

Title: Fibonacci Poetry	Grade: 6th-8th Grades
Content: English Language Arts (Math, Science)	Duration: 30 minutes

Standard:

- **W.6-8.3** Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey an experience, providing a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experience.

Objective: Students will write an original nature poem, using the Fibonacci sequence.

Resources Needed:

- Your choice of media (paper & pencil, computer, colored pencils, etc.)

Introduction/Description:

The Fibonacci sequence is a pattern of numbers. You start with the number zero. The next number in the sequence is one. From this point, always add the two previous numbers to figure out the next number in the sequence.

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, and so on.

0 (0+1=) 1, (1+1=) 2, (1+2=) 3, (2+3=) 5, (3+5=) 8, (5+8=) 13, and so on.

Fibonacci numbers are named for Leonardo Fibonacci, who, in 1202, used them to describe the growth of a rabbit population. It was also noted that the Fibonacci sequence describes numerous growth process patterns of plants. My favorite example from nature is the spirals of the sunflower.



The traditional Fibonacci poem is a 6-line poem using the Fibonacci Sequence, but poets have also used more than 6 lines, with the number sequence remaining constant.

Today, we are going to connect our math and poetry with a poetry form called the “Fib.”

Steps:

- Find a spot **outdoors**, relax. Open your eyes, ears, and mind, letting your creativity flow.
- The “Fib” poem uses the Fibonacci sequence in relation to the number of syllables that will be on each line of the poem. Remember, a syllable is a unit of sound. Example: wa/ter has two syllables. (Remember, there is one vowel sound in each syllable.)
- Here’s an example of a “Fib” poem from:

<https://justjoan42.wordpress.com/2017/01/29/all-of-lifes-a-fib-or-is-it/>.

Notice, the first and second lines have one syllable, the third has two, and so on: following the Fibonacci sequence. This one even goes back down to one!

LIFE
is
more
than a
search for X,
some algebraic
equation that can be worked out
with pencil and paper and trusty calculator
Figures cannot account for serendipity, miracles, random acts of kindness
Worthwhile journeys are neither linear nor balanced
They are not problems to be solved,
but roundabout paths
to the truth
within
one's
self

- Since the Fibonacci sequence is found in nature, let's write a poem about nature! **Brainstorm** some topics on a sheet of paper. Now, choose one!
- **Write** a "Fib" poem:
 - Line 1: One syllable
 - Line 2: One syllable
 - Line 3: Two syllables
 - Line 4: Three syllables
 - Line 5: Five syllables
 - Line 6: Eight syllables
 - Line 7: Thirteen syllables
 - Line 8: Twenty-One syllables
 - Optional: Go on further, or go back down!
- **Revise** your poem, making it even better. Remember, poetry is short in words but rich in feeling. Will your poem help you readers *feel* nature? Share it with others.
- Write or type your **final copy**, adding an illustration (either hand-drawn, from the Internet, or a photo you take).

Finished Product: Share your project with teacher and/or peers as directed.

Adaptations:

- Students could write poems about anything: a "Fib" poem about Romeo and Juliet, turkey hunting, algebra, even pickles!
- Teachers, share these with math teachers to make a bulletin board next year.