b. Legs are shorter than body -- Go to 4

4. a. Insect has rounded abdomen --- *Musca domestica*
   b. Insect has sharp, pointed abdomen --------------------------------------- *Vespula squamosa*

5. a. Wings are folded over the abdomen ------------------------------------- Go to 8
   b. No wings are present -- Go to 6

6. a. Abdominal appendages are present --------------------------------------- Go to 7
   b. Abdominal appendages are absent -- *Tapinoma sessile*

7. a. Abdominal pincers are present --- *Forficula auricularia*
   b. Three abdominal appendages are present -------------------------------- *Lepisma saccharina*

8. a. Antennae much shorter than body length --------------- Go to 9
   b. Antennae as long as body ---------------------------------- *Blattella vaga*

9. a. Pincers present on head region -------------------------- *Lucanus capreolus*
   b. No pincers present on head --------------------------------- Go to 10

10. a. Large and rounded abdomen ------------------------------- *Coccinella septempunctata*
    b. Long and slender abdomen ---------------------------------- Go to 11

11. a. Front legs are adapted for grasping ---------------------- *Mantis religiosa*
    b. Front legs are adapted for walking ----------------------- *Stethophyma gracile*

Dichotomous Key to the Class Insecta

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
4. _____	5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____	9. _____
10. _____	11. _____	12. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS