

## Rabbit in the Moon: Collage and Haiku

The moon has always been a source of mythology, folk tales, poetry and art. In this activity, you'll read a folk tale about the Rabbit in the Moon, and then create poetry and visual art inspired by the tale.

**Supplies You'll Need:** Paper, any kind, in several colors -- for making and assembling your collage; plus scissors, glue, markers, pens.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** First, read the story below and check out the link to the related art works. Then, learn about Haiku poetry and write your own. Finally, using all of these elements as inspiration, make your own collage about the Rabbit in the Moon, and add your poem.

Take a picture of your art and share it with us, we'd love to see what you've done!  
You can share here: [https://cap.ucla.edu/aia\\_submissions/](https://cap.ucla.edu/aia_submissions/)

### *The Rabbit in the Moon*

Many, many years ago, there lived a fox, a monkey and rabbit. They lived side by side, existing in harmony even though they were so different from each other. When the Old Man of the Moon heard of these three animals, he wondered if they were truly able to love one another. He decided to test the depth of their kindness.

The Old Man of the Moon came down to earth disguised as a beggar, and found the three friends. "I am poor and hungry" he told them. "Won't you help me?" And so, each set off to find food for the starving man. Monkey climbed a tree and brought him fruits and berries and all the treasures of the forest. Fox went to a stream and caught a beautiful silvery fish, carrying it back to him in her jaws. Rabbit, though he searched and searched, found that he had nothing to offer the man but grass.

Rabbit returned to his friends and the waiting beggar, and asked them to build a fire. When the fire was lit and the smoke was rising into the night sky, Rabbit jumped into the flames, offering himself as a meal.

Quickly, the beggar changed back into the Old Man of the Moon. He reached into the fire and gathered Rabbit to him, unharmed. "You all have shown kindness" he said to the animals, "but you, Rabbit, were the kindest and most generous, offering even your life. I'll take you back to the moon to live with me."

The Old Man carried Rabbit back to the moon, where he lives forever, pounding rice for sweet mochi. Look up at the full moon, and you'll see him there, even today.

This particular version of the Moon Rabbit tale comes from Japan. Similar stories can be found across East Asia and in Buddhist, Native American and Aztec traditions. In some Chinese variations, Moon Rabbit is said to be the eternal companion of the moon goddess Chang'e, constantly pounding the elixir of immortality for her.

[Click here to see a collection of artworks inspired by the Moon Rabbit tale.](#)

# HAIKU

A Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. It has only **3 lines**, and **each line has a specific number of syllables**. Here's an example of haiku:

*In spring the new leaves  
Unfurl slowly to reveal  
An innocent green*

**Line 1** has **5** syllables:    in /spring /the/ new / leaves  
   1    2    3    4    5

**Line 2** has **7** syllables:    un/furl slow/ly to re/veal  
   1    2    3    4    5    6    7

**Line 3** has **5** syllables:    an in/no/cent green  
   1    2    3    4    5

A syllable is an individual sound that makes up the whole word. The word Book has 1 syllable. The word Reading has 2 syllables. The word Japanese has 3 syllables

If you need some help with counting out syllables, [these guys can help you out with a song](#).

**Use the worksheet below to write your own Haiku.  
Then, start your collage.**

## Making your Collage

- Make a draft of your collage design, draw an example in pencil on a scrap piece of paper.
- What will you use as your background? Pick a sturdy piece of paper, decide on a color.
- Pick 2-3 sheets of different colored paper from your background.
- How can you cut the paper to make the shapes for your collage?
- Arrange your cut pieces of paper on the background.
- Glue them down.
- Add your Haiku poem in pen or marker.

# Writing your Haiku!

Think about the story of the rabbit in the moon. What are some things you remember? What are the important things? How did the story make you feel? Can you tell the story in your own words? How can you tell the story in the Haiku form, using only 3 lines?

Let's get started -- write your "idea words" for your Haiku poem below. (circle the words you like)

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Using your favorite or circled words, you can make your Haiku below. Put each syllable in the matching space – remember, a syllable is an individual sound that makes up the whole word.

## Line 1:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
1<sup>st</sup> syllable    2<sup>nd</sup> syllable    3<sup>rd</sup> syllable    4<sup>th</sup> syllable    5<sup>th</sup> syllable

## Line 2:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
1<sup>st</sup> syllable    2<sup>nd</sup> syllable    3<sup>rd</sup> syllable    4<sup>th</sup> syllable    5<sup>th</sup> syllable

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
6<sup>th</sup> syllable    7<sup>th</sup> syllable

## Line 3:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
1<sup>st</sup> syllable    2<sup>nd</sup> syllable    3<sup>rd</sup> syllable    4<sup>th</sup> syllable    5<sup>th</sup> syllable