How do we classify animals? Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the table for each organism. Follow the example. Answer the questions that follow.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organism** | **How does it move?** | **Covering?** | **Is it a mammal?** | **What does it eat?** |
| *Mouse* | *Legs* | *Fur* | *Yes* | *Plants and/or meat (omnivore)* |
| Human |  |  |  |  |
| Dog |  |  |  |  |
| Snake |  |  |  |  |
| Bird |  |  |  |  |
| Possum |  |  |  |  |
| Bacteria |  |  |  |  |

Using the data in the table above, select only two characteristics to sort these organisms into categories. Write these criteria here (the question from the table above):

1)

2)

Why did you choose that criteria? Could you have used different criteria and gotten a similar answer?

Cut the pictures out of the follow page. Sort the seven organisms on your desk into groups following the criteria you selected and the data above.

How many groups did you end up with? Do you think you could sort these organisms in a different way?

What did you find wrong or unreliable about classifying organisms based on only two categories?

How do you think scientists sort organisms into categories? Be specific and compare how you sorted these organisms and how a scientist would sort organisms. Would they use a similar method?

