

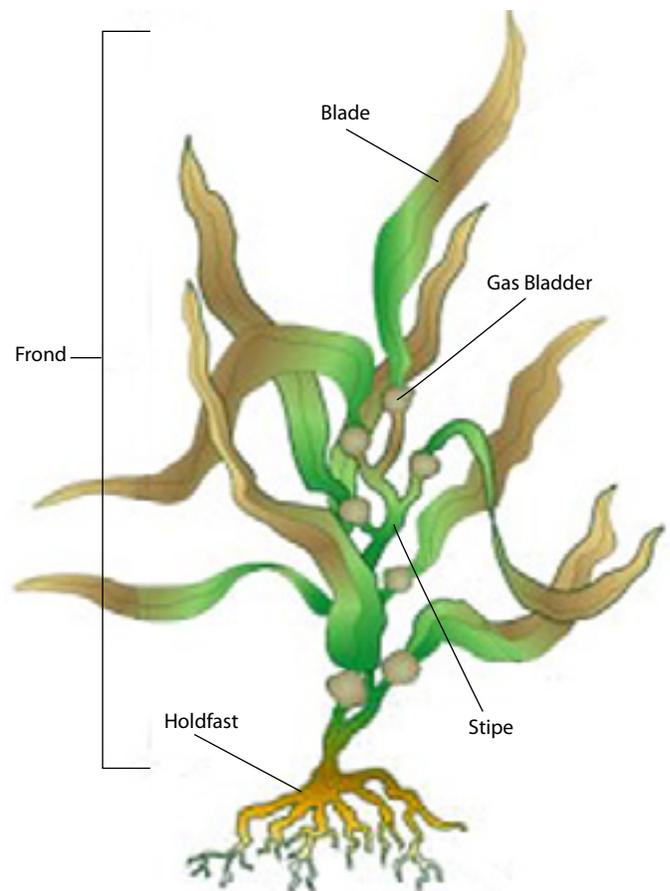
# Kelp Blade Haiku

Ages 8+

## Background Info

Kelp is a type of algae that is home to many different animal species. Algae are like the plants of the sea. Just like land plants, algae use **photosynthesis**. Sunlight is transformed into useable energy. Unlike land plants, kelp has different body parts and lacks a system to transport sugar, water, and gasses.

- **Kelp forest:** An ocean ecosystem located close to shore. Kelp forests are home to a wide array of animal species. They provide both food and shelter for these species and consist of a high density of kelp.
- **Haiku:** A Japanese form of poetry with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, and 5 syllables in the third line
- **Syllable:** A unit of spoken language that consists of one or more vowel sounds with one or more consonant sounds preceding or following it. It's fun to clap out different words to see how many syllables they have.
- **Holdfast:** Keeps the kelp tightly anchored to the ground so it won't be pushed away by the waves. Most glue on to a rock or hard substrate, not soft, sifting sand. This is different from roots because it doesn't actually get nutrients from the ground—instead, nutrients can enter any part of the plant, all of which can photosynthesize.
- **Stipe:** Long like a stem with room for many "branches," but doesn't have tubes and "sap."
- **Blades:** Similar to leaves. Long and broad in order to collect as much sunlight as possible for photosynthesis.
- **Bladders:** Air sacs to hold the plant up. The stipe isn't a strong support and the blades need to reach the water's surface to get sunlight so these air bubbles make the top of the plant float.



# ACTIVITY

## Suggested Time

30 minutes

## Materials

- paper (green if available)
- writing utensil(s)
- scissors



## Instructions:

1. Cut a sheet of paper in half.
2. On the half sheet, draw and cut out the outline of a kelp blade.
3. On your kelp blade, create a haiku. Remember, a haiku is a poem with a certain amount of syllables per line: 5, 7, 5. Your haiku can be about kelp forests and the many animals that call them home or about whatever you would like.
4. (Optional) Make more kelp blade haikus and create a whole kelp forest! You can create stipes with long thin pieces of paper.

## Haiku Example

Otters swim in kelp

Their food is from the sea floor

Otters eat a lot

