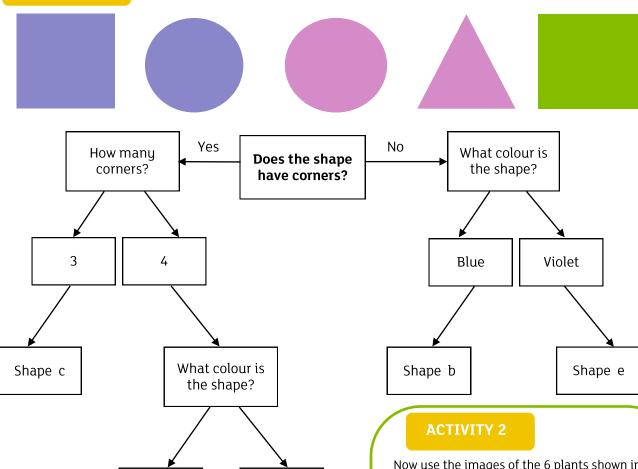
## **CREATE: IDENTIFYING MEADOW PLANTS**

Scientists such as botanists use keys to help them identify plants. There are many different types of key but one of the most commonly used is called a branching or **dichotomous key**. Developing your own key will help you to understand the differences between some of the plants you find in meadows.

You can create a key for almost anything!

### **ACTIVITY 1**

Can you use the key below to label each of the five shapes a, b, c, d, or e?



Green

Shape a

# Peer review your key

Why not ask someone else to test your key to see:

Shape d

- Whether it works
- How good your descriptive writing is
- How accurate you descriptive writing is—did the key work for them?

Blue

Now use the images of the 6 plants shown in card set 2 to develop your own dichotomous or branching key. Try to use descriptions of the leaf and flower shapes in your key:

#### Talk about:

- shape of leaf—is it round, oval, shaped like a hand (palmate)?
- the leaf edge—is it smooth, jagged, toothed, wavy-edged?
- how the leaves arrange themselves around the stem of the plant—are they opposite each other?
- the number of petals, the colour of the petals and markings on them
- The shape of the flower—is it trumpet shaped, cone shaped or circular?

**Save our Magnificent Meadows** is the UK's largest partnership project transforming the fortune of vanishing wild flower meadows, grasslands and wildlife. Led by Plantlife, the partnership is made up of 11 organisations and is primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.





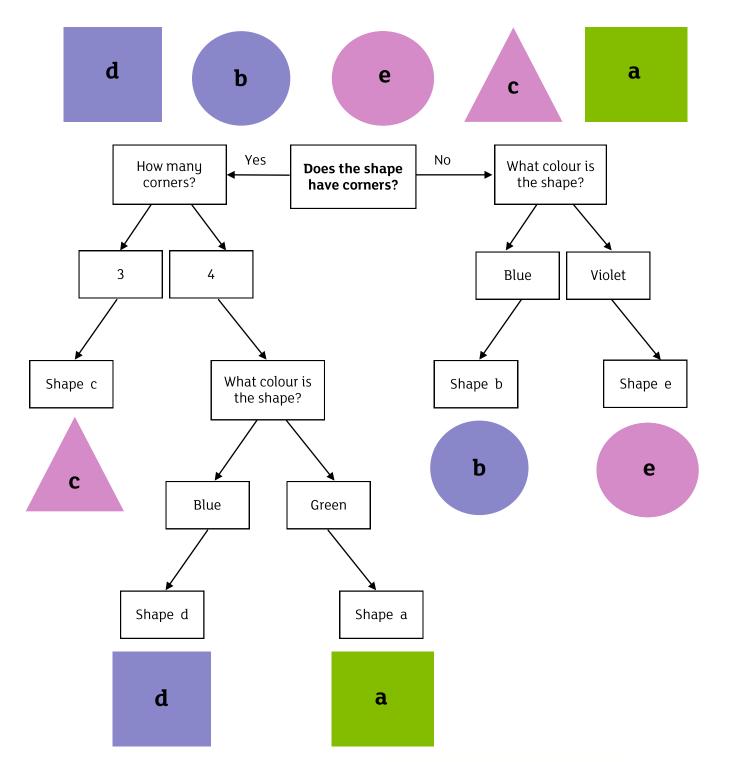


# IDENTIFYING MEADOW PLANTS Creating a key

Scientists such as botanists use keys to help them identify plants. There are many different types of key but one of the most commonly used is called a branching or **dichotomous key**. Developing your own key will help you to understand the differences between some of the plants you find in meadows.

You can create a key for almost anything!

Answers



**Save our Magnificent Meadows** is the UK's largest partnership project transforming the fortune of vanishing wild flower meadows, grasslands and wildlife. Led by Plantlife, the partnership is made up of 11 organisations and is primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.





