

# Virulent

*Middle School - Viral Haikus*

**TERM** 2013

**LOCATION** G+L+S

**PROGRAM** VideoGames and Learning

**Overview of Lesson** Haikus are traditionally a staple in the world of poetry instruction, but now they can reach farther than an English unit! Your students will write these short poems not only to demonstrate their understanding of cells and viral components, but also to educate and review such structures with their classmates.

**Materials Needed** Paper  
Pencils  
Biology textbooks for review  
Printed list of vocabulary for each student

**Content of Lesson** Begin by assigning each student a piece of the cell or a stage of viral infection (see vocabulary list below). Encourage the students to keep their assigned vocabulary word a secret so that their friends will have more fun guessing later on.

Instruct each student to write a haiku poem that describes the word/phrase they were given. If you feel as though your students would benefit from writing these haikus as literal descriptions, instruct them to write their poems as such, otherwise ask them to describe their term figuratively within their haiku.

After the students have finished writing, give each student a list of the vocabulary and instruct them to float around the room reading the poems of others and attempting to identify which vocabulary term fits the content. They can mark each term that they identify until they run out altogether.

Follow Up: Compile the haiku poems, correctly titled with their associated vocabulary term, into a classroom book to be used as a study resource in the future.

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## Vocabulary

Viron	Cell	Budding Site	Bound Antibody
Free Antibody	Genome	Protein Receptor	Endoplasmic Reticulum
Mitochondrion	Ribosome	Proteasome	Nucleus
Caspase	DNA	Vesicle	Golgi Apparatus

**Learning Objectives** Students will be able to work independently to achieve a goal in a timely fashion.

Students will be able to work cooperatively to complete a task in a timely fashion.

## Educational Standards

**(RST.6-8.4.)** Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to *grades 6–8 texts and topics*

**(RST.6-8.9.)** Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic