

# Plants of the BC Coast Dichotomous Key

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| 1. a. Leaves flat on the stem in 2 dimensions                                  | 2                   |
| 1. b. Leaves not flat on the stem and go around the branch/ or not flat at all | 8                   |
| 2. a. Multiple leaves on the main branch form a pointed tip                    | 3                   |
| 2. b. Multiple leaves on the main branch don't form any particular shape       | 5                   |
| 3. a. Main branch has more branches coming off of it before leaf attachment    | Lady fern           |
| 3. b. Leaves directly attached to the main branch                              | 4                   |
| 4. a. Leaves have brown spots under  | Sword Fern          |
| 4. b. Leaves don't have brown spot under                                       | Deer fern           |
| 5. a. Leaves are large and roughly form the shape of a circle                  | 6                   |
| 5. b. Leaves are not large and don't have the shape of a circle                | 7                   |
| 6. a. Leaves larger than 10cm across   | Big Leaf Maple      |
| 6. b. Leaves 10cm across or less   | Climbing Maple      |
| 7. a. Leaves small and oval shaped   | Huckleberry         |
| 7. b. Leaf edges jagged and always occur in 3's                                | Salmonberry         |
| 8. a. Leaves are tough and on a hard woody stem                                | 9                   |
| 8. b. Leaves and stem are soft   | 10                  |
| 9. a. Leaves are needle-like and have defined top and bottom                   | Western Hemlock     |
| 9. b. Leaves are scale-like and don't have a defined side                      | Western Red Cedar   |
| 10. a. Cotton-like, light green, filamentous, stringy                          | Bearded Moss        |
| 10. b. Leafy, dark green   | 11                  |
| 11. a. Branched, feather like  | Knight's Plume moss |
| 11. b. No defined branches, not feather like                                   | 12                  |
| 12. a. Long stems with pointed "leaves"  | Pipe cleaner moss   |
| 12. b. Short stems with rounded "leaves"                                       | Rose moss           |

# Plants of the BC Coast Identification

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the following plants using the Dichotomous key provided

A \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which plants were the hardest to identify? Why?

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2. Do you think the dichotomous key was easy to follow or hard to follow? Why?

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3. Considering these are only 13 species of plants from the BC rainforest, think about dichotomous keys that would identify more than just 13 species. How would they be different from the dichotomous key you just used? (List and explain at least 3 differences that you'd see)

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