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..................... Beaver
   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...................... Mountain Beaver
   b) The skull is noticeably longer than it is wide....................................... Eastern Gray Squirrel

5. a) There are 3 molars on each side of the upper and lower jaws..................... Norway Rat
   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...................................... Townsend’s Chipmunk
   b) The molars are tightly packed, are all about the same size and
       shape, and are hard to distinguish from one another....................... Townsend’s Vole

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...... Townsend’s Mole
   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 8
   b) There are more or less than 3 incisors on each side of the upper jaw........... go to 9

9. a) There are 5 molars on each side of the upper and lower jaws.................... Harbor Seal
   b) There are more than 5 molars on each side of the lower jaw.................... go to 11

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........... Coyote
    b) The skull is slightly longer than it is wide. It has 6 molars
       on each side of the upper and lower jaws........................................... Raccoon

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