

BIRD VS STOAT

By Anna Christensen

For **2** players

Aim Player 1 is a precious native bird. Player 2 is a hungry stoat. Stoat tries to discover Bird – or the tree it’s hiding in. Bird tries to stay hidden from Stoat!

YOU NEED Paper and pencil

How to play

Bird and Stoat each make a chart, as below.

Bird decides what native bird they are OR what native tree they’re hiding in, and secretly writes the word. It needs six letters, or fewer.

Stoat guesses a native bird or tree.

Bird compares their word with the word Stoat has guessed, then gives Stoat a clue – ONE of these three things:

- whether or not the word Stoat guessed has the same number of letters as Bird’s word
- whether or not the word has the same first letter, or
- whether or not the word has the same last letter.

Trees and birds you can use

BIRDS

Hōiho
Kahu
Kākā
Kākāpō
Kāmana
Kea
Kererū
Kiwi
Kōkako

Kororā
Mohoua
Pāteke
Tahau
Toroa
Tūi
Weka
Whio

TREES

Akeake
Kauri
Kōwhai
Kānuka
Mānuka
Mataī
Karaka
Māhoe
Maire

Matipo
Nikau
Ngaio
Karo
Pūriri
Rimu
Rātā
Tawa
Tōtara

Stoat keeps guessing, and Bird keeps replying with clues.

Bird and Stoat keep track of guesses on their charts, writing ‘yes’ or ‘no’. Bird tells Stoat as soon as the guess is correct.

If Stoat gets the word in five guesses or fewer, Stoat wins and eats bird. If Stoat doesn’t, Bird wins and escapes.

Hint: keep the list of trees and birds close to you and refer to it while you play! Can you add to it?

Design-a-game winner

The *Wild Things* team loved Anna Christensen’s clever word-game concept, along with her illustration idea – an innocent bird and a nasty, caped super-villain of a stoat. It was perfect for development into a *Wild Things* game!



BIRD'S CHART

My word

Stoat's guesses	Correct number of letters	Starts with the same letter	Ends with the same letter
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

STOAT'S CHART

My guesses	Correct number of letters	Starts with the same letter	Ends with the same letter
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			