

## Place Poems with Prelutsky

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**Purpose:** To have the students develop a better understanding about different places around the world through writing poetry.

**Estimated Time:** varies depending on unit (could be one day or a week)

**Grade Level:** 5 – 9

### **National Geography Standards Addressed:**

*Standard 4:* The physical and human characteristics of places.

*Standard 6:* How culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.

### **Indiana Social Studies Standard Addressed:**

6.3.3, 6.3.4, 6.3.5

7.3.4,

**Objectives:** Upon completion of this activity/unit, students will...

1. identify the characteristics of a place in a poem.
2. be familiar with various locations and places throughout the world.
3. be able to write a poem using their notes.

### **Materials Required:**

- One or more of Jack Prelutsky's books such as...
  - *The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders*
  - *Beneath a Blue Umbrella*
  - *Ride a Purple Pelican*
- Paper and Pencils
- Journal notebook for students to keep notes
- Use the website [http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jack\\_home.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jack_home.htm) for helpful poetry hints from Jack Prelutsky

### **Procedures:**

1. Begin by reading a few of Prelutsky's place poems to the class.
2. Have the students choose a place they wish to write their poem and sign up for that place so there are few duplicates.
3. The students should brainstorm about their place and keep notes in their journal.
4. Once they have enough information, they may begin to write a rough draft of their place poem.
5. After the rough draft has been approved, the students may type the poem. Be sure to save it.
6. Draw a picture to accompany the place poem.
7. Exhibit the place poem and picture together on a piece of construction paper or poster board.
8. Share with the class.

**Adaptations/Extensions:**

1. Create an interdisciplinary unit with the Language Arts teacher.
2. Depending on the grade level, have the place poems about certain towns/cities or an entire country.
3. Have a poetry day. Have the students recite their poems to the team or class.
4. Publish your own class book of place poems.

**Assessment:**

Teacher discretion. Check for comprehension of the place in the poem and completion of project.

**Examples of Jack Prelutsky's poetry...**

*Jason Johnson left New Jersey  
Just to dig for gold,  
He tried in South Dakota  
But he did not like the cold.*

*Nevada was much warmer,  
But he found no golden ore,  
So Jason Johnson headed home,  
No richer than before.*

In Indianapolis  
*In Indianapolis, what did we see?  
An elephant perched on a sycamore tree,  
Sipping warm milk through an oversized straw-  
In Indianapolis, that's what we saw.*

*In Indianapolis, what did we do?*

*We danced on the green with a blue kangaroo.  
The elephant sneezed, so we ran off and hid-  
In Indianapolis, that's what we did.*

*Timble Tamble Turkey  
Lived in Santa Fe,  
Went to Albuquerque  
To see the fishes play,  
The fishes were in Phoenix  
For they had runaway,  
So Timble Tamble Turkey  
Went back to Santa Fe.*