

Create a Sci-Ku for British Science Week 13–22 March 2015!

This teaching pack meets the requirements of the English and Literacy section of the Curriculum for Excellence at 3rd, 4th, and Senior Phase levels.

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Create a Sci-Ku Competition as part of The Reading Experiment at Edinburgh International Science Festival 2015

Edinburgh International Science Festival is an educational charity which aims to encourage people to discover the wonder of the world around them. *The Reading Experiment* is a project which runs in conjunction with our annual Festival in Edinburgh and aims to reunite the worlds of science and words by encouraging people to delve into science writing in all its forms. It returns for a second outing in 2015 and as part of this we're bringing back our Sci-Ku competition.

This year we're challenging you to write a Sci-Ku on the theme of light. It's a broad topic, you could write about photosynthesis, solar energy, the stars, light-based technologies and more! Here is an example from the Edinburgh International Science Festival team, we are sure you can do much better!

Light is seen
 Light cold and warm is felt
 Light is never heard
Sarah Thomas

And here are a few of the winning and shortlisted entries from last year's competition:

My ear cannot pick
 One tone from white noise, but knows
 Your voice anywhere
By Sandra Ireland

Big bang happened ... YES
 Universe expanded ... YES
 Phenomenal ... WOW
By Liz Williamson

The mail has arrived
 A parcel for Schrödinger
 A dead cat...maybe
By Rosslyn

What is a Sci-Ku?

A Sci-Ku is a 3 line poem about science. It's supposed to have a syllable pattern that goes five-seven-five, but it's ok if it doesn't quite fit. Just keep it short, bright and give the reader something to think about. For more information and to enter, please see our website:

sciencefestival.co.uk/sci-ku-competition

But hurry, the competition closes on Friday 3 April 2015.

Submit entries through our website, by email to:

SarahThomas@scifest.co.uk

or by post to:

Edinburgh International Science Festival, Harbourside House,
 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF

Aims and Learning Objectives

This teaching pack can be used to achieve many experiences and outcomes in the English and Literacy section of the Curriculum for Excellence at 3rd, 4th, and Senior Phase levels.

Key links at 3rd level are:

- Listening and Talking LIT 3-06a and LIT 3-10a, Reading 3-19a, and Writing LIT 3-20a and ENG 3-31a

Key links at 4th level are:

- Listening and Talking LIT 4-06a and LIT 4-10a, Reading 4-19a, and Writing LIT 4-20a and ENG 4-31a

Key links at National 4/5 level are:

- English Creation and Production Outcomes 1 and 2; Literacy Outcomes 1, 3 and 4

Key links at Higher/Advanced Higher level are:

- English Creation and Production Outcomes 1 and 2

Creating a Sci-Ku for British Science Week will enable pupils to:

- Select their own ideas and organise them for a purpose
- Build their confidence and communication skills when engaging others
- Enjoy creating a new piece of writing
- Explore and practice a new genre

What is a Haiku?

Haiku is a type of poetry from Japan. In these short 3 line poems the lines fall naturally into a five-seven-five syllable pattern. Haikus are appealing because they make us think about what we see and feel in the world around us. What makes a syllable is different in English and Japanese. In Japanese, syllables are counted as sounds. For example, the word 'haiku' is 2 syllables in English (hai-ku) and 3 syllables in Japanese (ha-i-ku)! But the exact number of syllables is not too important as long as the second line of the poem is the longest: the most important thing in haiku is how the poem sounds. Haikus do not have to rhyme.

Haiku Writing Guidelines

- Find moments in everyday life you would like to write about, remember that reality often has a magical side.
- Think about the message you want to get across.
- Use simple words and remove any words you don't need, for example, the ~~bright golden amazing fantastic shining~~ light.
- The best haikus have a surprise or twist at the end.
- Read your poem out loud to test how it sounds.
- Aim for the 5-7-5 syllable pattern but don't worry if it doesn't fit.

Teaching Plan

Resources required: you may wish to print the following activity sheets or display them electronically.

1. Explain haiku poetry and where it comes from. Add any background information you think your class will find interesting. (5 minutes)
2. Describe the haiku structure using Activity Card 1. It is a 3-line poem with a 5-7-5 syllable structure. Make it clear that it is ok if it is not exactly 5-7-5 as long as the second line of the poem is the longest. (5 minutes)
3. Look at some examples using Activity Cards 2-5. These are written by some of the great Japanese masters of haiku. Encourage group discussion about what they like/dislike in the poems, what the poems are about and words they like. (10 minutes)
4. Optional activity for 3rd/4th level. Make a haiku using the template in Activity Card 6. (10 minutes)
5. Extract a haiku from a text using Activity Card 7. (10 minutes)
6. Create a haiku using only the 1000 most common words in the English language on Activity Card 8. (15 minutes)
7. Create a Sci-Ku for the Edinburgh International Science Festival competition using Activity Card 9 as a guide. (15 minutes)

Time Required

This teaching pack has been developed for completion within one lesson and can be adapted as required.

When Should I Use This Teaching Pack?

This teaching pack can be used any time and is also available to download from our website. However we would like to encourage you to make the most of these resources and the Sci-Ku Competition during March 2015.

Activity Card 1

Petal by petal

Yellow mountain roses fall

Sound of rapids

Japanese haiku master Matsuo Bashō, 1644-1694

Activity Card 2

A kite floats

At the place in the sky

Where it floated yesterday

Japanese haiku master Yosa Buson, 1716-1784

Activity Card 3

Now and again

It turns to hail

The wind is strong

Japanese haiku master Masaoka Shiki, 1867-1902

Activity Card 4

Step by step

Up summer mountain

Suddenly the sea

Japanese haiku master Kobayashi Issa, 1763-1827

Activity Card 5

Fresh young leaves

The sound of a waterfall

Both far and near

Japanese haiku master Yosa Buson, 1716-1784

Activity Card 6

Pick Your Own Haiku!

Choose the word that you like the best from each box below. The words in Set 1 will give you line 1 of your haiku, those in Set 2 will give you line 2 and those in Set 3 will give you line 3.

When you have chosen the words you like, write the whole haiku out and say it in your head. Do you like it? If not, you can change some of the words and see what you like best.

Get ready to read your haiku to the class.

Set 1	swimming	in the	woods	Line 1
	floating		city	
	running		pond	
	flying		sky	
	spying		house	

Set 2	an eye	sparkles in	moonlight	Line 2
	a wing		sunlight	
	a claw		twilight	
	a tooth		darkness	
	a leaf		afternoon	

Set 3	lost	into the	mud	Line 3
	sinks		sand	
	slips		night	
	darts		crowd	
	glides		trees	

Activity Card 7

Find a Haiku!

This is a haiku writing activity where haikus are created from a text: taking phrases from the text and linking them together in haiku form. Read this extract from *The Edge of the Sky: all you need to know about all-there-is* by Roberto Trotta and see if you can find a haiku.

Example:

Every evening
The stars would come up
And disappear

The Edge of the Sky:

all you need to know about all there is by Roberto Trotta

Everything else in the All-There-Is went around our Home-World: [every evening](#), [the stars would come up](#) in the sky, move across it, [and disappear](#) in the morning. The Sun would chase them away. At night, the Sun's Sister would appear: at times, she would be full and round. Night after night, she would gently disappear, until, after two weeks, she would become dark. Then she would grow to become full and bright again.

The stars formed animals and gods in the sky, as well as huge people.

The people, animals, and gods were different in the warm and cold months of the year. They brought rain and warm times, ice and strong waters. But the gods with most power, besides the Sun and his Sister, were the stars that did not follow the others.

The Crazy Stars did not need to go around in the same way as all the other stars. They were free to go in the same direction for a while, then stop, turn around, and go back. And they were brighter than most of the other stars.

People feared them, and watched them carefully. The crazy stars had big names and great power.

He-Who-Talks-For-The-Gods could run faster than every other Crazy Star. He was always moving here and there. When you died, it was his job to show you around the world of the dead.

The She-God of Love could make you fall in a second for a man or a woman you were passing in the street. She was beautiful, and she rose from the waters perfect and soft-skinned.

The Fight-God was young, strong, and crazy. He could attack any person he wanted, and did not need a reason to do so.

The third month of the year is still named after him.

The Head-God was the strongest of them all. He was the father of all the Crazy Stars, and they had to do as he wanted. He could send fire to hit you and always had a great flying animal with him.

The Great-Father-God was the father of the Head-God. He could control time, and when the new year arrived, a big party was given for him. That was all there was then.

The All-There-Is was built all around us. Easy. Ordered. And wrong.

Activity Card 8

Create a Haiku!

Create a haiku using ONLY the 1,000 most commonly used words in the English language. The words can only be used as they appear in the list below. Plurals, adjective forms and other derivatives are not allowed.

a able about above accept across act actually add admit afraid after afternoon again against age ago agree ah ahead air all allow almost alone along already alright also although always am amaze an and anger angry animal annoy another answer any anymore anyone anything anyway apartment apparently appear approach are area aren't arm around arrive as ask asleep at attack attempt attention aunt avoid away baby back bad bag ball band bar barely bathroom be beat beautiful became because become bed bedroom been before began begin behind believe bell beside besides best better between big bit bite black blink block blonde blood blue blush body book bore both bother bottle bottom box boy boyfriend brain break breakfast breath breathe bright bring broke broken brother brought brown brush build burn burst bus business busy but buy by call calm came can can't car card care carefully carry case cat catch caught cause cell chair chance change chase check cheek chest child children chuckle city class clean clear climb close clothes coffee cold college colour come comment complete completely computer concern confuse consider continue control conversation cool corner couch could couldn't counter couple course cover crack crazy cross crowd cry cup cut cute dad dance dark date daughter day dead deal dear death decide deep definitely desk did didn't die different dinner direction disappear do doctor does doesn't dog don't done door doubt down drag draw dream dress drink drive drop drove dry during each ear early easily easy eat edge either else empty end enjoy enough enter entire escape especially even evening eventually ever every everyone everything exactly except excite exclaim excuse expect explain expression eye eyebrow face fact fall family far fast father fault favourite fear feel feet fell felt few field fight figure fill finally find fine finger finish fire first fit five fix flash flip floor fly focus follow food foot for force forget form forward found four free friend from front frown full fun funny further game gasp gave gaze gently get giggle girl girlfriend give given glad glance glare glass go God gone gonna good got gotten grab great green greet grey grin grip groan ground group grow guard guess gun guy had hadn't hair half hall hallway hand handle hang happen happy hard has hate have haven't he he'd he's head hear heard heart heavy held hell hello help her here herself hey hi hide high him himself his hit hold home hope horse hospital hot hour house how however hug huge huh human hundred hung hurry hurt I I'd I'll I'm I've ice idea if ignore imagine immediately important in inside instead interest interrupt into is isn't it it's its jacket jeans jerk job join joke jump just keep kept key kick kid kill kind kiss kitchen knee knew knock know known lady land large last late laugh lay lead lean learn least leave led left leg less let letter lie life lift light like line lip listen little live lock locker long look lose lost lot loud love low lunch mad made make man manage many mark marry match matter may maybe me mean meant meet memory men mention met middle might mind mine minute mirror miss mom moment money month mood more morning most mother mouth move movie Mr. Mrs. much mum mumble music must mutter my myself name near nearly neck need nervous never new next nice night no nod noise none normal nose not note nothing notice now number obviously of off offer office often oh okay old on once one only onto open or order other our out outside over own pack pain paint pair pants paper parents park part party pass past pause pay people perfect perhaps person phone pick picture piece pink place plan play please pocket point police pop position possible power practically present press pretend pretty probably problem promise pull punch push put question quick quickly quiet quietly quite race rain raise ran rang rather reach read ready real realize really reason recognize red relationship relax remain remember remind repeat reply respond rest return ride right ring road rock roll room rose round rub run rush sad safe said same sat save saw say scare school scream search seat second see seem seen self send sense sent serious seriously set settle seven several shadow shake share she she'd she's shift shirt shock shoe shook shop short shot should shoulder shouldn't shout shove show shower shrug shut sick side sigh sight sign silence silent simply since single sir sister sit situation six skin sky slam sleep slightly slip slow slowly small smell smile smirk smoke snap so soft softly some somehow someone something sometimes somewhere son song soon sorry sort sound space speak spend spent spoke spot stair stand star stare start state stay step stick still stomach stood stop store story straight strange street strong struggle stuck student study stuff stupid such suck sudden suddenly suggest summer sun suppose sure surprise surround sweet table take taken talk tall teacher team tear teeth tell ten than thank that that's the their them themselves then there there's these they they'd they're thick thing think third this those though thought three threw throat through throw tie tight time tiny tire to today together told tomorrow tone tongue tonight too took top totally touch toward town track trail train tree trip trouble true trust truth try turn television twenty two type uncle under understand until up upon us use usual usually very visit voice wait wake walk wall want warm warn was wasn't watch water wave way we we'll we're we've wear week weird well went were weren't wet what what's whatever when where whether which while whisper white who whole why wide wife will wind window wipe wish with within without woke woman women won't wonder wood word wore work world worry worse would wouldn't wow wrap write wrong yeah year yell yes yet you you'd you'll you're you've young your yourself

Activity Card 9

Create a Sci-Ku Competition!

Edinburgh International Science Festival is bringing back it's Sci-Ku competition as part of *The Reading Experiment*, a project designed to celebrate science writing in all its forms, at the 2015 Science Festival.

This year we're challenging you to write a Sci-Ku on the theme of light. There are great prizes up for grabs in three categories: primary school, secondary school and an open category for all ages, so you can even get your friends and family to enter as well.

Light is a broad topic and really important to life on earth. It comes from the sun and stars, makes our plants grow which gives us food to eat, and light is where all the colours of the rainbow come from. Light is also very important to scientists who use it all the time to look through microscopes and study the world around us. And there's not just the types of light we can see, don't forget about ultra-violet light and infra-red!

We don't want to tell you exactly what to do because your own ideas are really important, but if you get stuck just think about:

- An important discovery
- An experiment
- Something you see in everyday life
- A scientist
- Something you find interesting

To enter the competition give your Sci-Ku to your teacher or enter at home on our website –

sciencefestival.co.uk/sci-ku-competition

The deadline for entries is **Friday 3 April**. Winners will be contacted from Monday 6 April with details of how they can claim their prize.

The 2015 *Edinburgh International Science Festival* runs from 4-19 April 2015. Find out more about events and activities happening at this year's festival at sciencefestival.co.uk