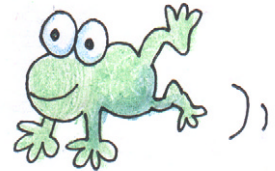


Haiku

What is Haiku Poetry?

Haiku are Japanese poems which are made up of three lines. Usually they mention a season and/ or nature. The following is one of the most famous of Japanese haiku:

old pond	furuike ya	古池や
a frog leaps in	kawazu tobikomu	かわず飛び込む
water's sound	mizu no oto	水の音



This poem was written by Matsuo Basho - one of the most famous Japanese haiku poets.

Traditional haiku use 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second and 5 again in the third, although English haiku don't always follow this rule. Haiku are written using the present tense: they are like a snapshot in words of one moment.

Questions

- What is a syllable? How many syllables does your name have?
- What does 'present tense' mean? Can you give an example?

Woodblock Print



http://www.hiroshige.org.uk/hiroshige/tokaido_hoeido/tokaido_hoeido_02.htm

This is a very famous Japanese woodblock print, made in the 19th century by an artist called Hiroshige Ando. It shows a winter scene at a place called Kanbara. In the background you can see Mount Fuji.

Task

Imagine you are no longer in your classroom, but you have been transported into the picture and are now one of the people in this scene. Jot down short answers to the following questions:

- What are you feeling?
- What can you see?
- Where are you going?
- Where do you think the other people in the picture are going?
- What is the weather like?
- What can you hear?
- What time of day do you think it is?

Look at the short sentences you have formed and now see if you can put them together to make a 3 lined haiku poem.

Remember

Your poem should be in the present tense and 3 lines long!

Challenge

Can you mention somewhere in your haiku what season it is without actually using the words, spring, summer, autumn and winter, For example – what season do you think the following haiku is about? How do you know? What are the clues? Talk about it with a partner.

daffodil carpet
lambs leap on the fresh grass
hard frost – gone!

Use this space for your notes:
