

# Task 5 – Making a Statement

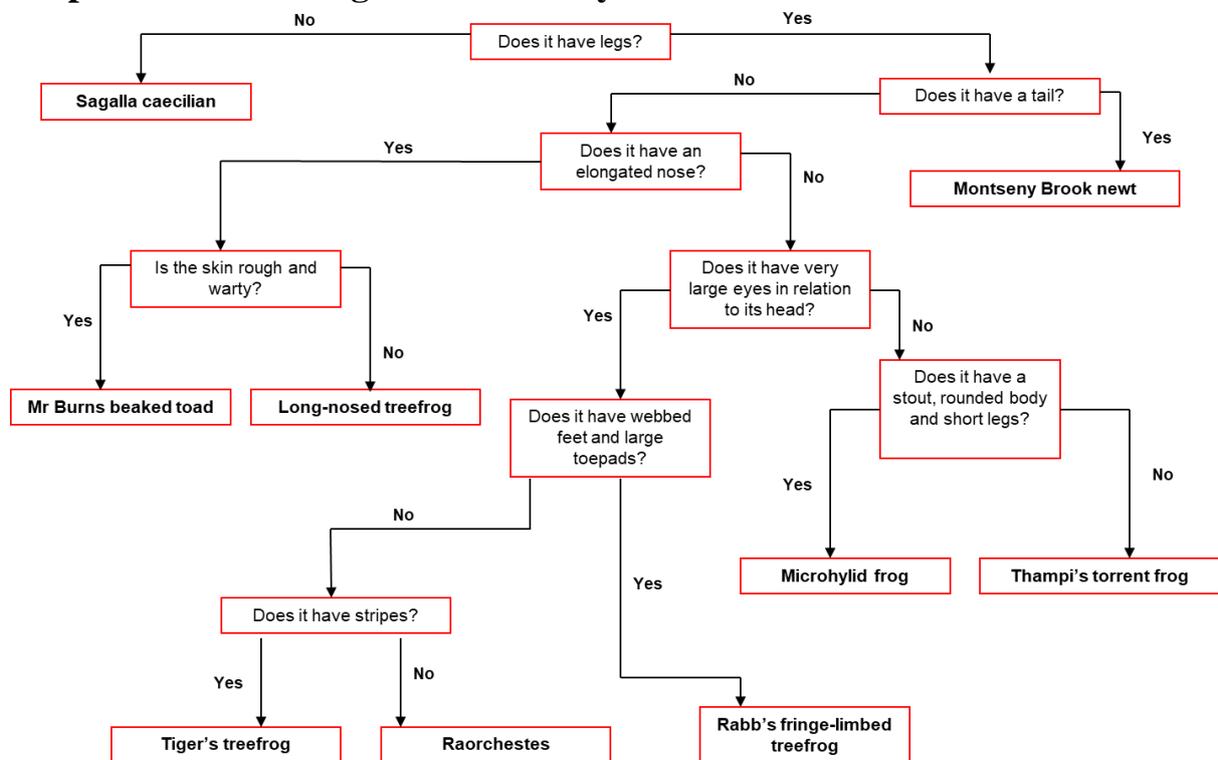
## Identifying and classifying organisms using a statement key

In order to classify different species for others to identify them later, biologists use statement keys which provide details of the features possessed by the organisms in question.

If you wanted to know whether a particular amphibian is a frog or a toad, or whether a large reptile is an alligator or a crocodile, a statement key would list easy to identify features which would allow you to make that judgement.

Statement keys can be formed very creatively, although the two most commonly found are the **paired statement key** and the **branching statement key**.

### Amphibian Branching Statement Key



### Moth Paired Statement Key

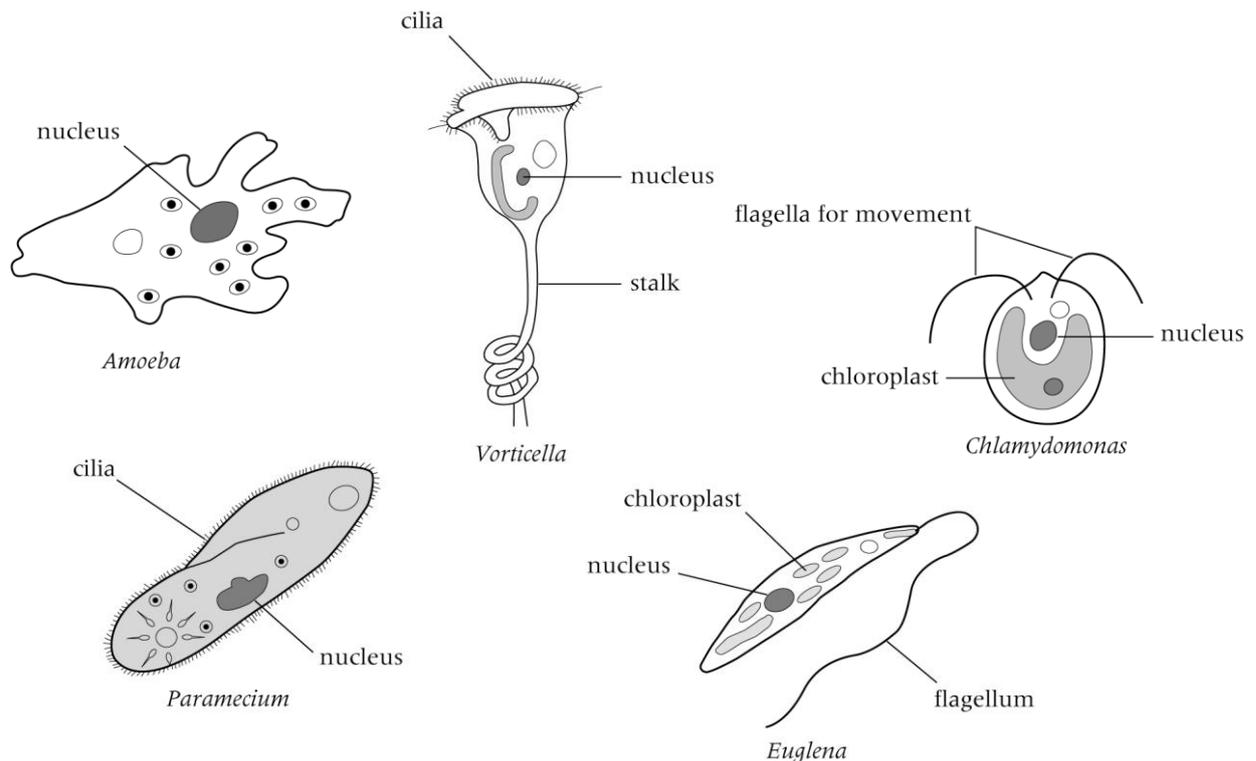
1. Insect with smooth antennae.....Go to 2.
- Insect with feathery antennae.....Go to 3.
2. Insect with spots on wings.....Large White.
- Insect without spots on wings.....Black-veined White.
3. Insect without speckled pattern on wings.....White Satin.
- Insect with speckled pattern on wings.....Go to 4.
4. Pattern covering only front pair of wings.....Black Arches.
- Pattern covering all of wings.....Peppered moth.

Here are some drawings of simple organisms that are found living in water.

Each one is a **unicellular** organism. This means that it is made up of just one cell.

In order to see them you would have to use a microscope.

Some of these tiny organisms do not fall into either the animal kingdom or the plant kingdom, but rather would be classed as protists, fungi, bacteria or archaea instead.



Look carefully at the labelled features of these organisms. Using these features design a statement key to classify them.

Your key should allow someone else to find the names of the organisms if they were just given the labelled drawings to look at.

### **Extension**

Go back to Task 3 – Spineless Creatures. Observe the differences between each of the species in worksheet and create a statement key which allows others to correctly identify each one.