

WRITING SKILLS

Ages 8+

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to write a poem or haiku about their field-trip experiences.

Summary: Field trips to mangroves and wetlands are often inspirational and always fun! Students will write poems about these experiences.

Subject Areas: Language arts, Science.

Time: 30-60 minutes

Materials:

- Copies of vertical-poem and haiku forms on page 2
- Notes on observations from previous field trips.

Background

This activity can be used as a follow up from the 'Mangrove Explorers' activity. 'Writing Skills' is based off of a mangrove habitat field trip but can be easily adapted to work with other ecosystems. If you use this activity with your class, substitute the mention of mangroves for the habitat you are currently covering with students.

Procedure:

1. After a nature walk or field trip exploration, ask students what lessons they have learned and what feelings or impressions they have been left with.
2. Have them choose one item—concept or object—that particularly stands out, and write about it. It could be a mangrove tree, a pond, a mudflat, a season, or a specific creature, bird, fish, or invertebrate. The handout on page 2 can be used for writing poems about mangroves, and can be adapted for other observed items or habitats.
3. Have students recite their poems or haiku to the class.

References

- Mangrove Action Project, Marvellous Mangroves - A Wetlands Education Resource Book for the West Indies



VERTICAL POEM

Choose a word that reflects some aspect of what you have learned, and use each letter of the word to begin a line of your poem.

M _____
A _____
N _____
G _____
R _____
O _____
V _____
E _____
S _____

HAIKU

Japanese haiku is a form of poetry with only three lines. The first line contains five syllables, the second has seven, and the third has five. For example:

In the mangrove swamp
Fish swim, crabs crawl, heron stalk,
The roots are their home.

Try writing a haiku about your own exploration experience.

