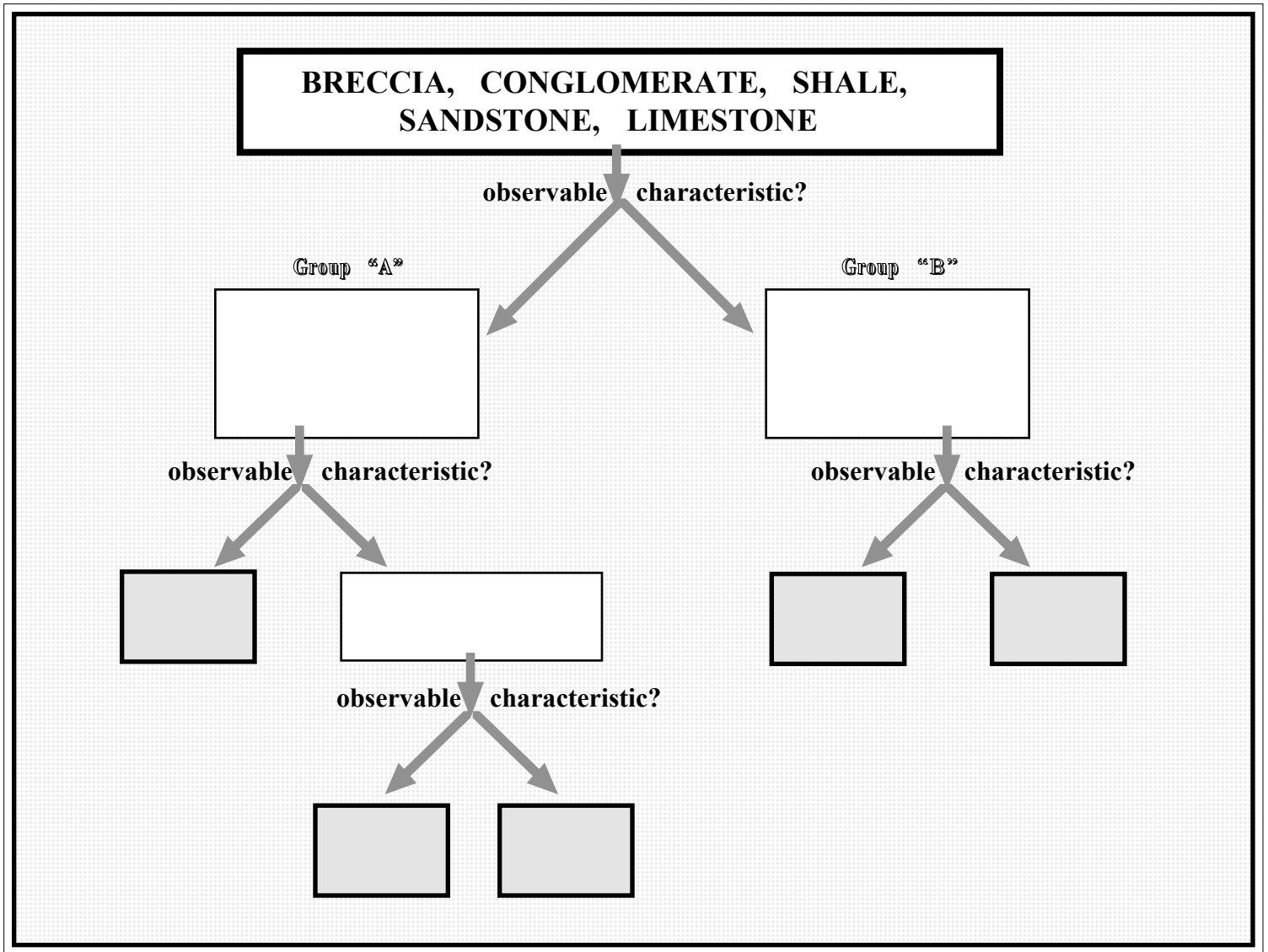Name_____

Bell_____ Due Date_____

Lab / Activity: ID Key for Sedimentary Rocks
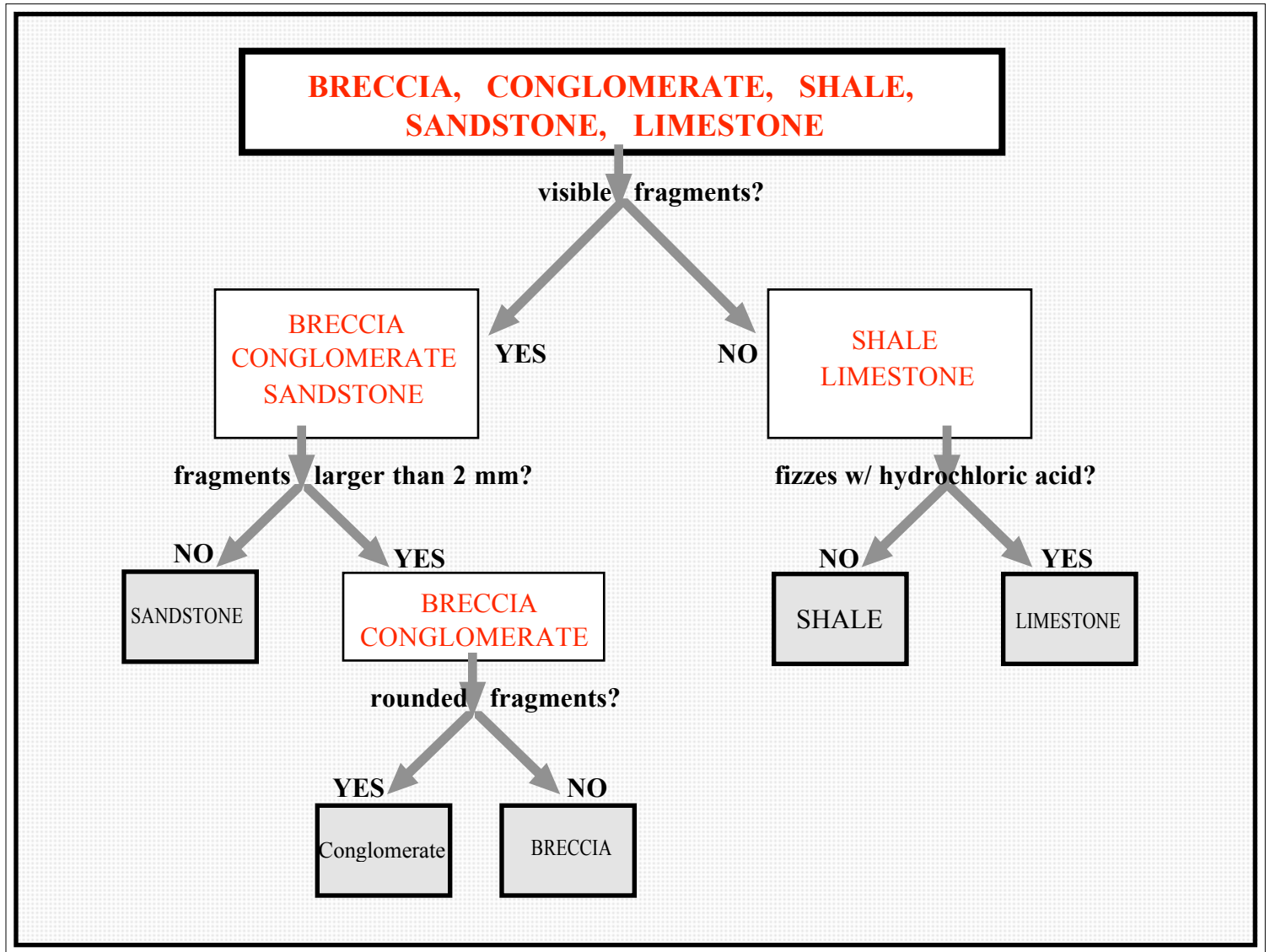
Sedimentary Rocks

* Try to split bigger group of sedimentary rocks into two smaller groups based on observable characteristic.

* Keep splitting until each sedimentary rock has been isolated and is in a box by itself.

BRECCIA, CONGLOMERATE, SHALE, SANDSTONE, LIMESTONE

observable   characteristic?

Group "A"

Group "B"

observable   characteristic?

observable   characteristic?

observable   characteristic?

* What are some <u>observable characteristics</u> that can be used to separate one/more sed rx from the others?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

There are several different ways this dichotomous (ID) key could be constructed.
Can you think of a different way(s) to do it?

BRECCIA, CONGLOMERATE, SHALE, SANDSTONE, LIMESTONE

visible fragments?

YES → **BRECCIA CONGLOMERATE SANDSTONE**

NO → **SHALE LIMESTONE**

fragments larger than 2 mm?

NO → SANDSTONE

YES → **BRECCIA CONGLOMERATE**

fizzes w/ hydrochloric acid?

NO → SHALE

YES → LIMESTONE

rounded fragments?

YES → Conglomerate

NO → BRECCIA

---

* What are some <u>observable characteristics</u> that can be used to separate one/more sed rx from the others?

Breccia, conglomerate, & sandstone have fragments that can be seen without magnification.

Breccia & conglomerate fragments are larger than 2 mm diameter. Sandstone frags are smaller than 2 mm.

Conglomerate is made up of rounded fragments. Breccia is made up of unrounded fragments.

Shale & limestone have no visible fragments. Shale fragments are microscopic. Shale breaks into sheets.

Limestone is a nonclastic sedimentary rock that "fizzes" when hydrochloric acid is dripped onto it.