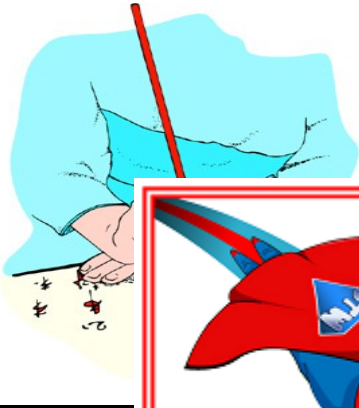


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Japanese Haiku

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Haiku is a short Japanese form of poetry. It became popular in the United States after World War II. Americans living in Japan during the occupation became interested in Japanese art and culture. The word "haiku" means "game-verse." Haiku, having so much in common with other forms of Japanese art, is a good introduction to the country's culture.



Because nature plays a large role in Japanese society, it is usually the main subject of a haiku. Even families living in large populated cities care for and take square



## ~ PREVIEW ~

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1. Which  

a. ocean waves	b. city traffic
c. cooking	d. gold coins
  
2. Where did haiku originate?  

a. North America	b. Europe
c. Africa	d. Asia
  
3. Which fact about haiku is true?  
  - a. They are always written in Japanese.
  - b. They are Japanese games or puzzles.
  - c. They are short poems about nature.

**Challenge:** Read the three haiku on the following page. Then, use them as models to write your own haiku poem.

# Three Haiku Poems

by B.J. Lee



yellow crocus

pops through snow -

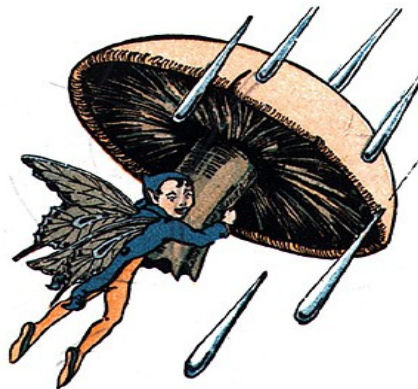
hello to springtime



**~ PREVIEW ~**

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their serenade



raindrops bounce

from spotted toadstools -

pixie umbrellas

# ANSWER KEY

## Japanese Haiku

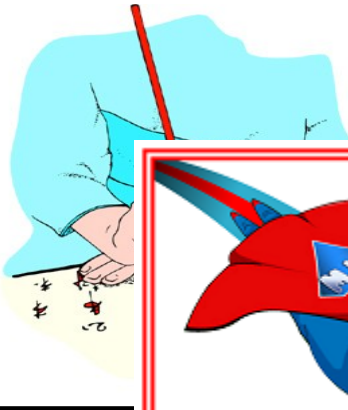
by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Haiku is a short Japanese form of poetry. It became popular in the United States after World War II. Americans living in Japan during the occupation became interested in Japanese art and culture. The word "haiku" means "game-verse." Haiku, having so much in common with other forms of Japanese art, is a good introduction to the country's culture.



Because nature plays a large role in Japanese society, it is usually the main subject of a haiku. Even

and take  
square





# ~ PREVIEW ~

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1. Which would be a likely topic for a haiku poem? **a**
  - a. **ocean waves**
  - b. city traffic
  - c. cooking
  - d. gold coins
2. Where did haiku originate? **d**
  - a. North America
  - b. Europe
  - c. Africa
  - d. **Asia**
3. Which fact about haiku is true? **c**
  - a. They are always written in Japanese.
  - b. They are Japanese games or puzzles.
  - c. **They are short poems about nature.**

**Challenge:** Read the three haiku on the following page. Then, use them as models to write your own haiku poem.