

ACTIVITY

Create Your Own Illustrated Haiku

Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry made of three lines (five syllables, seven syllables, five syllables) that is commonly a meditation on nature. Make an image using colorful paper and ink, and then write a haiku inspired by your creation.

GRADES

Elementary school (K-5)

DURATION

30 minutes

STANDARDS

Content Standards (California)

VPA/VA k.1.3: Identify the elements of art (line, color, shape/form, texture, value, space) in the environment and in works of art, emphasizing line, color, and shape/form.

VPA/VA k.2.3: Make a collage with cut or torn paper shapes/forms.

VPA/VA 3.5.2: Write a poem or story inspired by their own works of art.

MATERIALS

Paper; straws (one per child; bendable straws preferable); black poster ink (you can dilute with water); paint brush; colored tissue paper; white glue; hairdryer; pencils



LIONFISH SWIMMING
FEATHER FINS BURNING BRIGHTLY
THE KING OF THE SEA

DIRECTIONS

- ① With a brush, dab a nickel-size drop of black poster ink on one half of an 8 1/2 × 11 inch sheet of paper.



- ② Place a straw tip at the edge of the ink drop. Holding the straw at low angle to the paper, blow a few times.



- ③ Keep blowing the ink from different directions to create a branching effect.



- ④ Dry ink with a dryer.

- ⑤ Examine your image. What does it remind you of that you might find in nature? Using small amounts of white glue, add bits of torn colored tissue paper to make your blot look more like what you imagine it to be. Torn tissue paper makes nice leaves, clouds, flowers, insects, or water.



- ⑥ On a separate sheet of paper, write a haiku about the picture. A haiku is a poem with three lines: the first line is five syllables, the second line is seven syllables, and the third line is five syllables.

- ⑦ Glue the poem onto a blank area of the painting. Congratulations! You have completed your very own illustrated haiku.

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