a game of geometry and visual perception

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PLAYING THE GAME:
1. The game can be played by two or more players.
2. New players can join the game at any time.
3. To set up, shuffle the cards and deal out 12 face-up.
4. All players simultaneously attempt to notice SETs of three cards.
5. When you find a SET, call out "SET" and collect the three cards.
6. You need to explain to everyone why it is a set. If it isn't, put the cards back.
7. If there are less than 12 cards at any point in the game, deal out more cards.
8. If no-one has found a SET for a while, deal out another three cards.
9. The game ends when all cards have been dealt and there are no more SETs.
10. The winner is the player with the most SETs at the end of the game.

FINDING SETS:
Each card has four attributes: number, colour, pattern and shape. A SET is a collection of three cards such that each attribute considered separately is either all the same or all different. There is no rule on how many attributes have to be all the same and how many have to be all different. For example, the following collections of three cards are all SETs:
three yellow striped squiggles
three yellow striped ovals
three yellow striped diamonds
three yellow hollow squiggles
three yellow hollow ovals
three yellow hollow diamonds

three yellow hollow diamonds
three yellow filled squiggles

three yellow filled squiggles
three yellow filled ovals

three yellow filled ovals
three yellow filled diamonds

three yellow filled diamonds
three red striped squiggles
Three red striped ovals

three red striped ovals
three red striped diamonds

three red striped diamonds
Three red hollow squiggles

Three red hollow squiggles
three red hollow ovals

three red hollow ovals
three red hollow diamonds

three red hollow diamonds
three red filled squiggles

three red filled squiggles
three red filled ovals
three red filled diamonds
three blue striped squiggles
Three blue striped ovals

Three blue striped ovals
three blue striped diamonds

three blue striped diamonds
three blue hollow squiggles
three blue hollow ovals
three blue hollow diamonds
three blue filled squiggles
three blue filled ovals
three blue filled diamonds
two yellow striped squiggles
two yellow striped ovals

two yellow striped ovals
two yellow striped diamonds

two yellow striped diamonds
two yellow hollow squiggles

two yellow hollow squiggles
two yellow hollow ovals
two yellow hollow diamonds

do two yellow hollow diamonds
two yellow filled squiggles

two yellow filled squiggles
two yellow filled ovals
two yellow filled diamonds
two red striped squiggles

two red striped squiggles
two red striped ovals

two red striped ovals
two red striped diamonds

two red striped diamonds
two red hollow squiggles
two red hollow ovals
two red hollow diamonds
two red filled squiggles

two red filled squiggles
two red filled ovals
two red filled diamonds

two red filled diamonds
two blue striped squiggles
two blue striped ovals
two blue striped diamonds
two blue hollow squiggles

two blue hollow squiggles
two blue hollow ovals
two blue hollow diamonds

two blue hollow diamonds
two blue filled squiggles
two blue filled ovals
two blue filled diamonds
one yellow striped squiggle
one yellow striped oval
one yellow striped diamond

one yellow striped diamond
one yellow hollow squiggle
one yellow hollow oval
one yellow hollow diamond

one yellow hollow diamond
one yellow filled squiggle
one yellow filled oval

one yellow filled oval
one yellow filled diamond

one yellow filled diamond
one red striped squiggle
one red striped oval
one red striped diamond

one red striped diamond
one red hollow squiggle
one red hollow oval
one red hollow diamond

one red hollow diamond
one red filled squiggle
one red filled oval
one red filled diamond

one red filled diamond
one blue striped squiggle
one blue striped oval
one blue striped diamond

one blue striped diamond
one blue hollow squiggle
one blue hollow oval
one blue hollow diamond
one blue filled squiggle

one blue filled squiggle
one blue filled oval
one blue filled diamond

one blue filled diamond