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.

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!
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line 1: 5 Syllables</th>
<th>Line 2: 7 Syllables</th>
<th>Line 3: 5 Syllables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> What should I do here?</td>
<td>“Get a little park on ya,” the Ranger told me.</td>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Down in a burrow there lives the gopher tortoise who likes to eat plants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. **What you love most about Florida State Parks**

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2. **How park staff helps protect Florida’s state parks**

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3. **How you can help protect Florida’s state parks**

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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