

Florida  
State Parks

24

JUNIOR  
RANGER

## WRITING HAIKUS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Park \_\_\_\_\_

A **haiku** (pronounced *hi • koo*) is a very short type of Japanese poetry. This type of poem is special because it is always written in three lines with a certain number of syllables in each line. Sometimes a haiku forms a full sentence however sometimes a haiku can be simply a phrase. All haikus follow the same pattern of syllables for each line. The first line has five syllables, the second has seven, and the third has five.

WHAT DOES  
THIS MEAN?

Let's break it down.

The number of syllables in a word is important for building a haiku.

**Syllables** are the pieces of sounds that form words. For example:

**“Worm”**

has only one syllable because it is only one sound.

**“Butterfly”**

has three syllables because it is made up of three sounds:

**“but • ter • fly”**

You can usually count a word's syllables by placing a finger on your chin, saying the word aloud, and counting how many times your chin goes down.



Try it! How many syllables are in each of the following words?

Service \_\_\_\_\_

Help \_\_\_\_\_

Learning \_\_\_\_\_

Communicate \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Ranger \_\_\_\_\_

Park \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_

Team \_\_\_\_\_

Now you know how to identify and count syllables in a word, you are ready to write your own haikus!



There is more this way!



SERVICE ACTIVITY

WRITING HAIKUS

Read the examples, then try to write some of your haikus own based on your experience in the park. Remember to follow the pattern of 5, 7 and 5 syllables for each line.

EXAMPLES

Line 1: 5 Syllables

1. What should I do here?

2. Down in a burrow

Line 2: 7 Syllables

"Get a little park on ya,"

there lives the gopher tortoise

Line 3: 5 Syllables

the Ranger told me.

who likes to eat plants.

1. What you love most about Florida State Parks

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How park staff helps protect Florida's state parks

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How you can help protect Florida's state parks

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Your haikus have the right amount of letters to fit in a tweet! Pick one favorite haiku to share using Twitter. Use the hashtag at the bottom of this page to tag your tweet. Don't forget to ask a parent or guardian for help first.



#FLStateParksJrRanger