



# Hidden Haiku

## Equipment required

- Print out of the 'Hidden Haiku' worksheet for all learners
- Scrap 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    **Whitecaps** on the **bay**  
7 syllables    **A broken** sign**board** banging  
5 syllables    **In the** April **wind**.

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

## Before starting the activity

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

## To complete the activity

1. Encourage learners to spend time creating their haikus. They could use rough paper to plan the final version before entering it on to the worksheet.
2. Support learners to read out their finished verses, and provide an opportunity for the rest of the class to guess which species they are describing.

# Hidden Haiku



Use the lines below to write two haikus describing the seashore plants and animals we have been learning about. Remember not to use the creatures' 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?*

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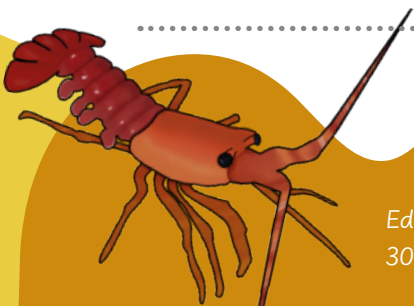
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2

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Edible crabs can grow up to  
30cm across!