



STAY CONNECTED.

STAY CURIOUS.

Animal Poetry

Explore an animal through the art of poetry. Pick one style or try all three! Younger explorers may need help with some types of poems.

You'll need:

- Writing supplies

A) Five Senses Poem

Use your senses to explore and describe an animal in a poem. (Scientists don't often use taste to explore, so no need to use that sense today.)

What to do:

1. Choose an animal—your favorite animal, a pet, or an animal you can see outside your window.
2. Write down things that you know about that animal or do a little research.
3. Imagine you are with your animal, and write down:
 - a. 5 things you could see
 - b. 4 things you could feel
 - c. 3 things you could hear
 - d. 2 things you could smell
 - e. 1 thing you want to know

B) Rhyming Couplet Poem

A rhyming couplet is a poem that is made of two lines with each line ending in a rhyming word. A **rhyme** is when two or more words have a similar sound, like *stand* and *land*. Words don't have to end in the same letters to rhyme, though, like *fox* and *blocks*. A poem can be made up of one couplet, or multiple. Here's an example:

*At the pond I saw a frog,
It hopped and hopped onto a log.*

Add more lines to continue the poem. They don't have to rhyme with the first two lines, just with each other:

*It stuck its tongue out to get a fly,
And ate it right there, out of the sky.*

What to do:

1. Choose an animal to write about.
2. Write down words that you associate with that animal. You can do research to learn more.

3. Next to each word, write down other words that might rhyme with it.
4. Try putting rhyming words together to make a couplet. How many couplets can you write about the same animal?

C) Haiku

A haiku is a traditional Japanese poem. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables. The lines in a haiku do not need to rhyme.

A **syllable** is a part of a word that contains the sounds of that word. The word ‘haiku’ has two syllables: Hai-ku. ‘Animal’ has three syllables: an-i-mal. ‘Wings’ just has one syllable. Try clapping along as you say each word, clapping on each sound that you hear in the word. Still not sure? Put your hand on your chin and say the word out loud. Every time your chin moves, that’s a syllable.

The following is an example of a haiku. The syllables are marked with a star (*) on the right.

Green and speckled legs	Green and speck-led legs * * * * * (5)
Hop on logs and lily pads	Hops on logs and lil-y pads * * * * * * * (7)
Splash in cool water	Splash in cool wa-ter * * * * * (5)

What to do:

1. Choose an animal to write about.
2. Write down things you know about that animal or do research on your own.
 - What does your animal look like?
 - What do they eat?
 - How do they move?
3. Write out your haiku. Remember: 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, and 5 syllables in the third.

Share your poem!

Post a picture or write the poem out on social media and tag the museum! #MuseumFromHome

- Tag us on Facebook: @oregonnaturalhistory
- Tag us on Instagram: @mnch_uo
- Tag us on Twitter: @UO_MNCH