Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

What Is a Tanka?

Read the big idea. Then fill in the blanks.



Tanka

A tanka is a short poem from Japan. It has 5 lines. Tanka poems often describe nature: flowers, rain, snow or the seasons.

1. A tanka has _____ lines.

2. Tanka poems came from _____.

3. Tanka poems are often about _____.

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Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Clap the Syllables

Clap each word. Write the number of beats.

A syllable is a beat in a word. sun has 1 beat. flow-er has 2 beats. but-ter-fly has 3 beats.

1. rain: _____
2. gar-den: _____
3. sun-shine: _____
4. but-ter-fly: _____
5. bee: _____
6. a-ni-mal: _____

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

The Tanka Pattern

Read the pattern. Fill in the blanks.

Line 1: 5 beats. Line 2: 7 beats. Line 3: 5 beats. Line 4: 7 beats. Line 5: 7 beats.

1. Line 1 has _____ beats.

2. Line 2 has _____ beats.

3. Line 3 has _____ beats.

4. Lines 4 and 5 have _____ beats each.

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

A Flower Tanka

Read the tanka. Answer the questions.

Petals face the sun.
Bright colours wake the garden.
Bees come for nectar.
Red, yellow, pink and purple.
My garden smiles all day long.

1. The petals face the _____.

2. The _____ come for nectar.

3. The poem is about a _____.

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

A Winter Tanka

Read the tanka. Answer the questions.

Soft snow floating down.
It covers trees in white coats.
Cold snow chills my hands.
We build a happy snowman.
Then we laugh and dance around.

1. The snow is _____.

2. The trees wear white _____.

3. The children build a _____.

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Season Words

Sort the words by season.

snow | mango | crunchy leaves | shawl | ice cream | falling leaves

winter	summer	autumn

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Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Describing Words

Fill in a describing word.

bright **crunchy** **gentle** **cold** **sweet**

1. the _____ sun
2. _____ autumn leaves
3. a _____ breeze
4. _____ winter wind
5. _____ mangoes

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Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Finish the Tanka

Add the missing lines.

A rain tanka

Grey clouds fill the sky.

Rain taps softly on the roof.

_____ (5 beats)

_____ (7 beats)

_____ (7 beats)

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Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

My Tanka

Write your own tanka about a season.

Title: _____

Line 1 (5 beats): _____

Line 2 (7 beats): _____

Line 3 (5 beats): _____

Line 4 (7 beats): _____

Line 5 (7 beats): _____

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Draw Your Poem

Draw a picture for your tanka.

My tanka picture

More free worksheets **littletakhti.netlify.app**

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

What Is a Tanka?

Read the big idea. Then fill in the blanks.



Tanka

A tanka is a short poem from Japan. It has 5 lines. Tanka poems often describe nature: flowers, rain, snow or the seasons.

1. A tanka has **5** lines.
2. Tanka poems came from **Japan** .
3. Tanka poems are often about **nature** .

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Clap the Syllables

Clap each word. Write the number of beats.

A syllable is a beat in a word. sun has 1 beat. flow-er has 2 beats. but-ter-fly has 3 beats.

1. rain: 1
2. gar-den: 2
3. sun-shine: 2
4. but-ter-fly: 3
5. bee: 1
6. a-ni-mal: 3

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

The Tanka Pattern

Read the pattern. Fill in the blanks.

Line 1: 5 beats. Line 2: 7 beats. Line 3: 5 beats. Line 4: 7 beats. Line 5: 7 beats.

1. Line 1 has **5** beats.
2. Line 2 has **7** beats.
3. Line 3 has **5** beats.
4. Lines 4 and 5 have **7** beats each.

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ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

A Flower Tanka

Read the tanka. Answer the questions.

Petals face the sun.
Bright colours wake the garden.
Bees come for nectar.
Red, yellow, pink and purple.
My garden smiles all day long.

1. The petals face the **sun** .
2. The **bees** come for nectar.
3. The poem is about a **garden** .

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ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

A Winter Tanka

Read the tanka. Answer the questions.

Soft snow floating down.
It covers trees in white coats.
Cold snow chills my hands.
We build a happy snowman.
Then we laugh and dance around.

1. The snow is **soft** .
2. The trees wear white **coats** .
3. The children build a **snowman** .

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Season Words

Sort the words by season.

snow | mango | crunchy leaves | shawl | ice cream | falling leaves

winter	summer	autumn
snow	mango	crunchy leaves
shawl	ice cream	falling leaves

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ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Describing Words

Fill in a describing word.

bright | crunchy | gentle | cold | sweet

1. the **bright** sun
2. **crunchy** autumn leaves
3. a **gentle** breeze
4. **cold** winter wind
5. **sweet** mangoes

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Finish the Tanka

Add the missing lines.

A rain tanka

Grey clouds fill the sky.

Rain taps softly on the roof.

_____ (5 beats)

_____ (7 beats)

_____ (7 beats)

Answers will vary.

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

My Tanka

Write your own tanka about a season.

Title: _____

Line 1 (5 beats): _____

Line 2 (7 beats): _____

Line 3 (5 beats): _____

Line 4 (7 beats): _____

Line 5 (7 beats): _____

Answers will vary.

ANSWER KEY

Name _____ Date _____

English · Tanka poems

Draw Your Poem

Draw a picture for your tanka.

My tanka picture

Drawings will vary.

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