

# Kerpoof Lesson Plan: Haiku For You

**Title:** Haiku For You

**Topic(s):** Japanese culture, literature, English, writing, math

**Grade level:** 2-4

**Materials and Resources:**

- Haiku Information Sheet
- <http://www.pocanticohills.org/occhicone/03/haiku.htm> (a wide selection of example haiku)
- [http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761566679/Japan.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761566679/Japan.html) (a variety of information about Japan and its culture)
- Access to Kerpoof.com

**Student assignment:**

Create an illustration in the Japanese Scroll Kerpoof scene and write two haiku based on the scene.

**Instruction:**

1. Pass out the Haiku Information Sheet and your own materials on Japan. Read the sheet aloud (or call on a student to read aloud) and discuss how to write a haiku. Ask them to identify the *kigo* in the poem—a word that shows what season or where the poem takes place. Ask: Could there be more than one answer?
2. Have students take turns reading some projected examples of haiku, counting the syllables.
3. Give students time to brainstorm and write first drafts of their haiku. If they're stuck about what to write, prompt them to think of scenes from their own life. What do they see on the walk to and from the bus/school? Do they live near a forest? Mountains? A lake?
4. Go to the computer lab.
5. Ask students to create a picture using Kerpoof's Japanese scroll scene. Remind them of the traditional haiku focus on nature. They might want to include cherry trees (the ones with pink blossoms), stream, waves, lake, owl, crane, tree, cloud, etc. They should feel free to write more than one haiku.



# Haiku Information Sheet

Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. Each haiku is made up of three lines. The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables. Haiku sometimes contain a word called a *kigo*, which is a word to signify the season in which the poem takes place.

Haiku example

*A bitter morning:  
Sparrows sitting together  
Without any necks.*

*- James W. Hackett, 1964*

Haiku was developed in the Japan from the 9th through the 12th centuries. Use the patterns below to write first drafts of your own haiku:

Haiku pattern

\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_ \_

Haiku pattern

\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_ \_  
\_\_\_\_ \_

