Mussel Dichotomous Key
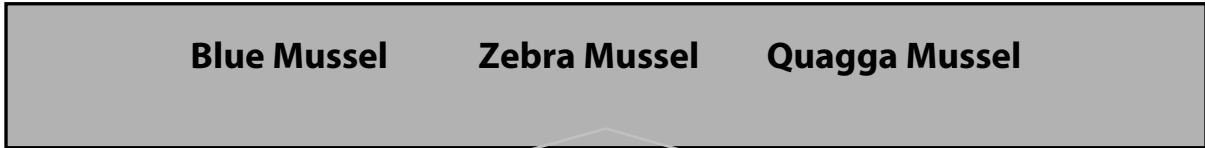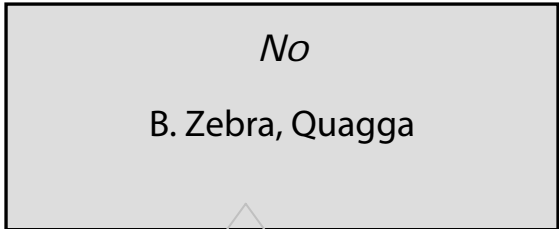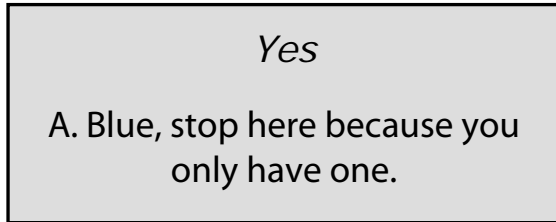
Blue Mussel   Zebra Mussel   Quagga Mussel

Start with a yes/no question that will separate the Mussels into 2 groups. Write the names of the Mussels in the appropriate boxes below.

1. Question:

Does the Mussel have a bluish black shell?

Yes A. Blue, stop here because you only have one.	*No* B. Zebra, Quagga

Now write a new question for each of those boxes (yes box & no box) that will separate each set of mussels again into 2 new boxes.

2. Question:

Do the shell halves have a triangular shape?

Yes A. Zebra, stop here	*No* B. Quagga, stop here