

Generic and Specific Authority

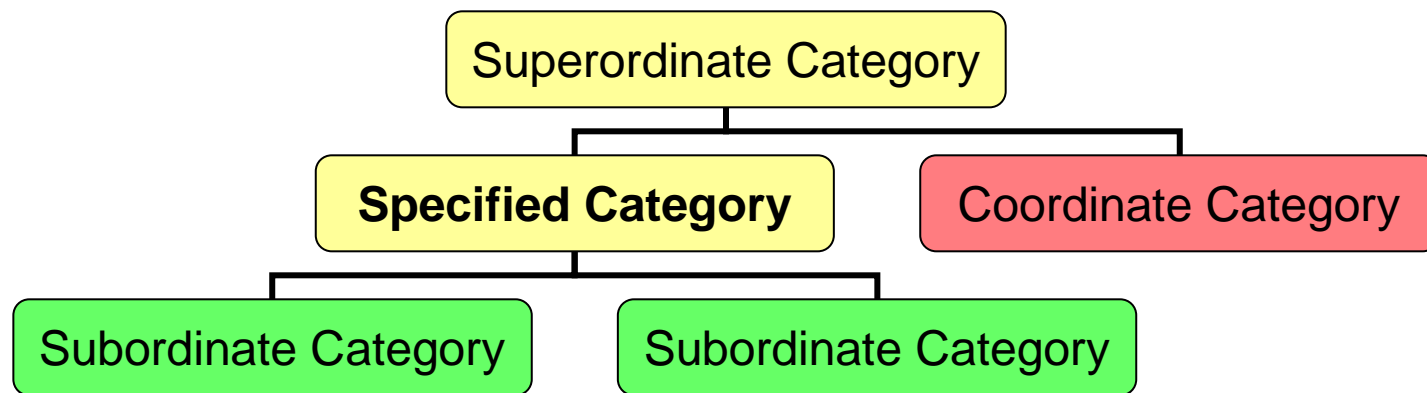
“Get Some Bread”

- Specifies some things (Specific Authority)
 - Locomotion: “Get”
 - Thing desired: “Bread”
- Leaves other things unspecified (Generic Authority)
 - Where
 - How
 - When
 - Who
 - How much
 - What kind
 - What form
 - etc.

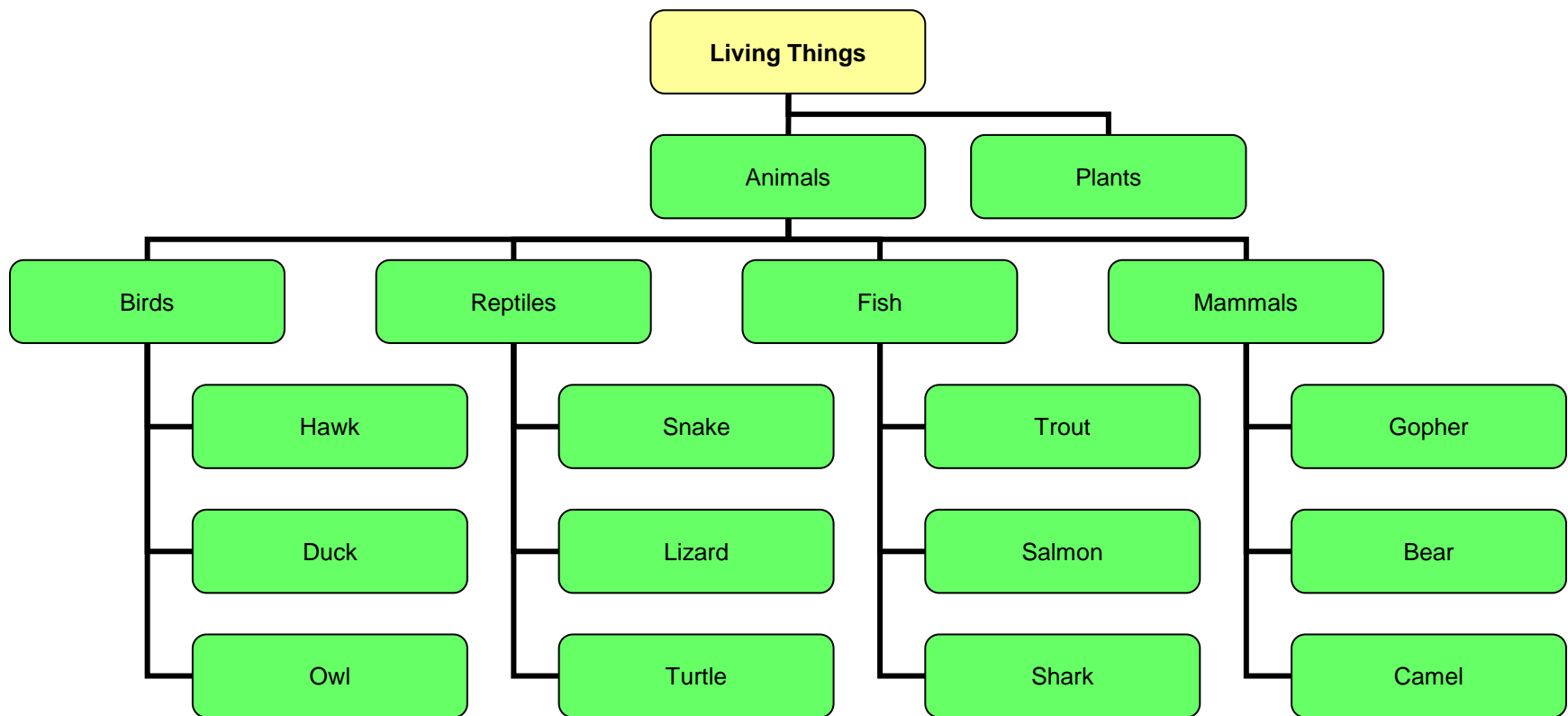
Generic and Specific Authority

- **Generic authority** authorizes any activity that is subordinate to what was instructed
- **Specific authority** excludes any activity that is coordinate to what was instructed
- **Specific authority** always takes precedence over **generic authority**

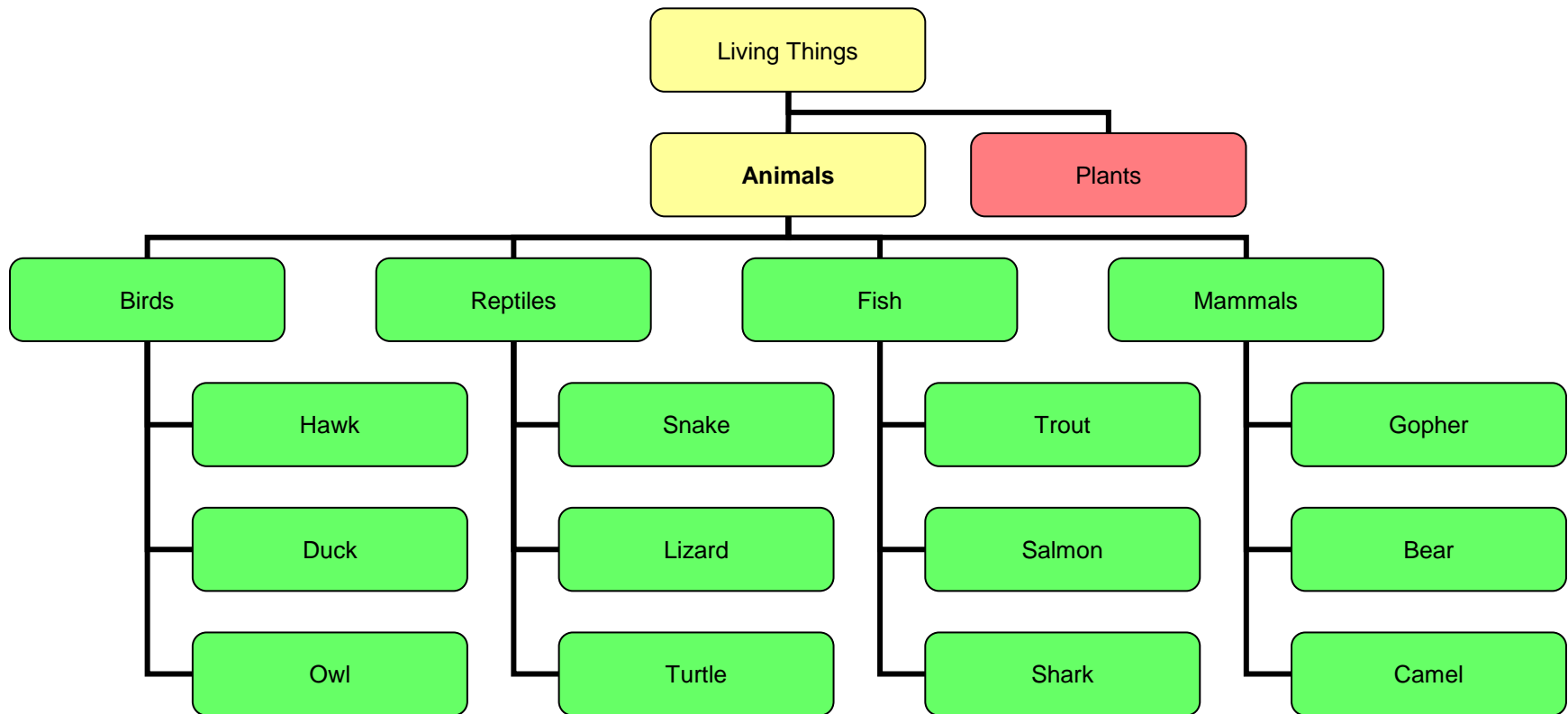
Hierarchy of Categories



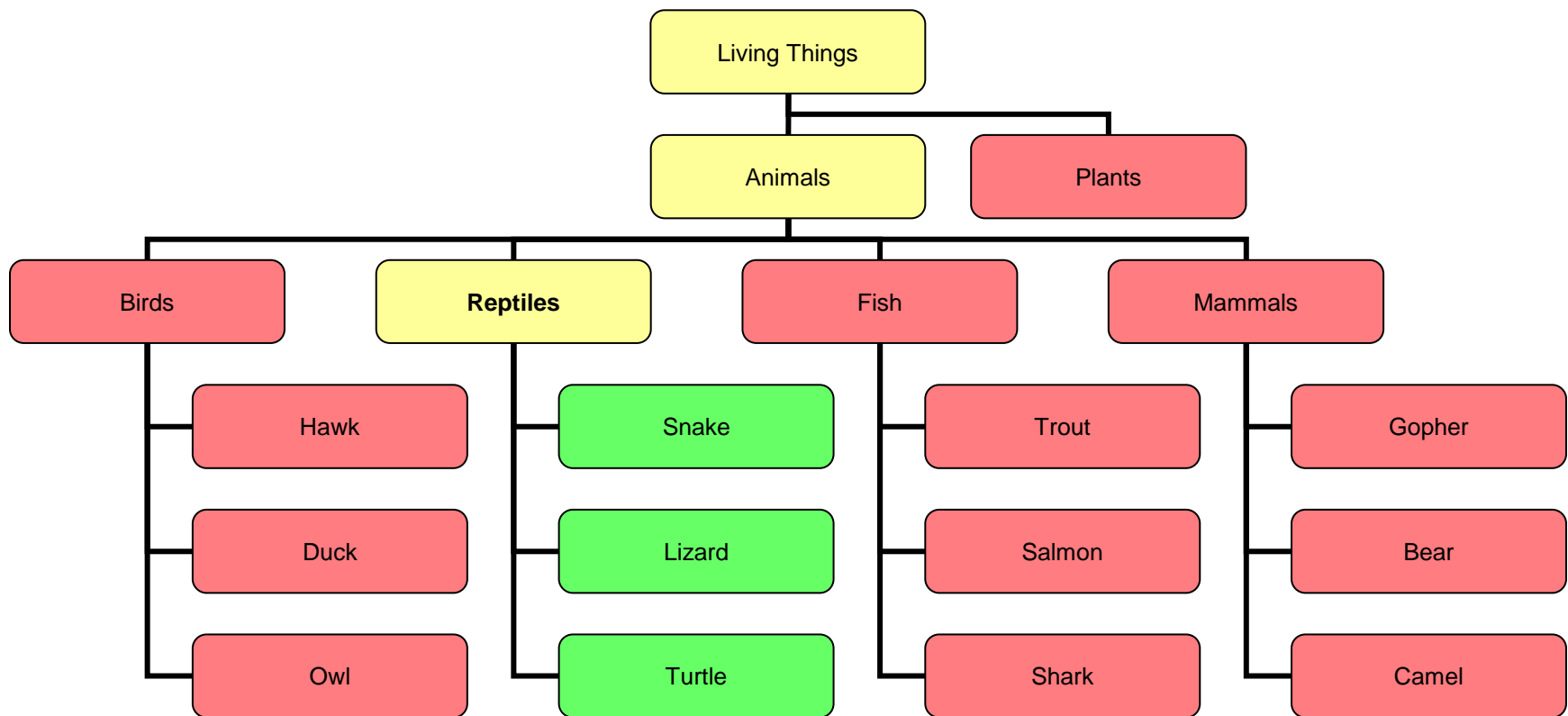
Hierarchy of Categories: Name a Living Thing



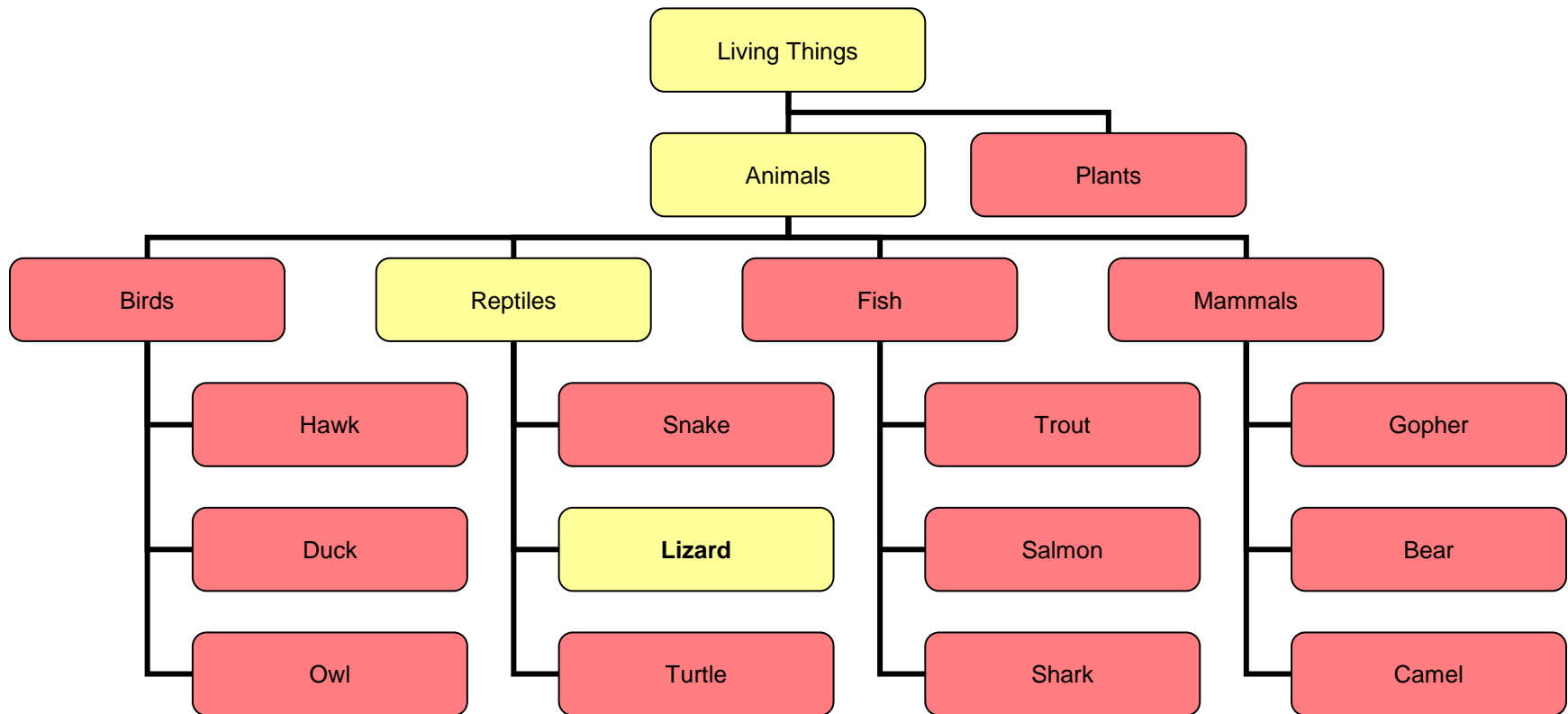
Hierarchy of Categories: Name an Animal



Hierarchy of Categories: Name a Reptile



Hierarchy of Categories: Name a Lizard



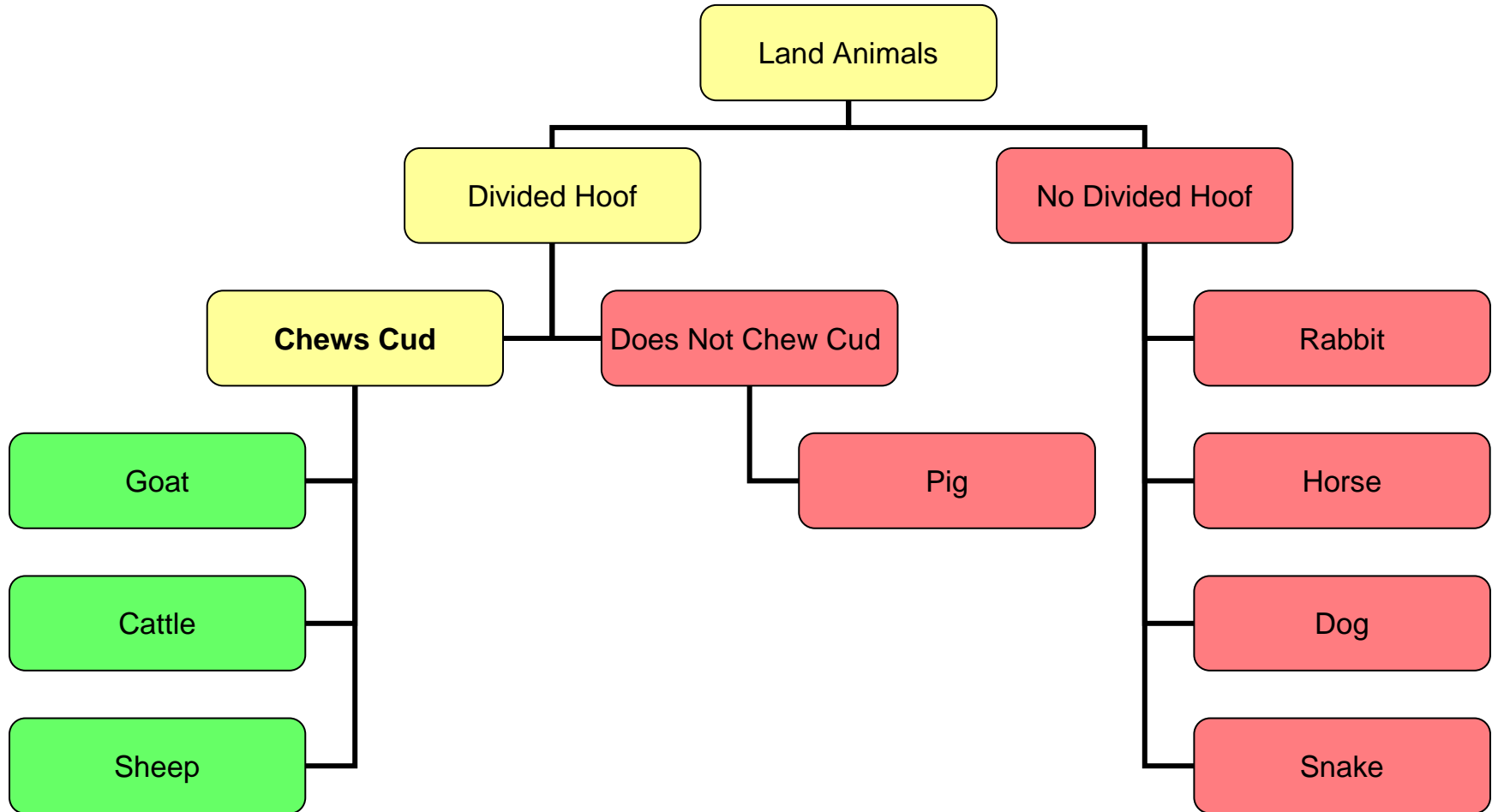
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Leviticus 11:2-8

² “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are **on the earth**: ³Among the **animals**, whatever **divides the hoof**, having **cloven hooves** and **chewing the cud** – that you may eat... ⁶The hare, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; ⁷and the swine, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. ⁸Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you.

Clean & Unclean Animals



Applying Generic and Specific Authority

Authority answers to several questions: **what, when, where, why, who, how, how often, how much**, etc. Both specifics and generics answer to any one, or a combination, of these questions. We must understand that a passage may make the who, what, and where specific, and leave the how and when up to us to decide. God did not give specific instructions regarding all possible situations, thereby leaving us **no** choices to make.” – Maurice Barnett, “Understanding Bible Authority” p. 21

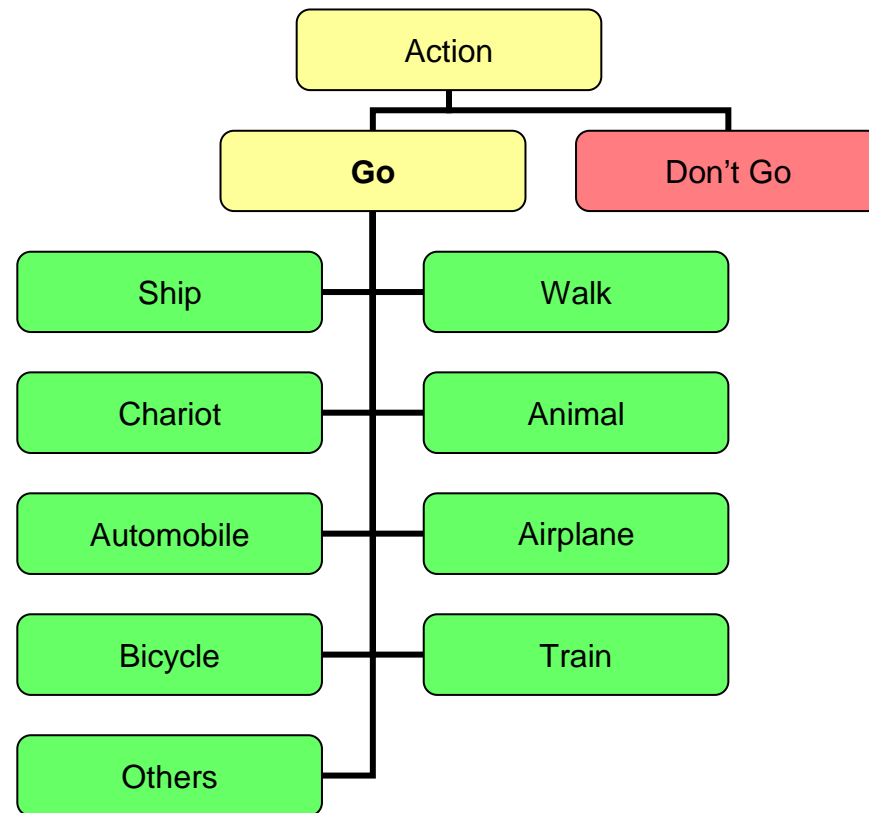
Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Go Teach All Nations: “Go”

- Specifies
 - Movement from one place to another
- Leaves unspecified
 - The means of transportation
 - Generic authority to use any means of transportation
- Excludes
 - Not going

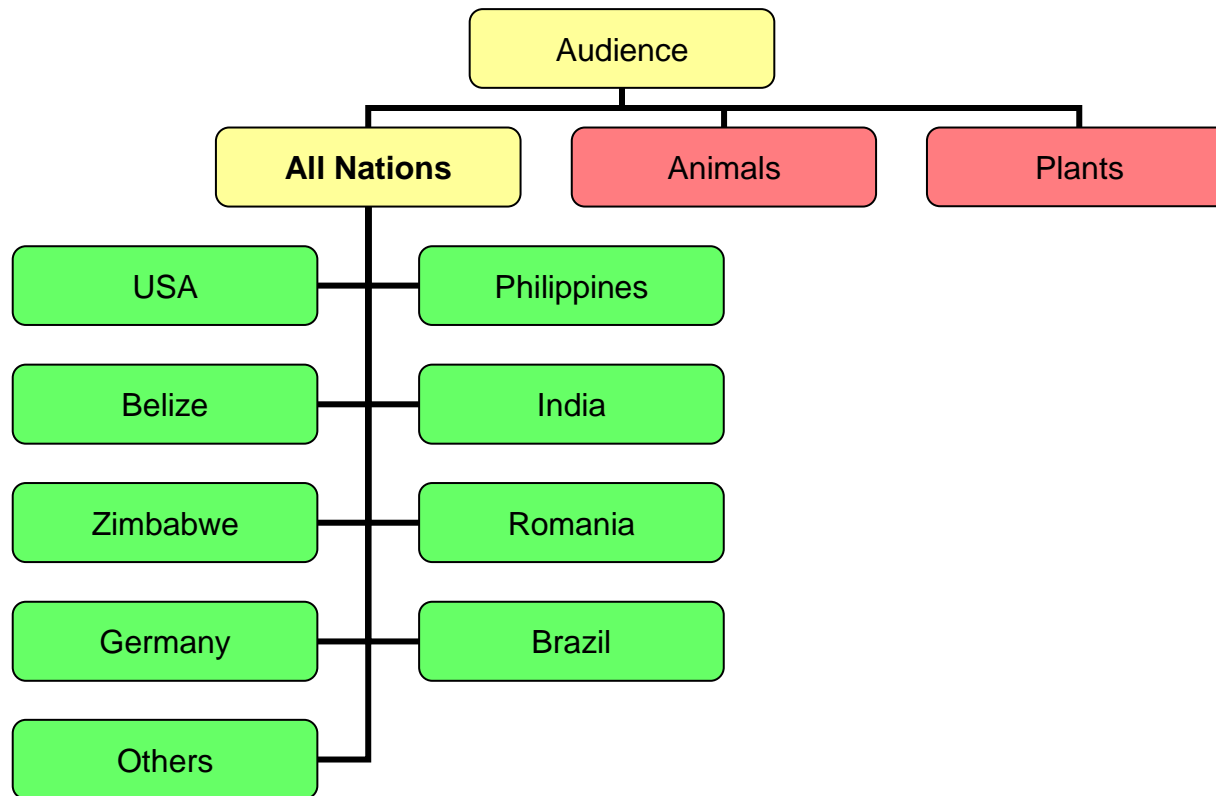
Go Teach All Nations: “Go”



Go Teach All Nations: “All Nations”

- Specifies
 - Where they were to go
 - Who they should teach
- Leaves unspecified
 - Order/priority of nations
 - Initial order specified (Lk. 24:47; Acts 1:8)
- Excludes
 - Preaching to the animal kingdom
 - Plants

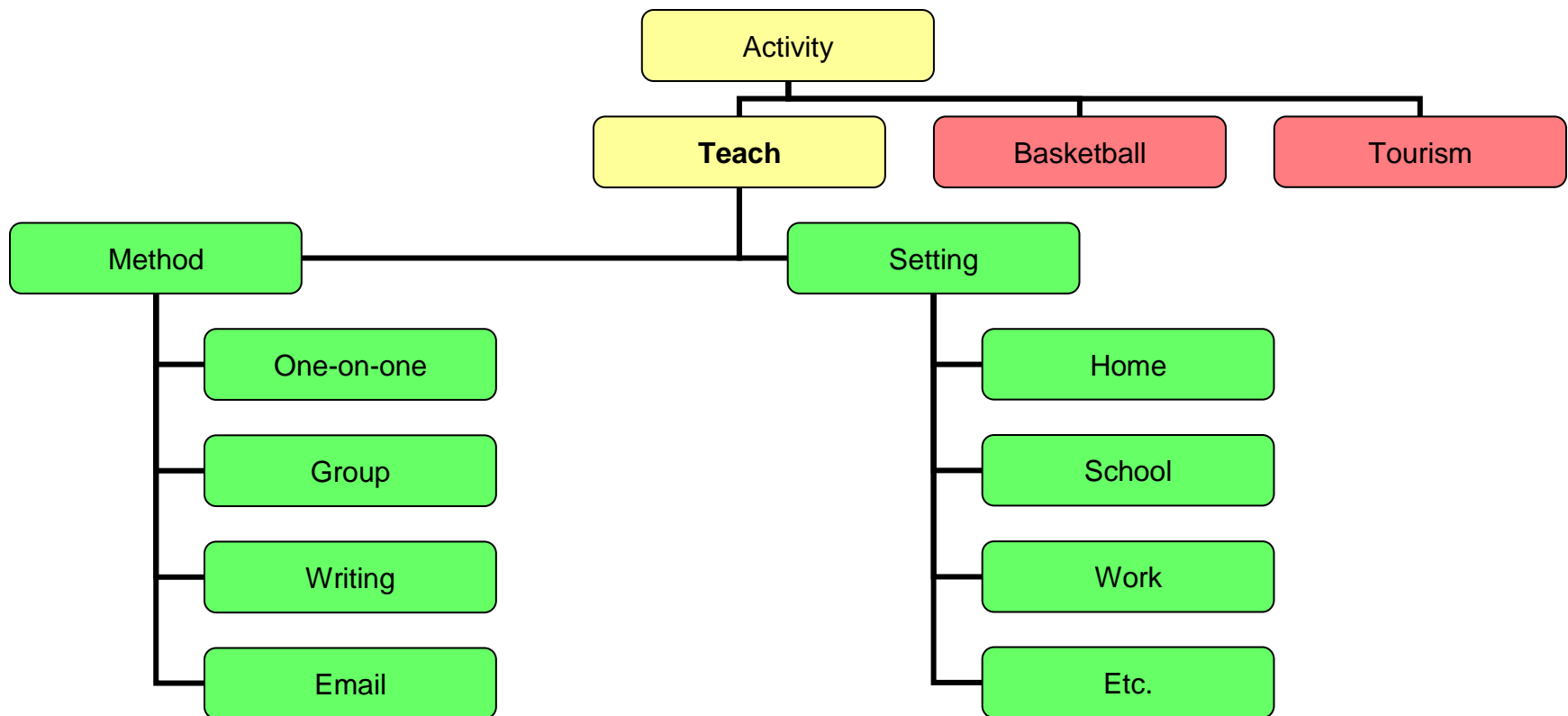
Go Teach All Nations: “All Nations”



Go Teach All Nations: “Teach”

- Specifies
 - What was to be done and done
 - The subject matter to be taught (Mt. 28:20)
- Leaves unspecified
 - The method of teaching
 - Setting
- Excludes
 - Other activities

Go Teach All Nations: “Teach”



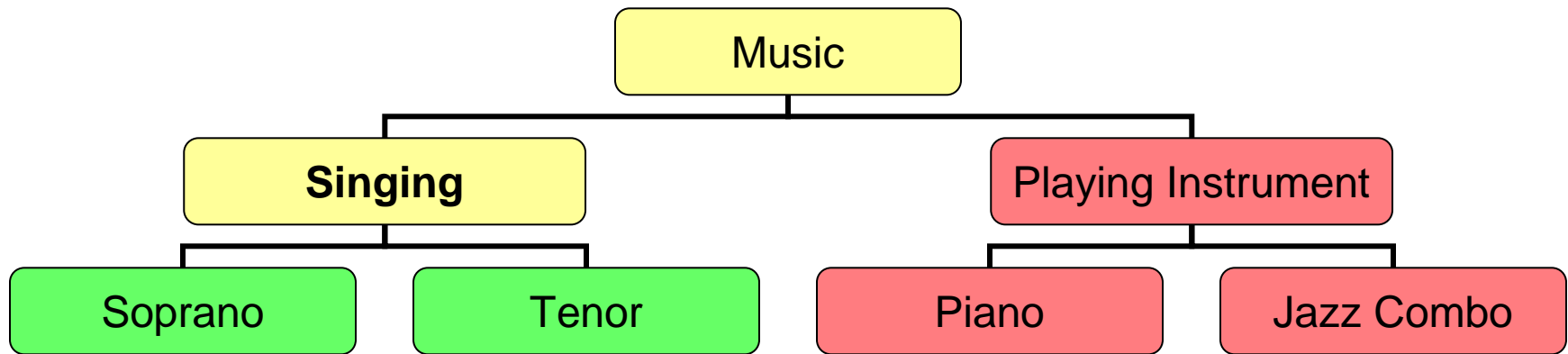
Ephesians 5:19

¹⁹ Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Music in Worship (Eph. 5:19)

- Specifies
 - The mode of music making - Song
 - The types of songs – psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 - The instrument – the heart
- Leaves unspecified
 - Order of singing
 - Number of songs
 - Volume/Tempo
 - Lyrics and melodies
- Excludes
 - Mechanical instruments of music

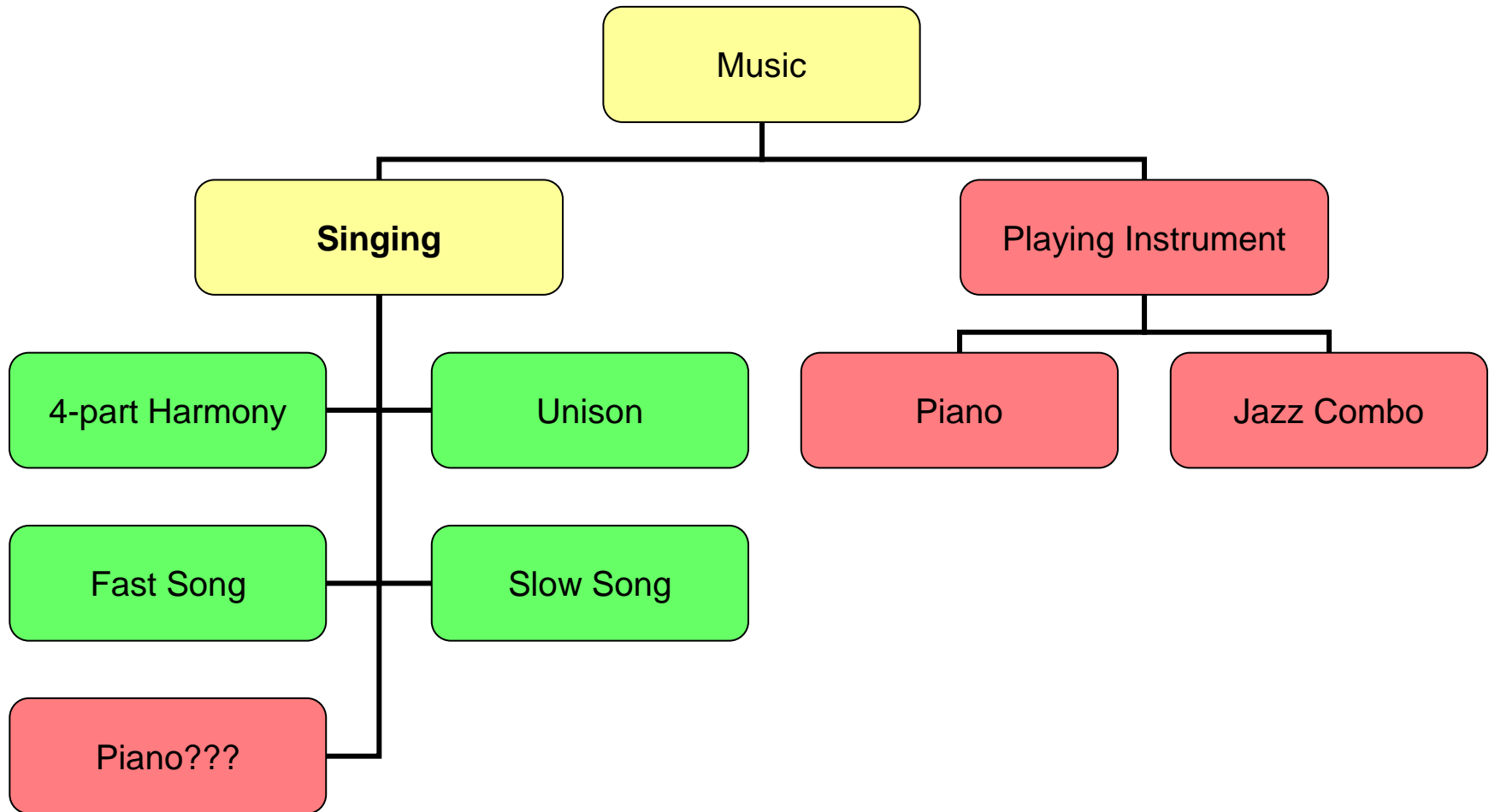
Music In Worship



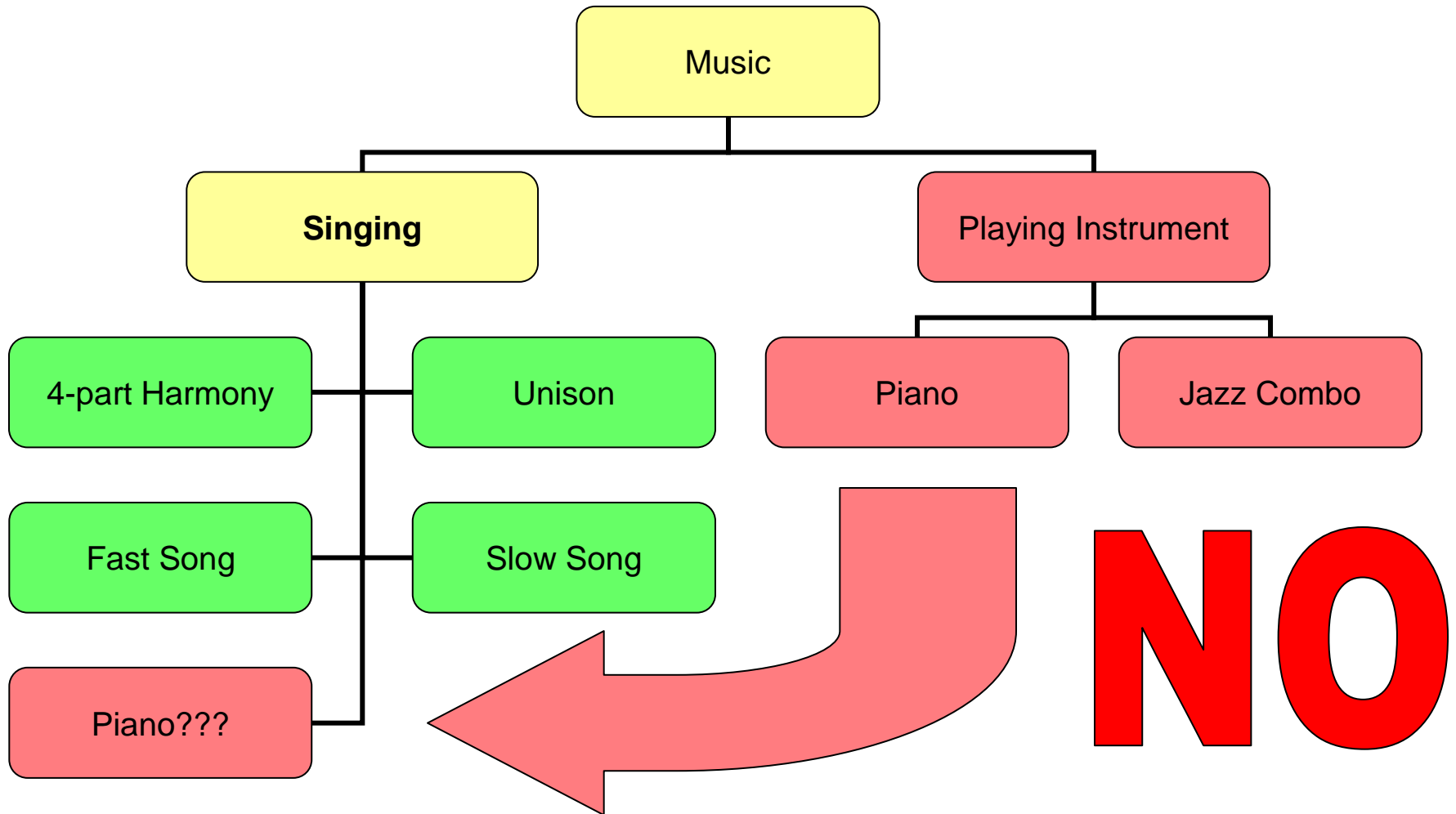
Are Musical Instruments an “Expedient”?

- Expedient – An option of generic authority
- It must be authorized to be an expedient

Is The Piano an “Expedient” to Singing?



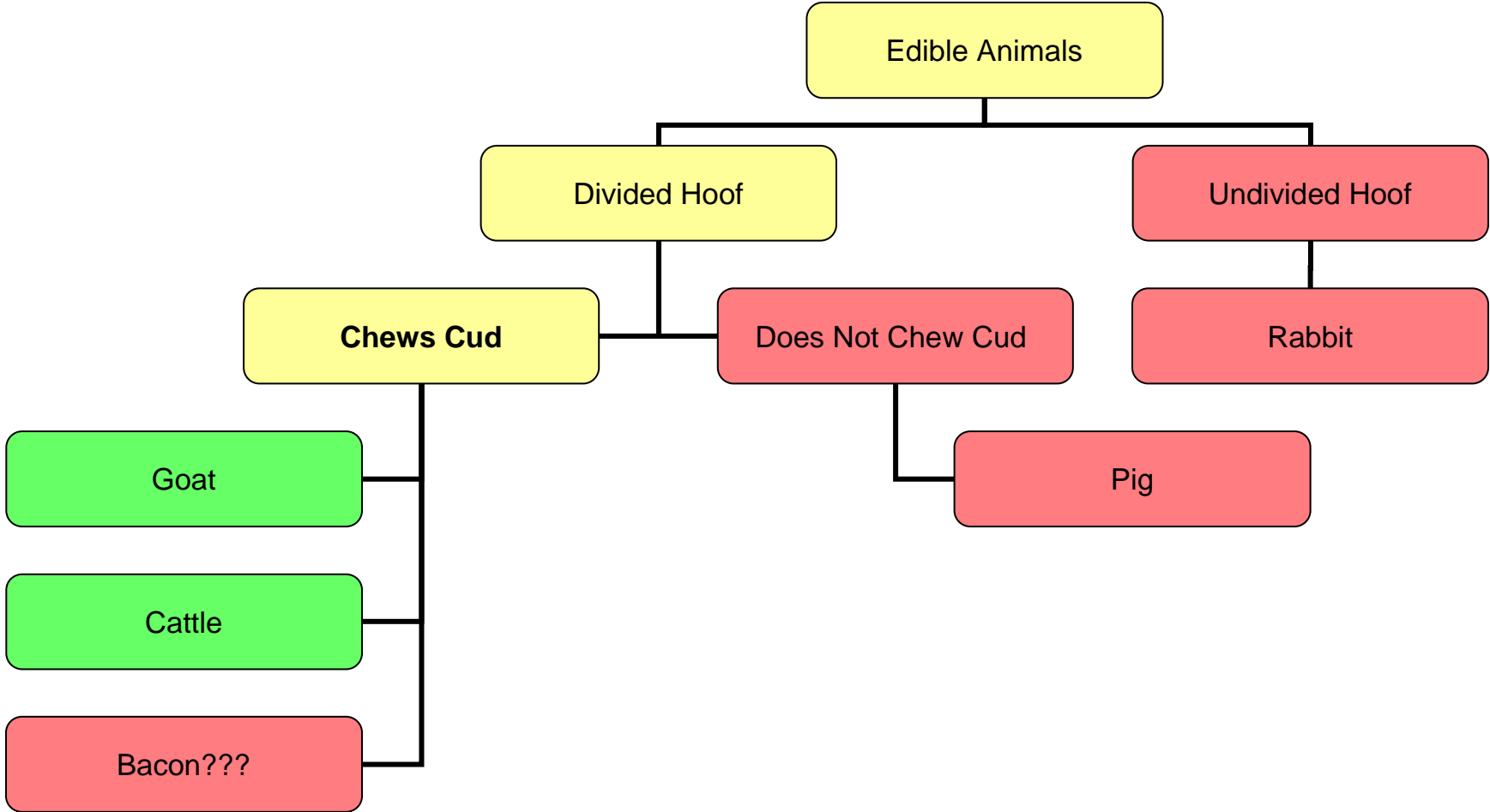
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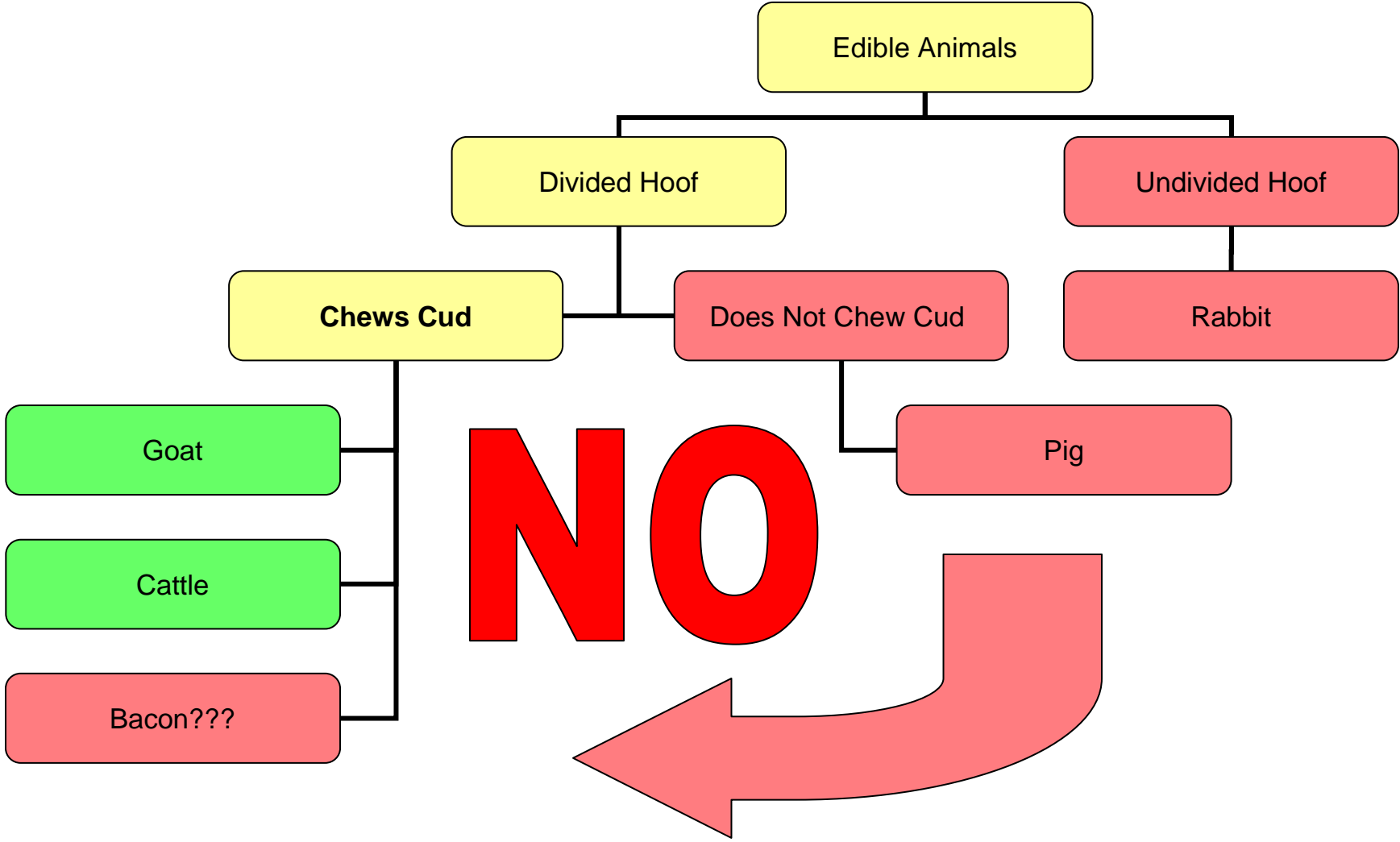
Are Musical Instruments an “Aid”?

- Aid – something that helps in carrying out something that is authorized
- If something has been excluded by specific authority it cannot be used as an aid

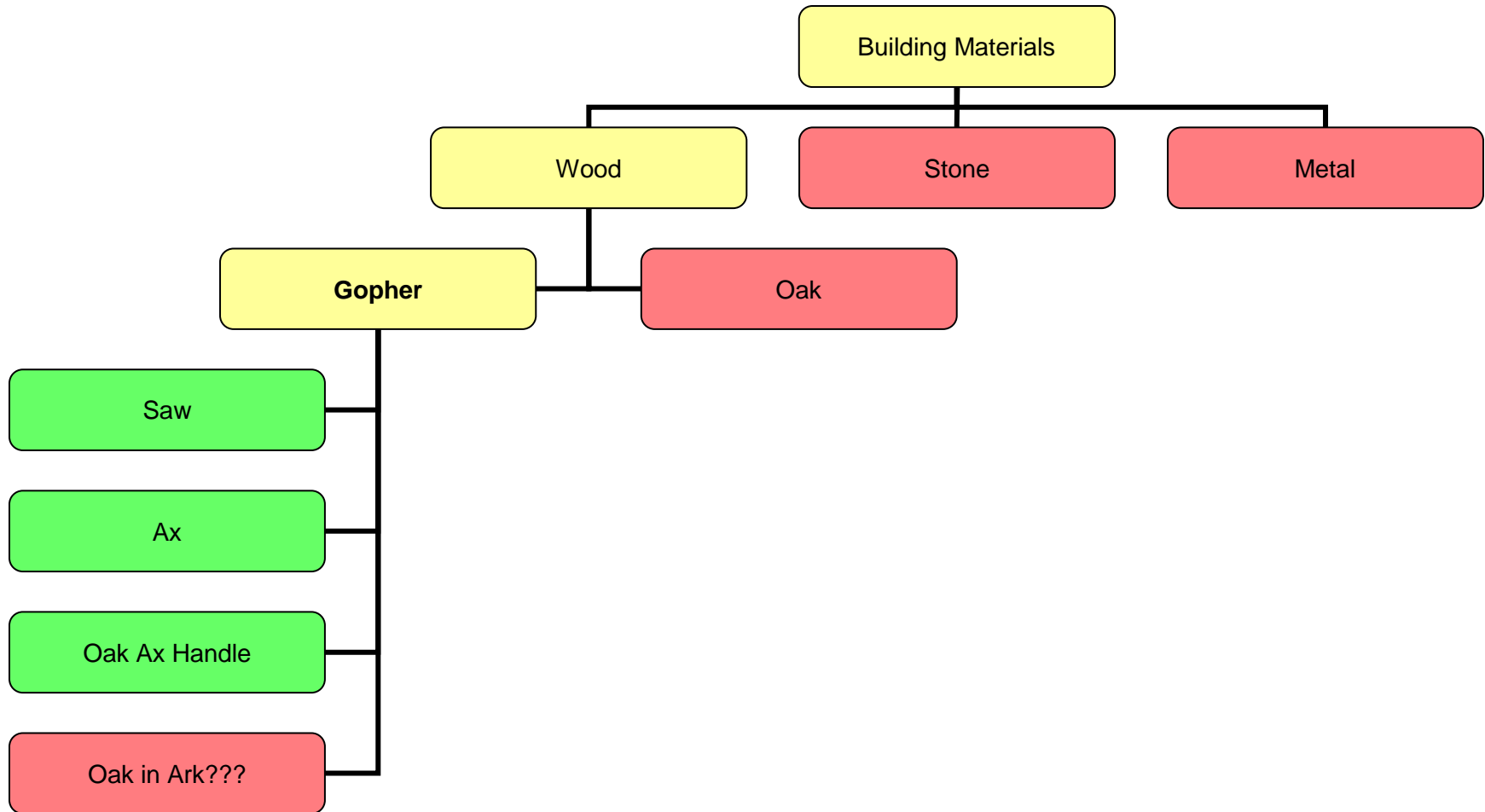
Is Bacon an “Aid” to Goat Stew?



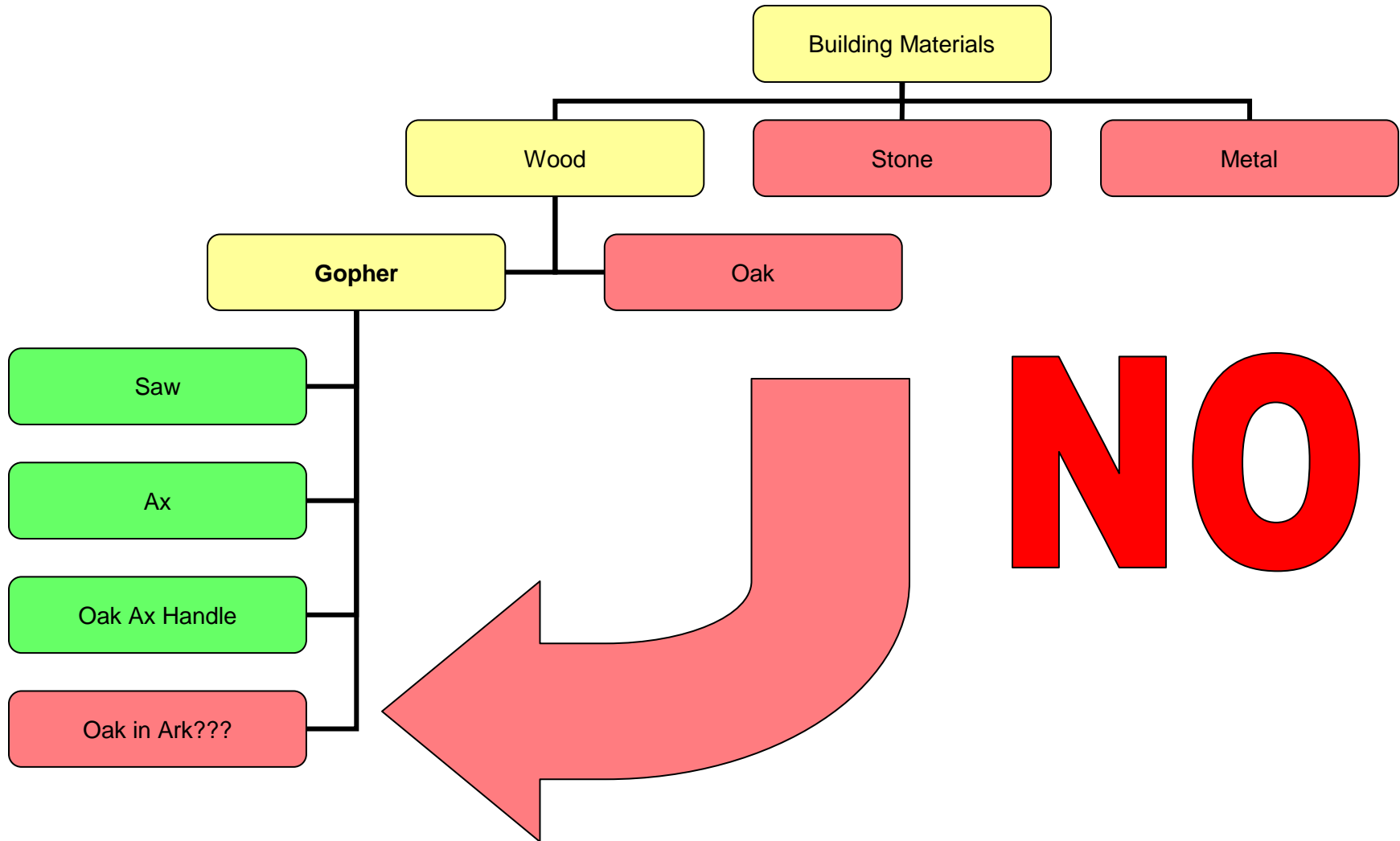
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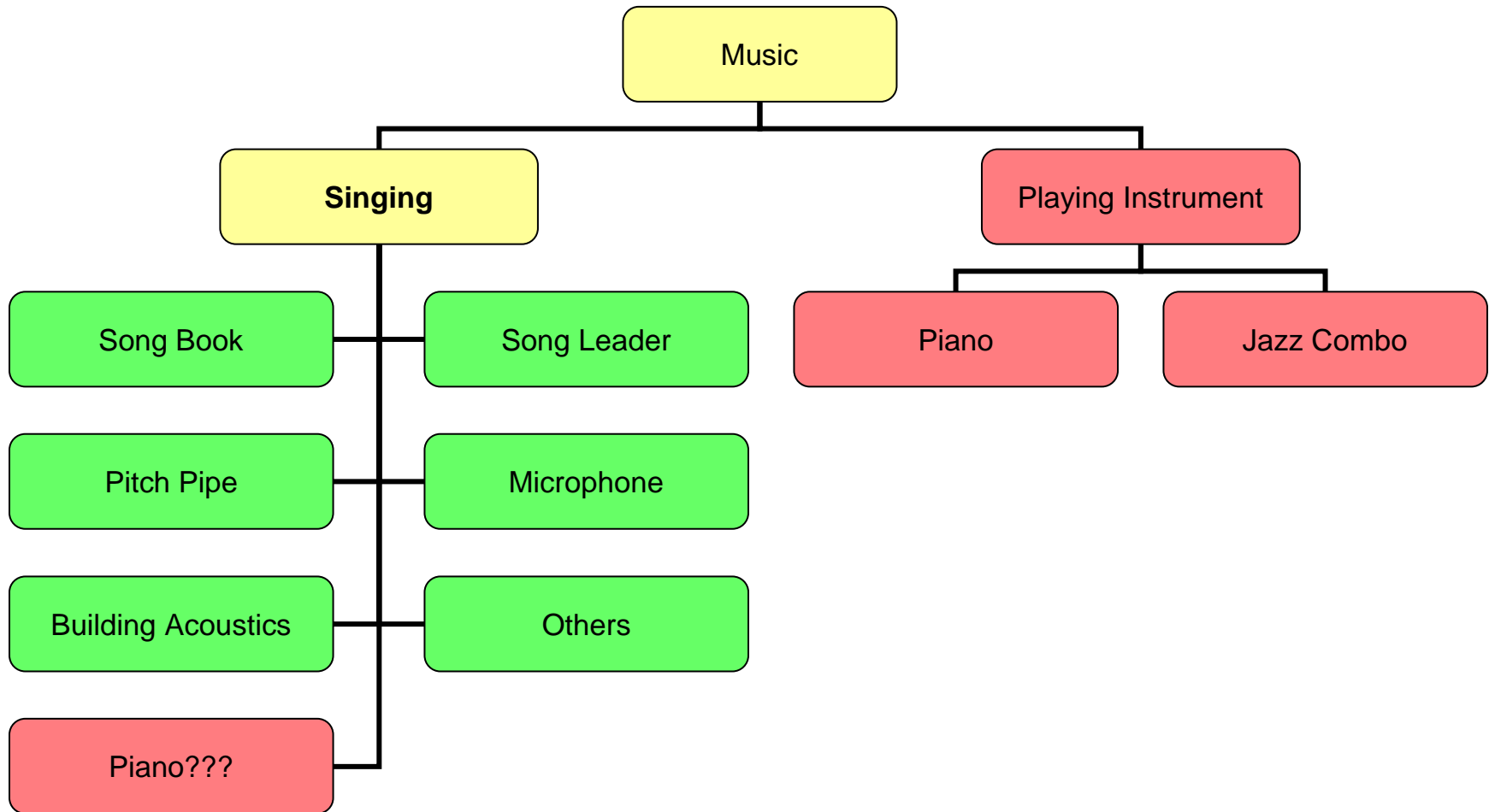
Is Oak Wood an “Aid” to Gopher Wood?



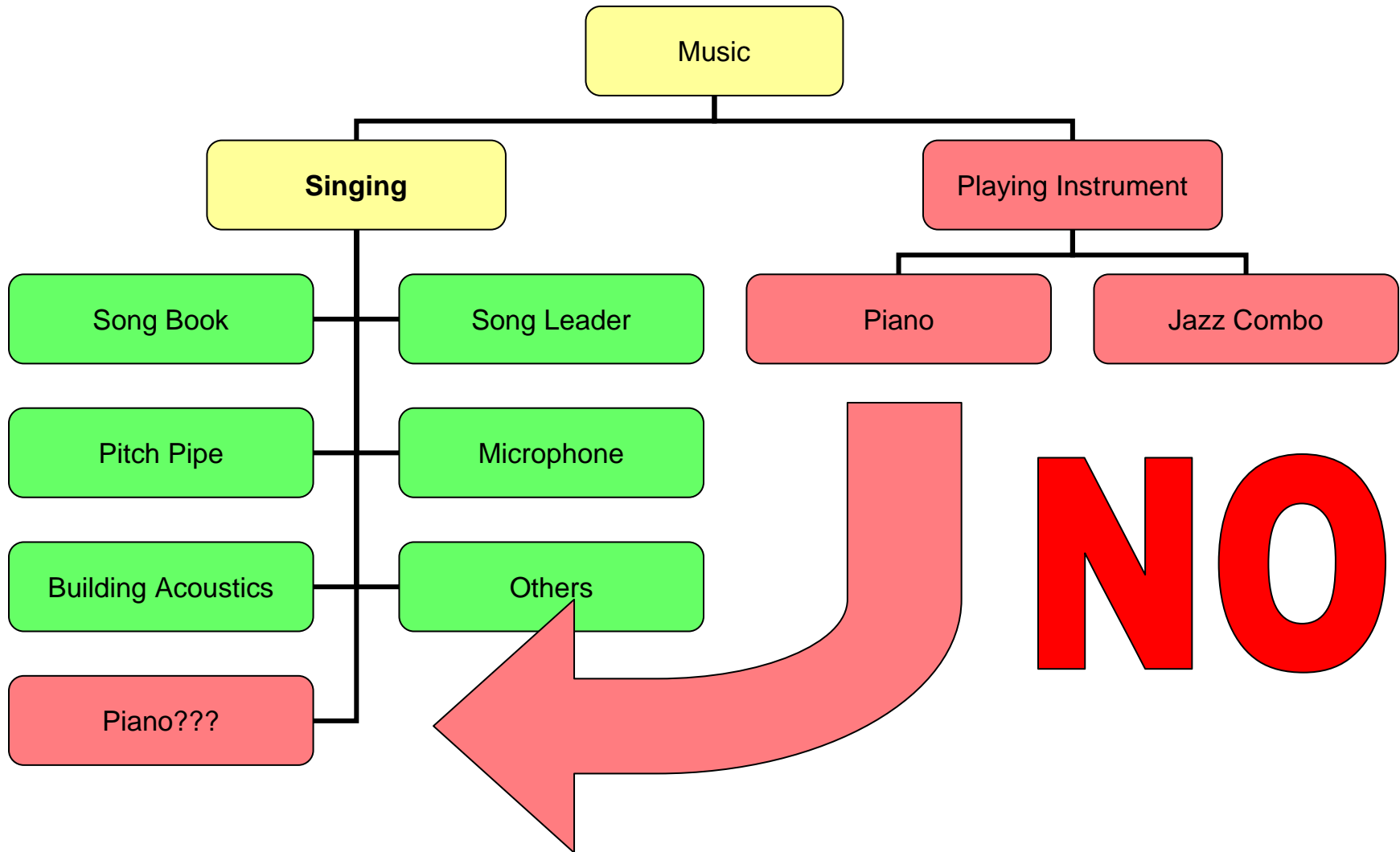
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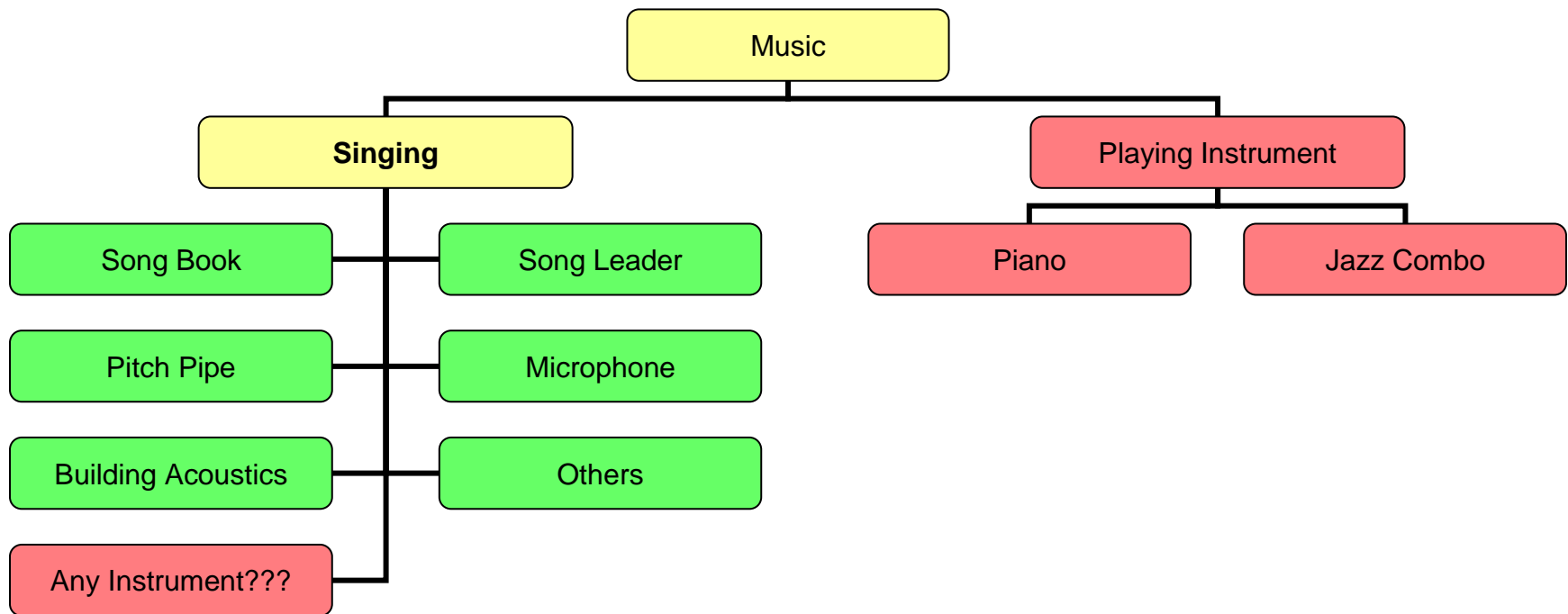
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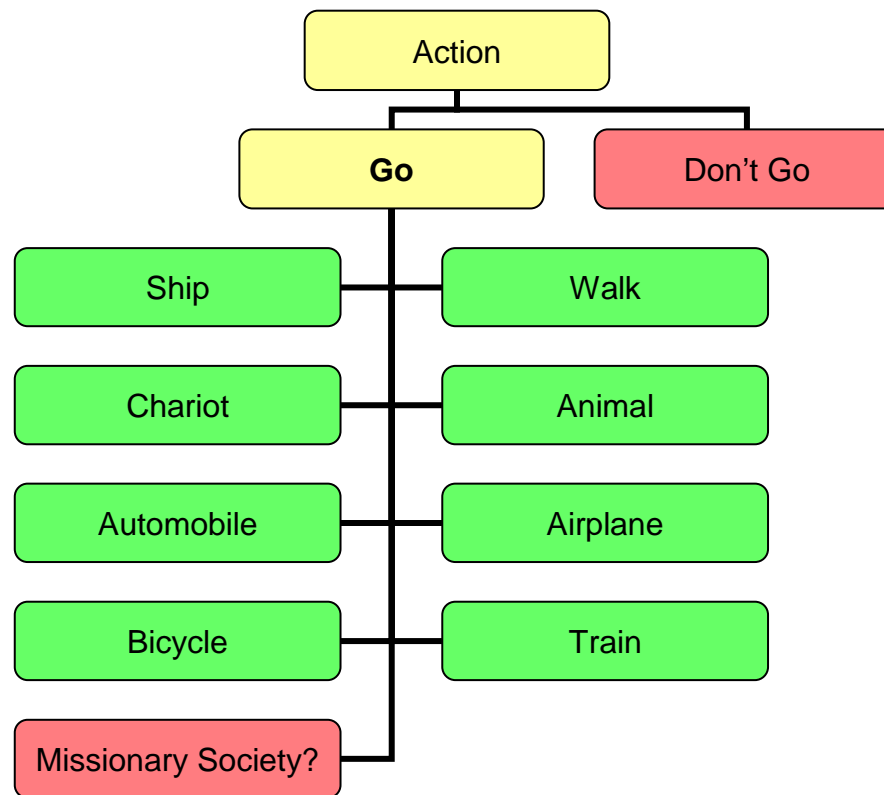
No Instrument Can Be Used As An Aid To Singing



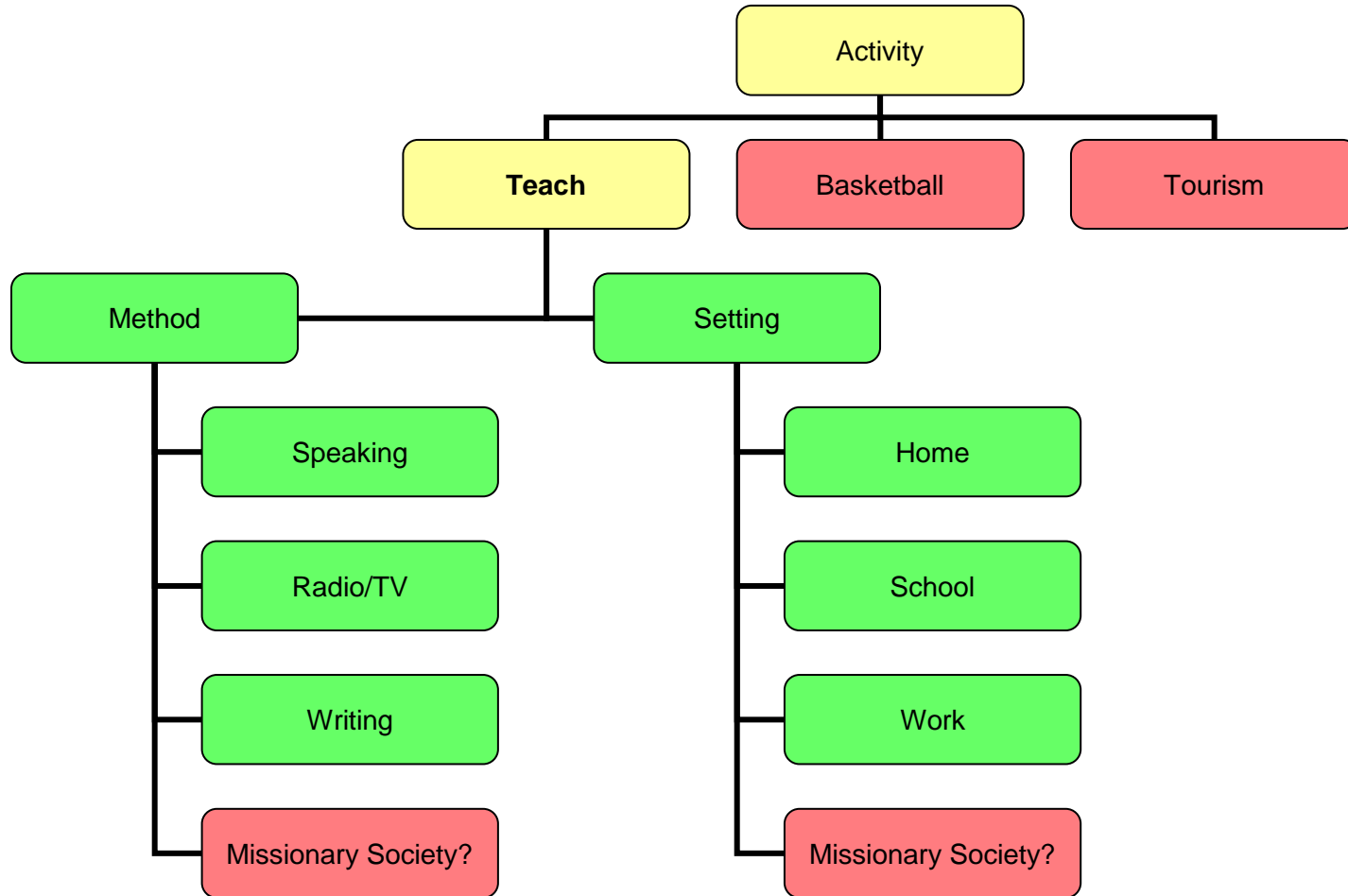
Are Missionary Societies Authorized by the Great Commission?

“And so here, the command is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The command is not attended with any specific instructions as to how this is to be done...The Savior commanded his disciples to go, and left it to the exercise of their own judgment and their own wisdom as to how they would do that; that is, as to how they would carry on the details of the work that was committed into their hands.”
- J. B. Briney, “Otey-Briney Debate”, p. 193 & 288, 1908.

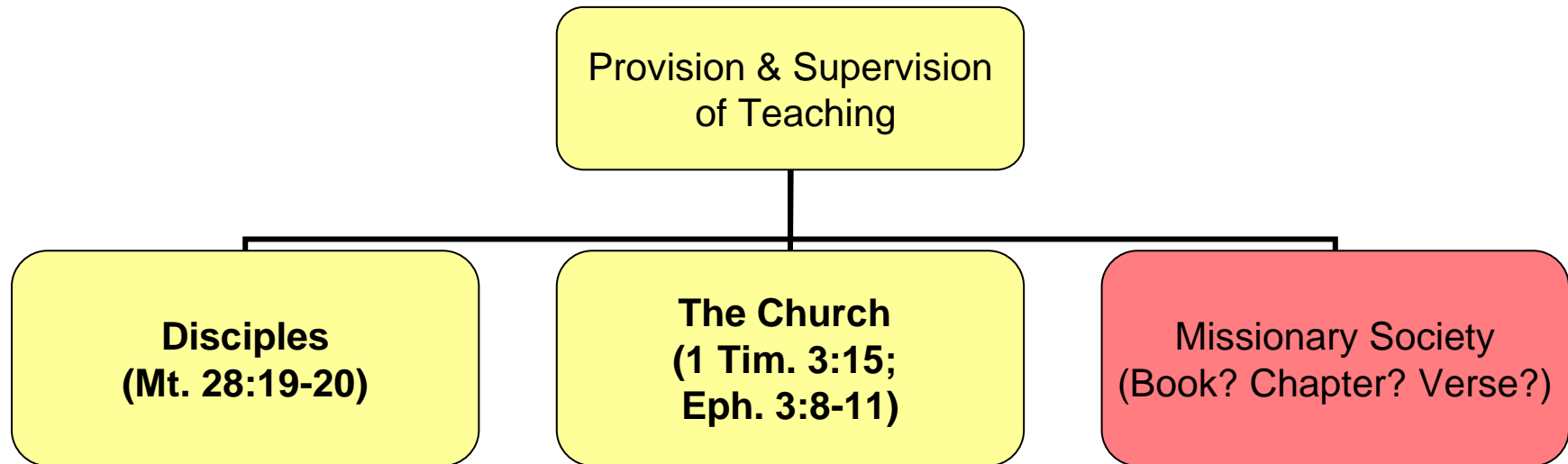
Is a Missionary Society a Method of Going?



Is a Missionary Society a Method or Setting of Teaching?



Or Is a Missionary Society a Method of Providing & Supervising Teaching?



Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

1 Timothy 3:15

but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

Ephesians 3:8-11

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now **the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Applying Generic and Specific Authority

“Whatever activity or responsibility a congregation has authority for, that congregation can provide or build facilities in which to do it. If we have authority to assemble together, we can build an auditorium in which to meet. If we have authority for Bible classes, we can build the class rooms in which to have the classes. **What must be determined at the beginning is the authority for a congregation to engage in, or support and promote a particular activity. Then we determine what options we have to expedite that activity.**” – Maurice Barnett,
“Understanding Bible Authority” p. 21