

The Eastern Hemisphere

Focus on Writing

Writing a Haiku

Celebrate our planet as many poets do—by writing a poem. Haiku is an important form of traditional Japanese poetry. Many haiku poems discuss Earth—its seasons, landscapes, and landforms.

PREWRITING

1. Look at the Poem’s Structure Look below to see the basic structure for haiku poem. A haiku poem has 17 syllables and is often three lines long. There are five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the last line. Notice that this poem uses descriptive words to talk about a season.

Lonely loons calling
 Sound drifting over the pond—
 Lazy summer note

Write a list of ten words that describe seasons in your area.

2. Think About Earth’s Water Supply Look at the list of words below. Circle the words that you would consider using in a haiku poem. Then mark the number of syllables that each word or phrase has.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| flowing | crystal | important |
| gushing | in danger | refreshing |
| beneficial | recreation | sparkling |

3. Describe Earth’s Landforms Look back at Section 3 of this chapter in your textbook to help you write three words to describe each landform listed below.

mountains _____

valleys _____

plains _____

islands _____

peninsulas _____

WRITING

4. Writing a Haiku Now it is time to write your poem on another sheet of paper. Decide on a topic for your poem—see the list of ideas below—or choose one of your own. Then think about the words you will use in each line. Use the notes that you made on the previous page to help you choose words. Remember that if you choose to write a traditional haiku, you need to count the syllables in each word.

a beautiful landscape	rain falling	sea
a flower in a garden	an animal in nature	sky
a season	the wind	stars

EVALUATING AND PROOFREADING

5. Evaluating Your Haiku Does your poem paint a picture of planet Earth? Use the questions below to evaluate and revise your poem.

Rubric

- If you wrote a traditional haiku, is your poem 17 syllables long, following a five-seven-five pattern?
- Does your poem include words that describes Earth's features?

6. Proofreading Your Haiku Check the following:

- Capitalization and spelling of all proper names and places
- Punctuation, grammar, and spelling

PRESENTING

7. Presenting Your Haiku Choose from the following:

- Have a poetry reading with your classmates. Each student will read aloud his or her haiku to the class. Discuss how the poems make you feel about our planet.
- Write a clean copy of your poem and display the poem on a bulletin board with your classmates' poems.
- To make your display more visually attractive, consider illustrating your haiku with your own drawings or with pictures you cut out from magazines.