

sci-ku



Birds flying sky high
Insects crawling down below
Earth is our home

Create a Sci-Ku for Edinburgh Science Festival 2025!

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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Sci-Ku Competition

Edinburgh Science Festival 2025

Edinburgh Science is an educational charity which aims to encourage people to discover the wonder of the world around them. We are best known for running the annual Edinburgh Science Festival.



In our 2025 Festival, we will be running a major exhibition in the National Museum of Scotland. *Spaceship Earth* will delve into the realms of science fiction and explore solutions to build a more sustainable existence. As part of this, Edinburgh Science is running a Sci-Ku Competition, inviting you to imagine a thriving, sustainable Earth 100 years from now. We're challenging you to write a Sci-Ku about what this future looks like to you.

The winning entries will be featured in the *Spaceship Earth* exhibition, on display to around 57,000 visitors from 5–20 April 2025.

Here are some examples from the Edinburgh Science team – we are sure you can do much better!

*Lush, green horizons
Living simply but thriving
A challenge to greed*

EMILY RAEMAEKERS

*Birds flying sky high
Insects crawling down below
Earth is our home*

AUGUSTA MACDONALD

*Wind pushing on blades
Meters gone from building walls
Now we breathe easy*

SHAWN HOULT

*Birds and bees and trees
Green and clean no grey and smoke
Everyone plays outside*

CHARLIE PIKE

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 5-7-5, but it's ok if it doesn't quite fit. Just keep it short and snappy and give the reader something to think about.

How to Enter

The competition closes on Monday 30 September 2024.

Submit entries through our website form edinburghscience.co.uk/sci-ku-competition or by email to: sciku@scifest.co.uk

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

ENTERING THE EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL SCI-KU COMPETITION 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 5-7-5 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 ~~dark green amazing huge thick~~ forest.
- 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 Card 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 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 when the Sci-Ku Competition is open, from Monday 2 September – Monday 30 September 2024.

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 that 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 at 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 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

starshine

Set 3

lost

into the

mud

Line 3

sinks

sand

slips

night

darts

crowd

glides

trees

Activity Card ?

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.

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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 quietly quiet 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

Sci-Ku Competition

Edinburgh Science Festival is running a Sci-Ku competition as part of the 2025 Festival.

Imagine a thriving, sustainable Earth 100 years from now. We're challenging you to write a Sci-Ku about what this future looks like to you.

The winning entries will be on display in Edinburgh Science Festival's major exhibition, *Spaceship Earth* in the National Museum of Scotland from 5–20 April 2025. The exhibition will explore ideas and solutions to look after our planet in the future. Winners will be picked from 3 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!

Looking after our world and living sustainably is really important. We need to buy fewer things, waste less and use less energy to help protect the environment. Think about what changes might need to happen to make sure planet Earth is thriving in 100 years' time. How might people and animals live? What might landscapes and seas look like? What sorts of technology and inventions might be built to help us live sustainably?

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

- Something you see or do in everyday life
- An invention
- Something you find interesting
- Air, soil, water, waste, energy or outer space
- Other countries
- Animals and plants

To enter the competition, give your Sci-Ku to your teacher or enter at home on our website: edinburghscience.co.uk/sci-ku-competition

The deadline for entries is Monday 30 September 2024. Winners will be contacted by email or through your teacher.

Edinburgh Science Festival runs from 5–20 April 2025. Find out more about events and activities happening at this year's Festival at edinburghscience.co.uk