



Tracing Trails Challenge Options:

- **POETRY.** Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry consisting of three metrical phrases of 5, 7, and 5 syllables respectively. Given that, in Japanese, the pronunciation of the word *haiku*, closely resembles that of the English word *hike*, ask students to write a *haiku* about one of their most memorable hiking experiences. Keep in mind that haiku typically contain a seasonal reference.
- **TRAIL EVALUATION and GRAPH.** Using the Successful Trail Design fact sheet and their own personal experiences, students can reflect upon what makes a good trail. They can start by determining such things as the purpose of trails (Why do they exist?), who the users are and what they need, who the designers are and what they want to have happen. Students can list the elements that help achieve this purpose (What are the concepts or characteristics associated with successful trails?). Answers to these basic questions can serve as the foundation for writing a quality trail evaluation.

At the most basic level, this evaluation could consist in listing the characteristics of successful trails mentioned by students and then rating these on a scale of 0 to 5, with 0 indicating a low level of compliance or satisfaction and 5 the highest. Once the evaluation document is finalized, take the class out to a trail near you and evaluate it. Individual students' ratings of the trail can later be averaged out into overall class opinion. This data, representing the entire class's analysis can be used for making a graph or chart for public display. Students can discuss new ways of improving the trail experience.

- **TOURISM and MARKETING.** Are there trails in your area? Ask students to research the trail network in their area and write a Local Trails Guide. They should include all the information commonly found in trail guides, such as:
 - Trail map
 - Trail name
 - Trail length
 - Estimated hiking time
 - Difficulty level
 - Interesting features
 - Available camping

Feel free to consult the Riding Mountain National Park Trail Guide as a template:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/mb/riding/activ/activ4_e.asp

- **SHORT STORY.** Ask students to think of their most fulfilling hiking experience they have had. How was the weather? Who were they with? Where was the trail? What kind of terrain was it? Was it an easy or difficult hike? What made that day special?

These thoughts should guide students in writing a short story recounting their hiking experience.

