

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Japanese Haiku

By Kimberly M. Hutmacher

**H**aiku is a short Japanese form of poetry. It became popular in the United States after World War II. Americans living in Japan during the occupation became interested in Japanese art and culture. Haiku, having so much in common with other forms of Japanese art, is a good introduction to the country's culture.

Because nature plays a large role in Japanese society, it is usually the main subject of a haiku.

Haiku poets usually write about their gardens



## Preview

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### Winter Haiku

By Jason Slater

The snow keeps falling,  
Creating a white blanket.  
Winter forever!



### Summer Haiku

By Jason Slater

When the sun's shining,  
Birds chirp, flowers grow, kids play,  
The future is bright.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Japanese Haiku

By Kimberly M. Hulmacher



1. Which would be a likely topic for a haiku poem?

- a. ocean waves
- b. city traffic
- c. cooking
- d. gold coins

2. Where did haiku originate?

- a. North America
- b. Europe
- c. Africa
- d. Asia



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4. How many syllables does a haiku have in all?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Will a haiku always have more words in the second line than in the first?

Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# My Haiku Poem

Write a haiku poem. The first line should have five syllables.  
The second line should have seven syllables.  
The third line should have five syllables.  
Your haiku does not have to rhyme.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

by \_\_\_\_\_



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## ANSWER KEY

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5. Will a haiku always have more words in the second line than in the first?  
Explain your answer.

**No, a haiku can have fewer words in the second line in some cases.**

**The second line should always have more syllables than the first, but it could  
have fewer words if the words have more syllables.**