

# Haiku

Devised by Steve Cooke with Nottingham Bluecoat School in 2006.

The webaddress for this activity is:  
[www.collaborativelearning.org/haiku.pdf](http://www.collaborativelearning.org/haiku.pdf)

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## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.

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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. An online newsletter is also updated regularly.

\*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of oracy. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of talk.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

1. Lives in the mountains,  
Flying high in the blue sky,  
Sharp talons, hooked beak

2. Yellow fur, black spots,  
Running fast, to catch his prey  
In his deadly claws.

3. Black eyes that could kill,  
Roaming the deep ocean,  
Fin cutting the waves.

4. Cute fluffy creature,  
Eating eucalyptus leaves,  
Sleeps in great big trees.

5. Black fur and green eyes,  
Purring as it prowls around,  
Swishing its long tail.

6. Hundreds of small legs,  
Scuttling around speedily.  
Hiding under logs.

7. Small body, long tail,  
Cheekily swinging through trees,  
Baby holding tight.

8. Grey, black and fierce.  
A predator hunting prey,  
Howling at the moon.

9. Swims in the river,  
Waiting for its meal to come.  
Snap! The jaws of death.

10. Big, black and white bear,  
Always munching bamboo shoots,  
Facing extinction.

11. Hairy, scary thing,  
Scuttles around the kitchen,  
Making my mum scream!

12. A marsupial,  
And world famous high jumper,  
Joey in its pouch.

a centipede

a crocodile

a shark

a stingray

a panda

a monkey

a kangaroo

a beaver

a koala

a wolf

a cheetah

a hawk

a cat

a spider

a ferret

13.

Flat as a pancake,  
Swims by elegantly,  
Watch out for his zap!

14.

Fluffy smooth brown fur,  
Sharp teeth, extremely vicious  
Chasing rabbits home.

15.

Gnawing down the wood,  
He builds a big, sturdy dam,  
Tail acts as a rudder.



