

BACKYARD BIRD CARD GAME INSTRUCTIONS

- The instructions are designed with teams in mind but may be adapted for individual players.
- Divide your class into four teams (or up to six). Explain that the purpose of the game is to become familiar with backyard birds across Canada by identifying different species through a set of clues. Supply each team with a token (such as a button) and a tally sheet (use the template provided on this sheet or invent your own) to keep track of the score. The objective is to achieve a high score by cooperating with teammates to identify a bird given the fewest clues possible.
- Have each team select a different nest from which to start on the map of Canada. The map is the game board, located on the reverse side of this sheet. Teams throw a die to get around the board. They follow portraits of birds to move around the map in a clockwise direction. The map depicts six different areas of our country: the Arctic, the Boreal forest region, the Pacific maritime and mountain area, the Prairie ecozone, the Mixedwood plains ecozone (including the Carolinian zone), and the Atlantic maritime ecozone.
- No team is allowed to pass a nest even if the number thrown might move them beyond it. At each nest, space is provided for a set of clue cards. Located on this sheet are six sets of cards corresponding with the six areas of Canada featured in this kit. Each card contains an illustration of a bird on one side and five clues about its identity on the other, with a "Did you know?" statement about the bird. Create clue cards by photocopying them. Use a different colour of paper for each region (such as yellow for the Prairie ecozone, green for the Boreal forest region). Cut each clue card out, fold along the fold line, and then tape the ends or laminate each card. Put each set of cards in the space provided in the appropriate area with the illustration side down. Then, place a card that identifies the name of the area on the top

of each set of cards. Located on this sheet are cards that display the names of the six areas of Canada. Create the "name" cards by photocopying them (using the same colour to correspond with each area, such as yellow for the card entitled "Prairie Ecozone"). Cut each card out and laminate it.

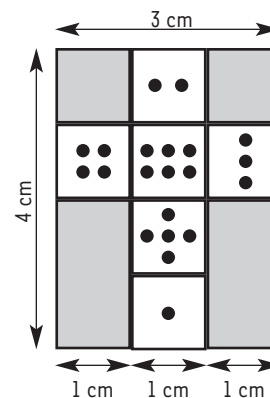
- When a team, for example Team #1, lands on a nest, it picks up the first clue card located underneath the name card and, without looking at the clue card, hands the card to the team on its left, for example Team #2. Team #2 then holds the clue card such that the illustration cannot be seen by Team #1 and reads out "clues" about the identity of the bird, starting with the first clue, which is worth 5 points. Each card shows "5" as the value of the first clue through to a value of "1" for the fifth clue. If Team #1 can identify the bird on the first clue, it scores 5 points; on the second clue, it scores 4 points, and so on. If Team #1 cannot identify the bird after the fifth clue, then Team #2 must show the illustration of the bird. If Team #1 can identify the bird after seeing the illustration, it may still gain one point. If Team #1 cannot identify the bird, no points are awarded. Team #2 must read the "Did you know?" segment to Team #1 before replacing the card at the bottom of the set, with the illustration side down. The tally sheet is set up to track points gained at each nest.
- Teams may also collect "bonus" points in two ways.
 - First** by landing on a bonus icon. Beside the icon printed on the game board will be a bonus question. Answers to these questions will be general and a list of suggested answers for teachers will be found on the *WILD Education* Web site (www.wildeducation.org). For example: Question: Name two bird characteristics. Answer: Birds fly and have feathers. Note that a team can repeat only ONE characteristic (or answer) that has already been mentioned by another team. The second characteristic (or answer) must be a new one in order to collect 2 bonus points.

- Second** by landing on a nest. Next to each nest is a letter. Teams can guess what species of bird built that nest to collect 2 bonus points. An answer key is provided for the teacher on this sheet. The name of the bird species may be repeated by teams if they land on the nest.
- The team with the most points wins the game.

Variations:

- The ranges of some species of birds featured in this game, such as the robin, are not limited to the area shown in this game. Assign each team to research the featured birds in an area to identify their actual range.

To make a die: Cut a small piece of cardboard to form a 3 cm by 4 cm rectangle. Apply the measurements identified on the pattern below onto the cardboard. Write down numbers (or make dots) within each square, as shown on the pattern. Cut out the pattern. Fold along the lines to create a 1 cm by 1 cm square die. Tape the open sides of the die to secure its square shape.



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