

CREATE: IDENTIFYING MEADOW PLANTS

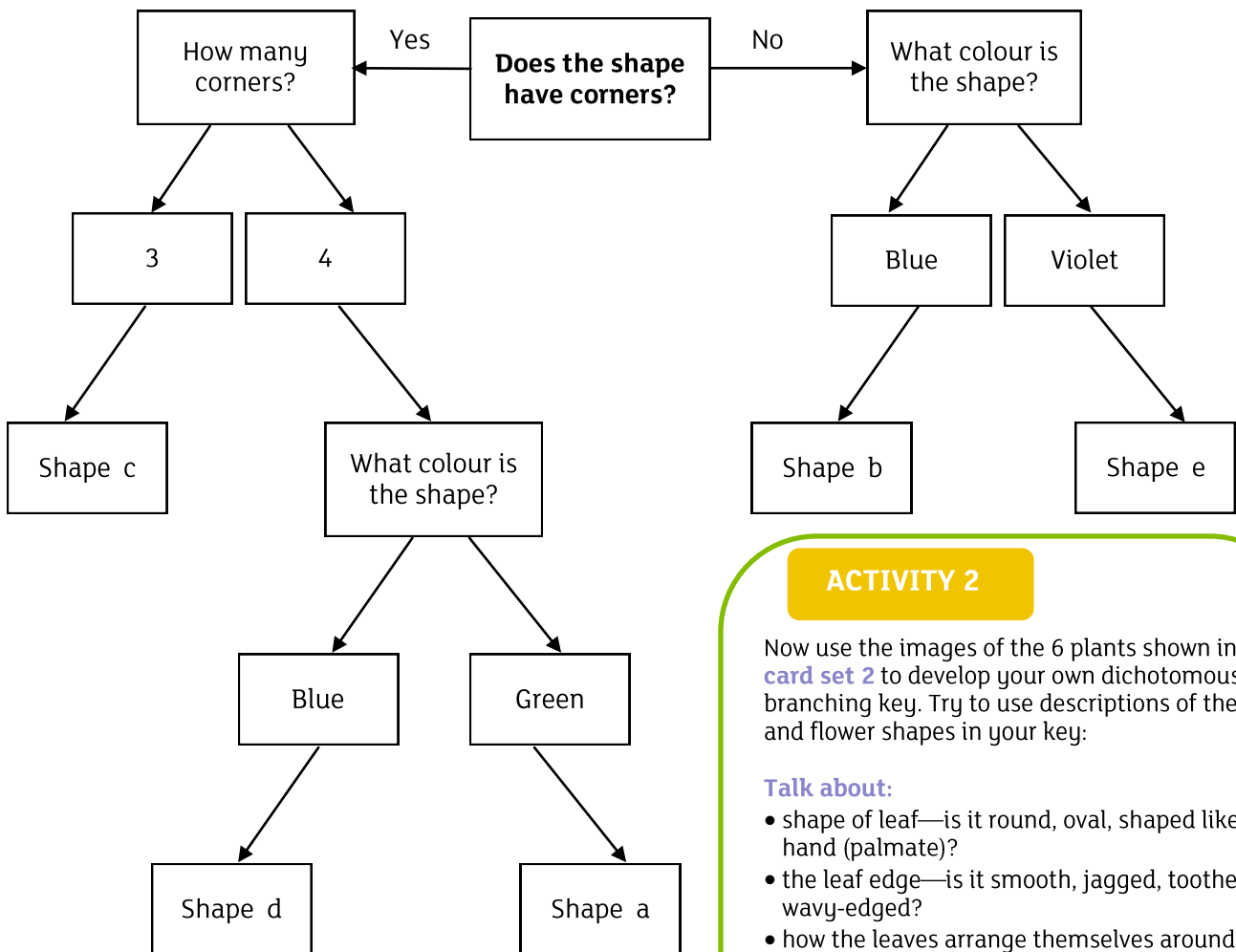
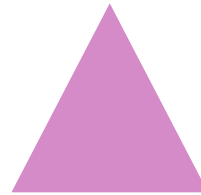
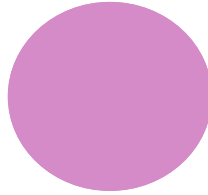
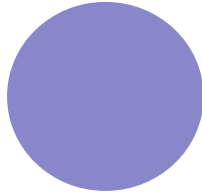
Scientists such as botanists use keys to help them identify plants. There are many different types of key but one of the most commonly used is called a branching or **dichotomous key**. Developing your own key will help you to understand the differences between some of the plants you find in meadows.



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?



ACTIVITY 2

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?

Peer review your key

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

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

IDENTIFYING MEADOW PLANTS

Creating a key

Answers

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