

Dichotomous Key

Directions: You are going to identify a plant of the Everglades by using a dichotomous key. To begin, take your plant card and read through your tele-pictionary notes. Then, work your way through the key below. Start at #1 and read through each statement in the table below. As you choose the statement that goes with the plant you are trying to identify, it will lead you to either the name of the plant or a new set of statements. After you have identified the name of each plant, write its name below.

1. a. It is a flowering plant..... Go to 2.
 b. It is a nonflowering plant..... Go to 6.

2. a. It has prop roots..... **It is a red mangrove.**
 b. It does NOT have prop roots..... Go to 3.

3. a. It has a woody trunk..... **It is a live oak.**
 b. It does NOT have a woody trunk..... Go to 4.

4. a. It lives and grows on tree branches..... **It is a spanish moss.**
 b. It does NOT live and grow on tree branches..... Go to 5.

5. a. It has a broad leaves and yellow flowers..... **It is a spatterdock lily.**
 b. It has purple flowers..... **It is a pickerel weed.**

6. a. It reproduces by spores..... **It is a giant leather fern.**
 b. It does NOT reproduce by spores..... Go to 7.

7. a. It reproduces by cones and lives in a wet habitat..... **It is a bald cypress.**
 b. It reproduces by cones and lives in a dry habitat..... **It is a slash pine.**