NYSDEC Environmental Education

Animal Cinquain

There are three formats for a cinquain poem:

Format 1:
Line1: One word
Line2: Two words
Line 3: Three words
Line 4: Four words
Line 5: One word

Format 2:
Line1: A noun
Line2: Two adjectives
Line 3: Three -ing words
Line 4: A phrase
Line 5: Another word for the noun

Format 3:
Line1: Two syllables
Line2: Four syllables
Line 3: Six syllables
Line 4: Eight syllables
Line 5: Two syllables

The worksheet on the next page can be used to guide your students in developing a cinquain about an animal. The example poem uses format 2.

The worksheet could be used in conjunction with a visualization activity such as Project WILD's "Animal Poetry" on page 282 or "Stormy Weather" on page 85.   Alternatively, students could research an animal before doing a visualization exercise or writing the poem.

Animal Cinquain

Answer these Questions:

1. What is the animal's name? _____

2. What are some adjectives that describe the animal?

    _____

    _____

3. What are some things that it does: How does the animal move, find food, eat, find shelter, find water?

    _____

    _____

4. How does it make you feel when you see it or think of it? What role does it play in the environment?

    _____

    _____

5. What is another word or words that identify, or name, the animal? _____

Write the Poem:

_____
Animal's Name

_____,_____
Two adjectives describing the animal

_____ _____ _____
Three action words that end in "ing"

_____
A short phrase about the animal

_____
Another name or word for the animal

Example:

Red Fox
Sleek, Furry
Seeking, Creeping, Pouncing
Efficient Rodent Eater
Hunter