



Hidden haiku

Activity guide:

Equipment required:

- Print the 'Hidden haiku' worksheet for all pupils
- Scrap or practice paper or workbooks
- Pencils or pens

Introduction to haiku:

Haiku is a form of short poem originally from Japan. Traditionally they consist of three phases that follow a strict pattern of syllables, five, seven, five. They do not need to rhyme. They have often been used to depict moments from nature.

Example: the lines have been broken into their syllables using bold and non bold.

5 syllables **White**caps on the bay:
7 syllables **A** broken signboard banging
5 syllables In **the** April wind.

— Richard Wright, collected in *Haiku: This Other World*, 1998

Before starting the worksheet:

1. Introduce the idea of haiku to the class and share some examples.

To complete the sheet:

1. Each pupil spends time creating their haikus. They could use rough paper to figure out the final version before entering it on to the worksheet.
2. The pupils read out their finished verses and the rest of the class guess which species they are describing.

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Use the lines below to write two haikus describing the seashore plants and animals we have been learning about. Remember not to use the creature's name, so that other people can work out which animal your poem is describing.

Haiku rules: There are three lines to each poem. Five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second and five in the third.

Big sharp claws clicking
Wide orange shell protects me
Walk sideways quickly

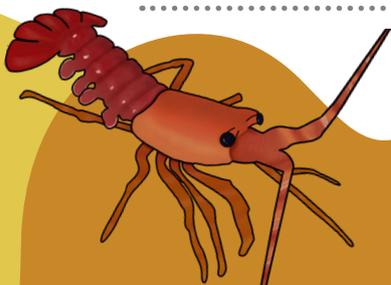
**It's describing an edible crab, did you guess it right?*

1

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.....
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2

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.....
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Edible crabs can grow up to 30cm across!