Lesson 3: Tooth Sleuth—Tacoma Mammal Puzzler
Dichotomous Key

1. a) The skull has 1 long, yellow/orange incisor on each side of the upper jaw………………go to 2
    b) The skull has white incisors…………………………………………………………………………………………go to 7

2. a) The skull is longer than 5 centimeters……………………………………………………………………..go to 3
    b) The skull is shorter than 5 centimeters ………………………………………………………………….go to 5

3. a) There are 4 molars on each side of the upper and lower jaws…………………………………<u>Beaver</u>
    b) There are more than 4 molars on each side of the upper jaw…………………………………..go to 4

4. a) When viewed from above, the skull has a triangular shape……………………<u>Mountain Beaver</u>
    b) The skull is noticeably longer than it is wide……………………………………………<u>Eastern Gray Squirrel</u>

5. a) There are 3 molars on each side of the upper and lower jaws…………………………<u>Norway Rat</u>
    b) There are more than 3 molars on each side of the upper and lower jaws………………go to 6

6. a) There are 4 molars on each side of the lower jaw
      and 5 molars on each side of the upper jaw………………………………………<u>Townsend's Chipmunk</u>
    b) The molars are tightly packed, are all about the same size and
      shape, and are hard to distinguish from one another…………………………………<u>Townsend's Vole</u>

7. a) The skull is shorter than 5 centimeters, there are 3 molars on each side of the
      upper and lower jaws and two prominent incisors on the upper jaw…….<u>Townsend's Mole</u>
    b) The skull is longer than 5 centimeters ………………………………………………………………..go to 8

8. a) There are 3 incisors on each side of the upper jaw.……………………………………………go to 9
    b) There are more or less than 3 incisors on each side of the upper jaw……………………..go to 11

9. a) There are 5 molars on each side of the upper and lower jaws…………………………<u>Harbor Seal</u>
    b) There are more than 5 molars on each side of the lower jaw……………………………go to 10

10. a) The skull is much longer than it is wide. It has 6 molars on
      each side of the upper jaw and 7 molars on each side of the lower jaw…………………<u>Coyote</u>
    b) The skull is slightly longer than it is wide. It has 6 molars
      on each side of the upper and lower jaws…………………………………………….…<u>Raccoon</u>

11. a) There are no incisors on the upper jaw and there are 3 incisors on
      each side of the lower jaw...<u>Black-tailed Deer</u>
    b) There are 5 incisors on each side of the upper jaw and 4 incisors
      on each side of the lower jaw..…......<u>Common Opossum</u>