



Q: What do you get when you cross a snake and a pie?

A: A pie-thon!

Q: What do you call a lizard that tells jokes on stage?

A stand-up chameleon.



**Come and see us in the school holidays. See over the page for more details.**

# WILD THINGS!

*Creatures great and small*



*Biodiversity from the Museum storeroom*

**Our next Explorers Session will be on Tuesday 29 March at 3.30pm at the South Canterbury Museum. We will explore the “Wild Things” exhibition. Wild Things to see , Wild Things to touch! SEE YOU THERE!**

Amongst the amazing array of “Wild Things” on display at the South Canterbury Museum are three Huia. These beautiful but now extinct birds were once found in forested areas of the lower half of the North Island of New Zealand. They take their Maori name from the sound of their call.

They were unusual in having different beak shapes between males and females. Males had shorter beaks and would chisel into wood to expose wood-boring insects. Females had longer curved bills which could reach into wood to extract grubs and insects.

Huia tail feathers were prized by Maori and worn as symbols of rank. From the 1860s until the 1890s, large numbers of huia were shot for collectors and museums around the world. The species could not survive this deliberate onslaught along with the destruction of much of its forest environment, and is thought to have become extinct by the 1920s.



**Collect the “Wild Things” bookmark ! Gummy bears and animal crackers for correct answers or best picture.**

## Why Do Animals Play?

How much do you know about animals at play?

Take this quick quiz and find out!

1. Which of these animals has been seen playing?

- a) Wolves
- b) Lobsters
- c) Komodo Dragons
- d) all of the above

2. Which kinds of animals are more playful?

- a) ones without backbones
- b) smarter ones
- c) cuter ones
- d) ones with bigger bank accounts

3. At what age are animals most playful?

- a) when they're courting
- b) when they become parents
- c) when they're young
- d) right before they die

4. Playing may help an animal:

- a) by giving its brain a good workout
- b) by letting it practice lifeskills
- c) by teaching it how to handle danger and be creative
- d) all of the above

5. Animals show they're playing

- a) by giving a special signal, such as a "play bow"
- b) by drooling
- c) by trying to hurt each other
- d) by changing color



Some photographs from our February session at the Scenic Reserve. What a sunny day!!

**Come and see us in the school holidays.**

**We will have lots of dress up costumes, and lots of new games and quizzes. We will be open 10 am - 4.30 pm except Easter Friday 22nd and Easter Monday 25th April when we open 1.30 - 4.30pm**

**Tuesdays in the holidays make a**

**"Wild Things" finger puppet Wednesdays**

**"Wild Things" microscope day.**

**Explorers celebrate Matariki with us on 31 May 2011 at the South Canterbury Museum at 3.30pm**



How do turtles talk to each other?  
By using shell phones

Answers: 1-d, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d, 5-a  
<http://www.nwf.org/Kids/Ranger-Rick/Trivia-Quizzes/Why-Do-Animals-Play.aspx>