

VARPEDIA USER MANUAL

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1.0 Before you start (for parents)

Thank you for choosing VARpedia as your choice of Learning application for your child. VAR stands for Visual, Aural (audio), and Reading. When you combine all of these elements, some psychologists believe it helps you to learn fast. In VARpedia, you can combine music, speech, and text to create videos. After you've made some videos, watch them back at any time, or even quiz your memory! Before you start, there are a few requirements for VARpedia to work.

1.1 First time Launch

Please note that this application is only available on Linux operating systems and have software that needs to be installed. All the following Linux packages and software need to be installed for VARpedia to run properly: Java (Version 11 or newer), JavaFX, eSpeak, Festival, Ffmpeg, SoX, and Wikit.

Please visit the following sites for more details:

Java: <https://www.java.com/en/>
JavaFX: <https://openjfx.io/>
eSpeak: <http://espeak.sourceforge.net/>
Festival: <http://festvox.org/festival/>
Ffmpeg: <https://www.ffmpeg.org/>
SoX: <http://sox.sourceforge.net/Docs/Documentation>
Wikit: <https://www.npmjs.com/package/wikit>

With all these packages installed, VARpedia should be able to run on your device!

2.0 Opening VARpedia

Now that you have all the requirements, you're almost there! Now you just need to run VARpedia. Follow the instructions below to run the application.

1. Go to the folder where you have placed VARpedia (This folder should contain files called VARpedia.jar, myScript.sh, and UserManual.pdf and folders called Creations and music).
2. Right click in the folder and select "Open in terminal"
3. If this is your first time using VARpedia, in the terminal type:
"chmod +x ./myScript"
4. Type "./myScript" in the terminal



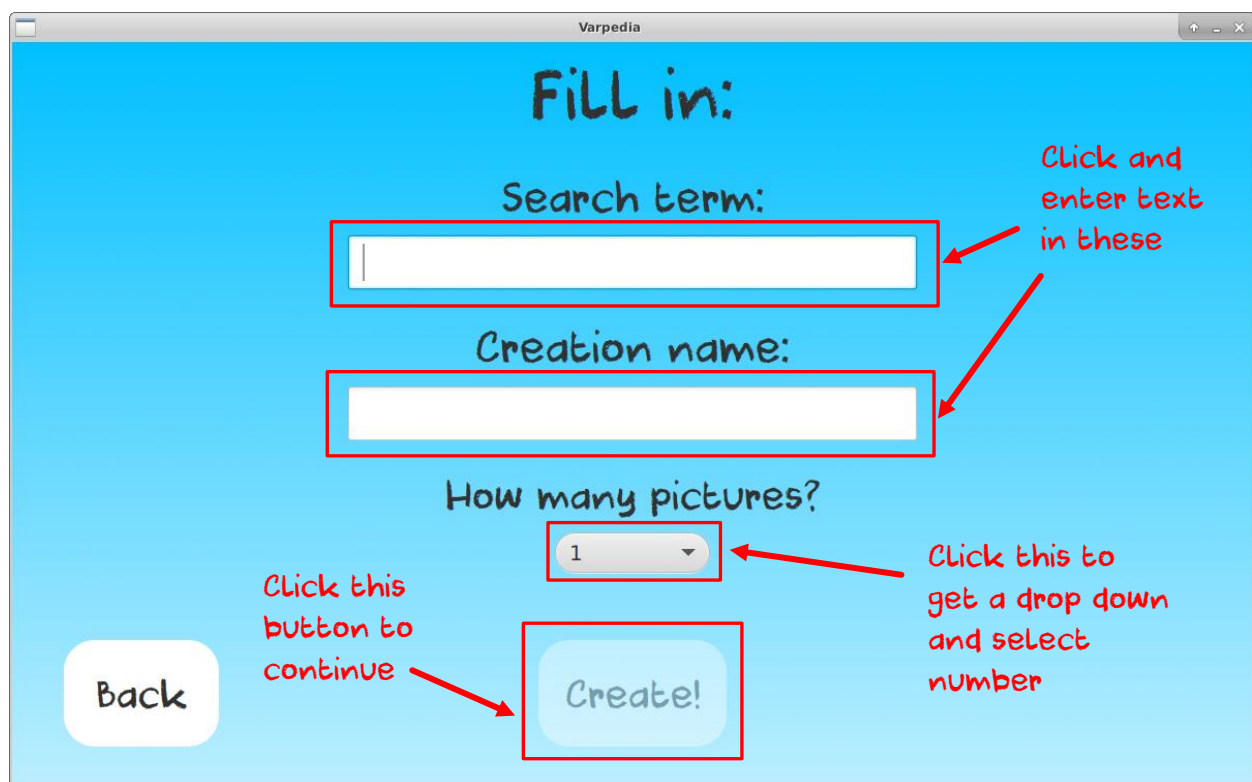
Figure 1. Main menu

3.0 Creating your first video

Now that you're ready, Let's make your first creation! The first step is clicking on the "Create Something!" button in the main menu. This will take you to a menu where you can name your creation.

3.1 Picking search term, name and image number

TELL VARpedia what word to search for, and select the number of images you would like in your final video (you can change this Later!). Click on the text boxes to select them, and then enter your desired name and search term. Click the drop-down box to select the number of images you want. By default, this is set to one. Once you have entered a name, search term, and the number of images, click "Create!".



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled 'Varpedia'. The main heading is 'Fill in:'. Below it are three input fields: 'Search term:', 'Creation name:', and 'How many pictures?'. The 'How many pictures?' field is a dropdown menu currently showing '1'. At the bottom left is a 'Back' button, and at the bottom right is a 'Create!' button. Red arrows and text provide instructions: 'Click and enter text in these' points to the search and name fields; 'Click this button to continue' points to the 'Create!' button; and 'Click this to get a drop down and select number' points to the dropdown menu.

Figure 2. Search menu

If you are trying to name your creation, something that already exists, the app will suggest a new name, and you should press "Create" again. If no information was found on Wikipedia for your search term, please double check your spelling or pick something else.

3.2 Picking audio

Next, you will be asked to select what text will be turned into audio in your video. Click on a sentence to select it. You can preview what your audio "chunk" will sound like by clicking the preview button. You can also change the voice of your audio by selecting a different speech synthesiser from the dropdown box by clicking on it. When you are satisfied with your audio chunk, click "add audio".



Figure 3. Chunk selection menu

You can see a List of chunks that you have added on the right side of the screen, and you can preview these by clicking on one and pressing the "play" button. You can remove them by pressing the "delete" button. Once you are satisfied with your audio chunks, click "create" to continue to the music selection menu.

3.3 Adding music

Select the music track from the drop-down box by clicking on it. If you do not want music in your final video, select "No Music". This option is selected by default. Continue by clicking "Continue". You can listen to an eight second preview of a selected song by clicking the "preview" button while you have a music track selected.

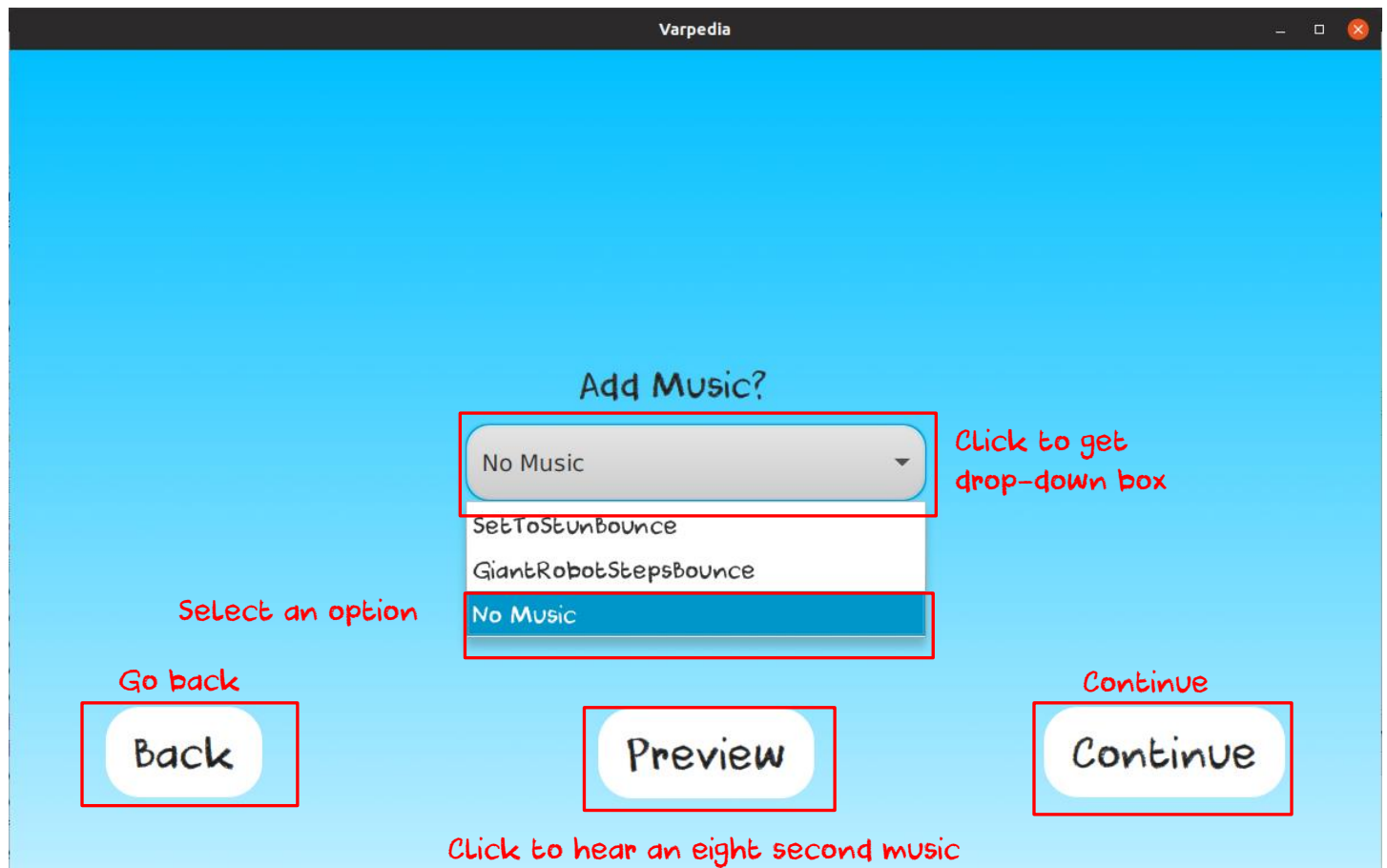


Figure 4. Music selection menu

3.4 Selecting images

You are nearly finished customising your video! Next, you can double-check what images you would like in your final video. You can preview each image by clicking on its filename in the list. If you don't like an image, remove it by clicking "Delete". Once you are satisfied, click "Continue".

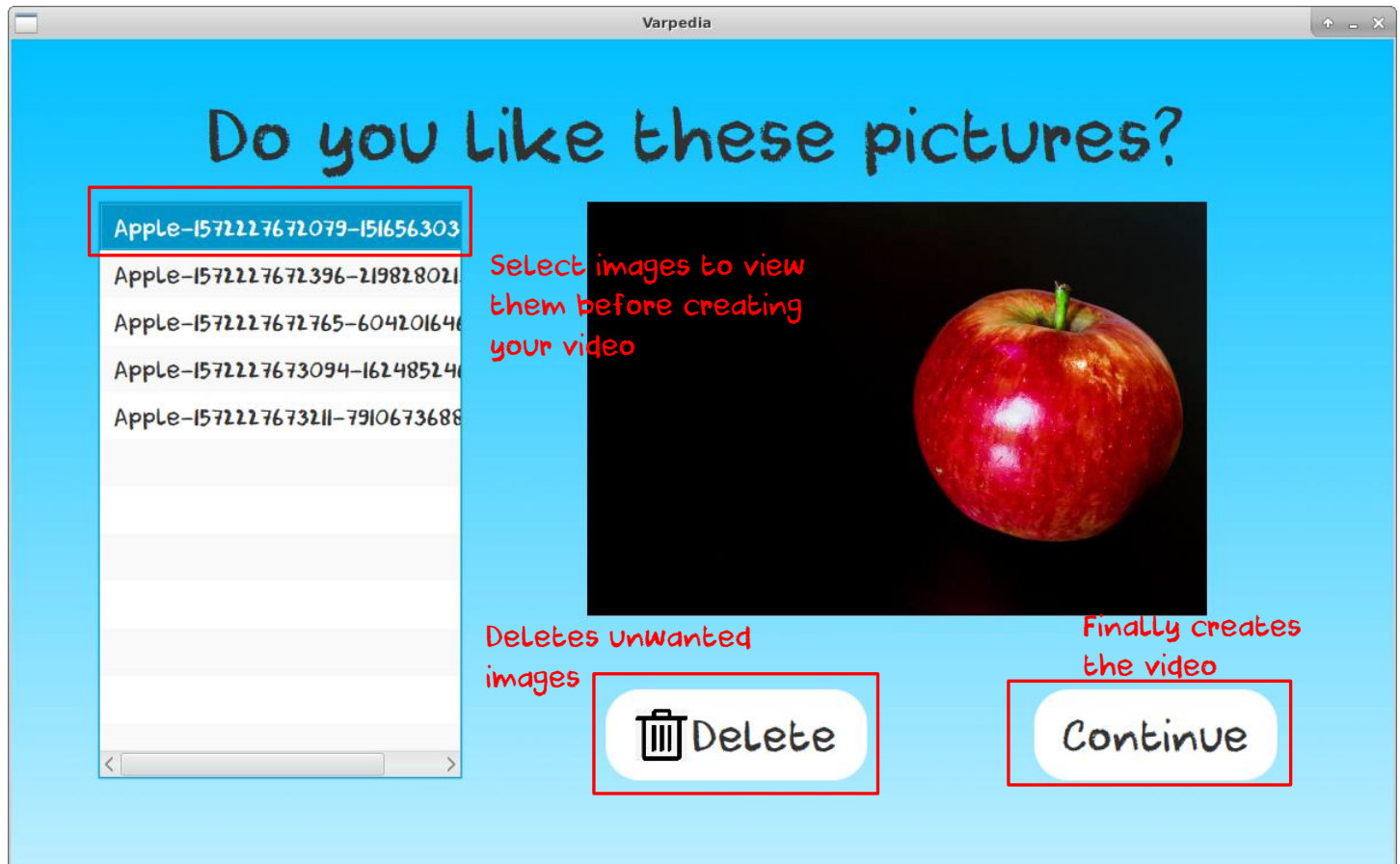


Figure 5. Music selection menu

VARpedia is now putting together your unique creation, and will alert you when it's finished! This can take a little while, so if you don't see your creation listed immediately in the view menu, don't worry.

4.0 Viewing Creations

To view your existing creations, click "View" in the main menu. Here you will see a list of all of your videos.

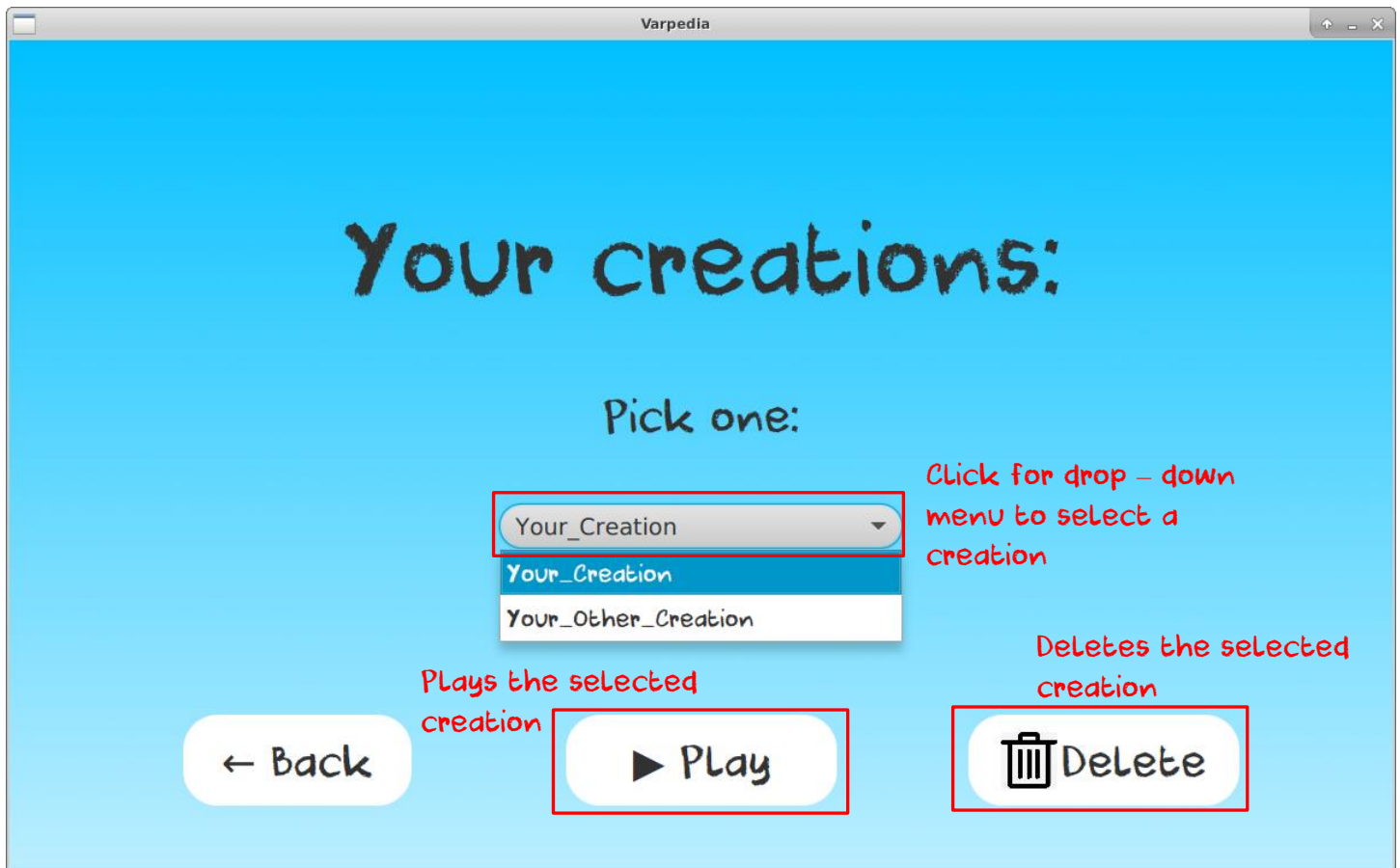


Figure 6. Viewing creations menu

4.1 Playing a creation

To play a video, select a creation by clicking on it, and then click on the "play" button. Your video will automatically start playing in a new screen. You can click the "mute" button to silence your video, as well as click the play/pause video. When your video is done playing, you can click the "replay" button to play it again. When you are done, press the back button to take you back to the list of creations.

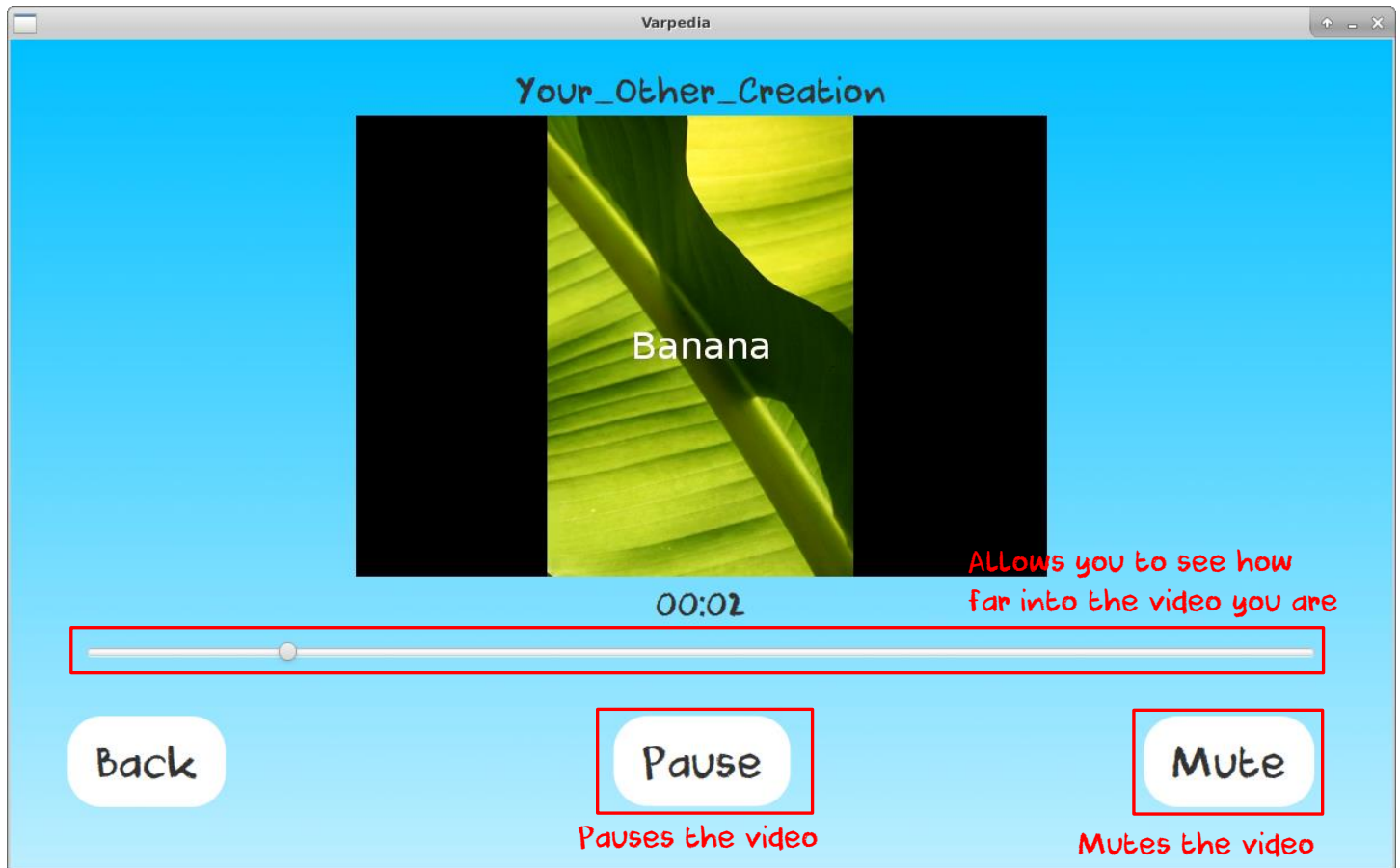


Figure 7. Creation player

4.2 Deleting a creation

To delete a creation, first select a creation by clicking on it, and then click on the "delete" button. Don't worry if you accidentally click this button, VARpedia will double check if you're sure you want to get rid of it.

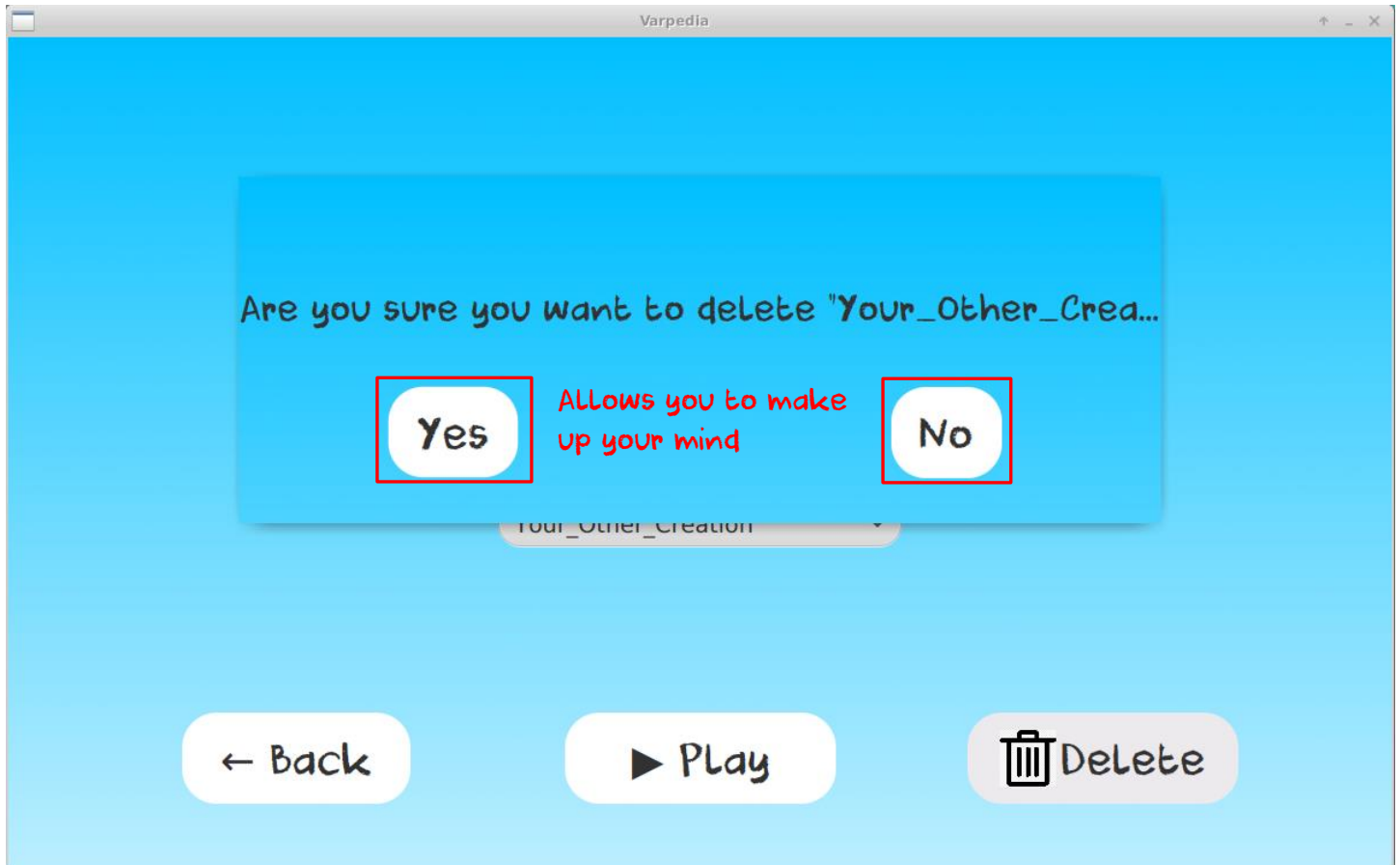


Figure 8. Deleting creation confirmation

5.0 Creating a Quiz

If you want to turn your creation into a game, and test your memory, click "Learn Something" in the main menu. From here, you can select which creations you would like to be tested on. You will need to add at least two, otherwise the quiz is too easy! To add a creation to the quiz, first click it in the "added creations List" to select it. Next, click the (>) button to move it onto the List of added creations on the right. To remove a creation from the quiz, click it to select it in the "added creations List", and then click the (<) button to remove it. When you are ready, click the "Start Quiz" button.

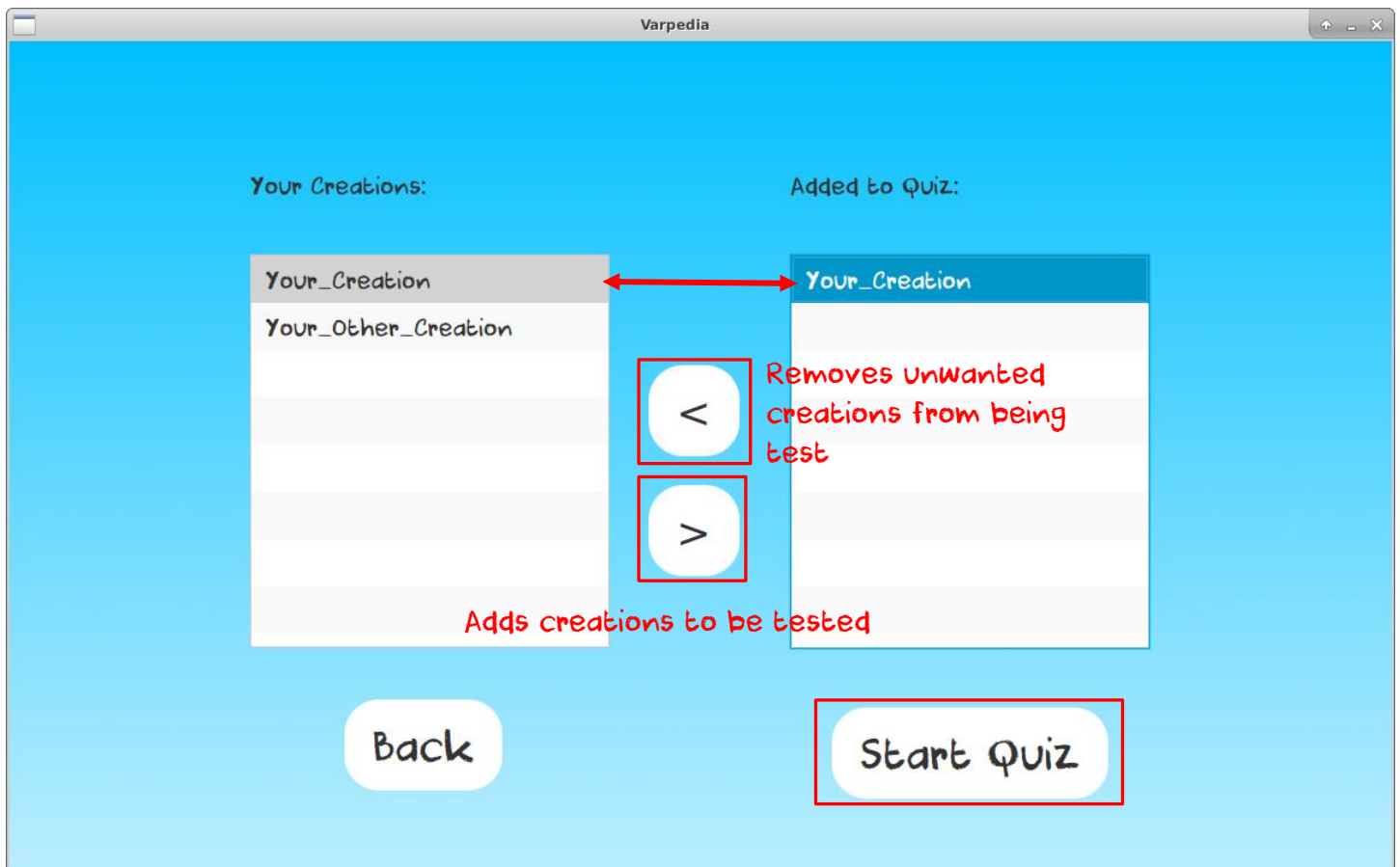


Figure 9. Quiz Creator

5.1 Playing your Quiz

Now you can test your memory skills! VARpedia will show you a picture, and you have to guess what it is! Click on the text box and type in your guess. When you are ready, click "Guess". If you were correct, your score in the top left corner will increase. For example, in the image below, a correct answer would be "cat". This is the word that you searched for when making the creation, not the name of your file. Keep answering questions to practice and learn. VARpedia will give you a final score once it has asked you about every picture. Exit the quiz any time by pressing the "back" button.

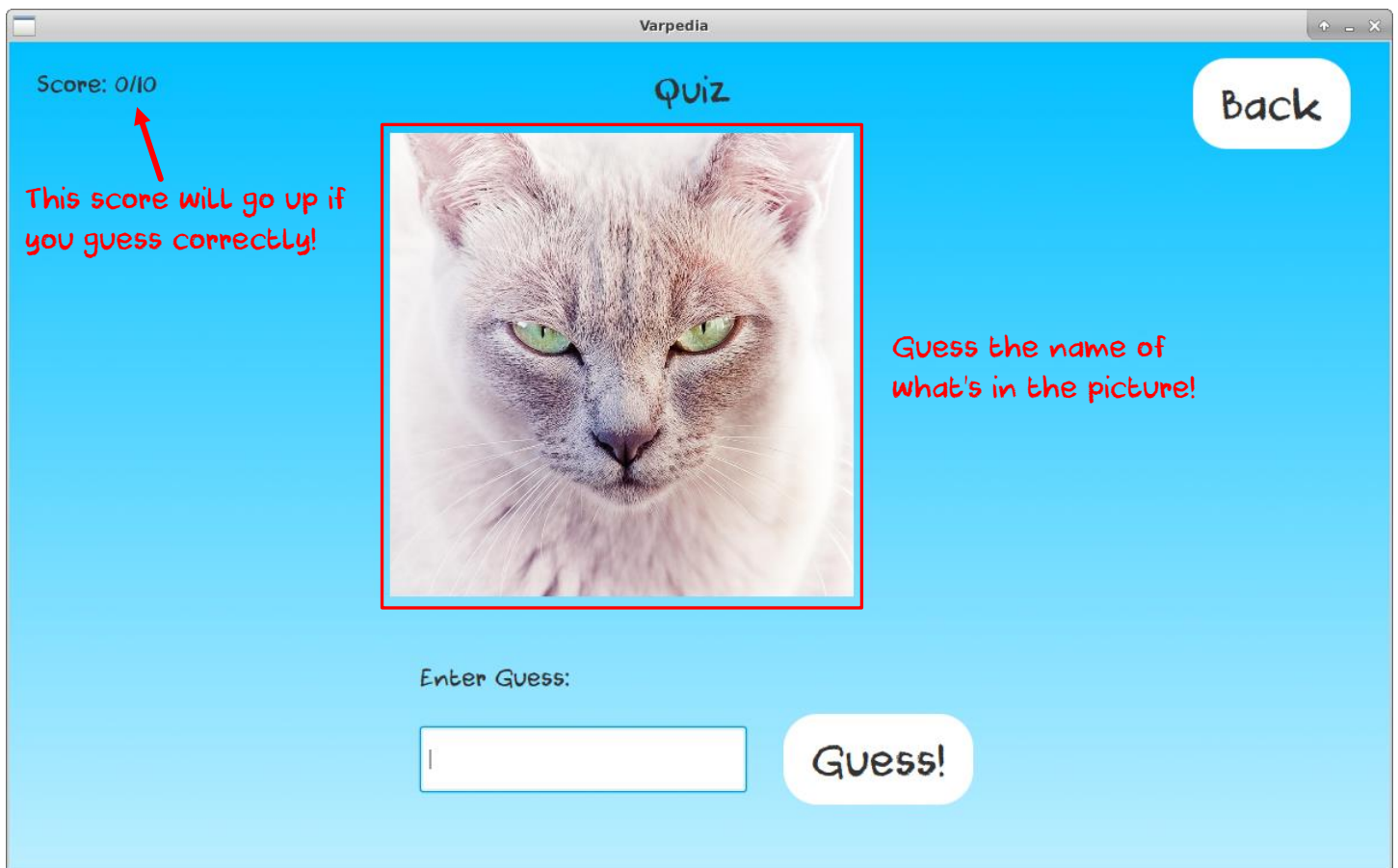


Figure 10. Quiz