

Sustainability Teachers' Academy Lesson Plan

Sustainability Haiku

Topics Covered

Sustainability
Three Pillars

Grades

6-8

Duration

15 Minutes

Sustainability Competencies

Values Thinking
Systems Thinking
Collaborative Thinking

Online Resources

[Kidzone Poetry: Haiku](#)

[Haiku Society of
America](#)

Objectives

Students will develop a deeper understand of sustainability as an integrated science (supporting the Three Pillars: Environment, Society, Economy) by composing haikus using and discussing visual prompts.

Materials

- Printed visual prompts
- Student whiteboards and dry erase markers, or poster paper and magic markers
- Printed or projected examples of haikus

Teacher Preparation

Print visual prompts for this lesson. Print or project examples of haikus. Collect and organize student materials. Students can work individually during this lesson, or they can work in pairs or small groups to produce one haiku together. If this is the case, be sure to organize student materials accordingly.

Background Information

Haikus are a form of traditional Japanese poetry that dates back to the 16th century. Each Haiku should have 17 syllables in three phrases of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively. When students write haikus about ideas they have learned, they use poetic imagery and language to synthesize deeper understanding.

Recommended Procedures

Introduce haikus by providing examples, and allow students to discuss the features of a traditional haiku.

How many syllables are in each line or phrase?

How does the haiku tell a story or paint a mental picture? (uses imagery to convey meaning)

Assign an image to each student (or small groups can work on a single image together). Explain that each haiku should use imagery and descriptive language to tell a story or paint a mental picture. Each Haiku should also illustrate the Three E's of Sustainability: Environment, Economics, Social Equity.

Allow select students to share their haiku with the class. Students should be encouraged to provide feedback, discuss the haikus that are shared, and to explain to each other what the poem illustrates about sustainability.