

Comic Artist Badge

Purpose: You will know how to create your own comic.

Step 1. Delve into the world of comics

Comic artists use lots of different techniques to express emotion and action. What techniques do you think you could use to show emotion? Can you draw the same face to show three different emotions?

Watch some videos of professional comic artists and notice what kinds of techniques they use. Try making your own three-panel comic strip using sticky notes. Create a character and a simple story with a beginning, middle, and end.

Step 2. Choose a story to tell

At heart, comics are another way to tell a story. Decide what story you would like to tell. If you've got comic characters in mind already (people or animals you doodle in your notebook, maybe?), let those inspire your story. If not, start with a story first, and then build the characters based on who your story needs them to be. Keep it simple to start. Think of a story from your day or from a book or movie you saw, or just use your imagination!

Step 3. Draw it out

Take the characters in your story and start some rough sketches. Stick figures are great! Bring them to life by practicing drawing each character many times. Draw your character again and again! Draw them sitting, standing, stretching. Draw them with different expressions. Draw them from the side, from behind. You can even use a mirror to make the faces you are wanting to draw. Notice the lines on your face and how they change when you move. How would you draw that in your character?

Step 4: Frame it in four panels

It's time to put your character into action, and that means framing them. Imagine your story as characters in a series of actions. Create panels with sticky notes or by using a ruler to draw squares on paper. Tell your story from step 2 by placing your characters into four panels and using facial expressions, body posture, or both.

Step 5: Add the words

Yes, there are comics out there without any words, but for the most part, the art is a melding of words and pictures meant to be experienced together. Add words to your four-panel comic strip by adding dialogue with speech bubbles, adding ideas with thought bubbles, or creating separate boxes beneath your panels to add words that describe your story.

Resources

- Draw With Jazza videos: youtube.com/user/DrawWithJazza
- Drawing tutorials: howtodrawcomics.net/comic-art-tutorials

Congratulations! You've earned the Comic Artist badge!

Girl Scout Cadettes

