A Dichotomous Key Activity for Seashells

Instructions: Using the images on the card set that your teacher gives you, you should be able to correctly identify where a shell goes in the identification key. Write the number of each shell (noted on the card) on the line provided.

I. Univalve ________________
   A. Outer projections (spikes) _____
      1. Spikes at two ends _____
         a. Shell solid white in color _____
         b. Shell not solid white _____
      2. Spikes at one end only _____
         a. Shell is longer than it is wide _____
            (1) Shell has vertical stripes _____
            (2) Shell has no vertical stripes _____
         b. Shell is wider than it is long _____
   B. Spikes not present _____
      1. Shell is wider than longer _____
         a. Shell has speckles _____
         b. Shell has no speckles _____
      2. Shell is longer than wider _____
         a. Shell is speckled _____
            (1) Shell is approximately 7 cm from umbo to base _____
            (2) Shell is approximately 5 cm from umbo to base _____
         b. Shell is not speckled _____
            (1) Shell is striped _____
            (2) Shell has no stripes _____
               (a) Curved at pointed end _____
               (b) No curve at pointed end _____

II. Bivalve ___________________
   A. Two shells present (articulated) _____
      1. Umbo axial length is approximately 5.0 cm long _____
      2. Umbo axial length is less than 5.0 cm long _____
   B. One shell present _____
      1. Shell has pointed umbo area _____
         a. Shell is smooth _____
         b. Shell is rough _____
      2. Shell has straight umbo area _____