

HAIKU

Historical Aid

Haiku are simple and concise poems consisting of three non-rhyming lines. A true haiku poem has only seventeen syllables—five in the first line, seven in the second line and five in the third line.

Developed centuries ago, haiku remains popular in Japan today, with newspaper columns and entire magazines devoted to this art.

Over 300 years ago, a young man gave up being a samurai to write poetry. He became known as Basho, a master of haiku. *Basho* is the Japanese name for “the leaves that covered the hut where he liked to write”.

Project

The most common subject of haiku is nature. Write a haiku based on a picture of the outdoors cut from a magazine.

Directions

1. Each student should choose a picture from a magazine and cut it out.
2. Glue the picture on construction paper.
3. Compose a haiku based on the chosen picture. Be sure that the haiku has only seventeen syllables—five in the first line, seven in the second line and five in the third line. Copy it under the picture on the construction paper.
4. Share the haiku with the class.

Materials

- Magazines featuring scenes from nature
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Pen or pencil

