

Name: _____

Date: _____

Student Exploration: Dichotomous Keys

To begin, make sure **Virginia evergreens** and **Organism A** are selected.

1. Read the two statements at lower right. Select that statement and click **Next**. Continue until you have correctly identified the tree. If you change your mind about a choice, you can click the **Back** button. If you incorrectly identify the tree, you can click the **Start Over** button and try again.

A. What is the **common name** of the tree? _____

B. The **scientific name** is shown in italics. Scientific names have two parts: the **genus** name (1st name) and the **species** name (last name).

What is the genus of this tree? _____ Species? _____

2. Identify: Use the Gizmo complete the table below.

Virginia Evergreens

Organism	Common name	Scientific name
A	Northern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		

3. Based on your classifications, which three trees are the most closely related? Explain how you know.

4. What other taxa (classification levels) do these three species have in common? (Hint: There are 6.)

5. If organisms are NOT members of the same species, what is an important life function they CANNOT perform together?

