

**Topic:** Cadette-Artist

**Badge:** Comic Artist

**Suggested Supplies:**

- Sticky notes
- Pencil and eraser
- Tracing paper (parchment paper will work)
- Scrap paper
- Paper or sketch pad
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers



**Helpful websites: (Have adult permission to go online)**

<https://comics.azcentral.com/> -Daily Newspaper comics.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiqE2cvnWWs&feature=emb\\_err\\_watch\\_on\\_yt-Vitural](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiqE2cvnWWs&feature=emb_err_watch_on_yt-Vitural) Guest speaker: Comic Strip

Writer Jim Kraft

<https://garfield.com/an-interview-with-jim-davis-> Interview with Jim Davis (Creator of Garfield)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bjb05OurpBc-> Stan Lee: Advice for Comic Writers and other Artists

<http://www.robertsirabian.com/notes/202/TypesofTransitionsBetweenPanels.pdf>- Types of transitions between panels

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Free-Download-Comic-Strip-Template-Pages-for-Creative-Assignments-149469#> -Comic strip template pages

Steps: (Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step.)

**Step 1: Delve into the world of comics.** Get to know the art form in one of these fun ways.

**Choices-Do one:**

- **Collect comic strips from the paper (or online) for one week.** Choose a comic strip that you like. (Example: Garfield, Peanuts, Marmaduke) Read it each day, paying attention to how all the elements work together. Keep track of what you like and don't like, how artists show feelings and actions, and how they work timing to make punch lines great.
- **Visit with a comic artist.** Read autobiographical information about three artists in books or online. How do their styles differ? Which was your favorite and why?
- **Make Sticky-note comics.** Get the hang of comic stories by drawing one of these on a sticky note (rough sketching)
  - A dog floating on a raft
  - A hawk diving
  - A girl at bat

Take another sticky note and add:

- The cat that's swimming past the dog
- The prey the hawk is diving for
- The ball the girl is trying to hit.

Now, take a third sticky note and add another element to each panel:

- Another cat chasing the first cat that's swimming past the dog
- A larger hawk after the prey the hawk is diving for
- The catcher waiting for the ball the girl is trying to hit

Now, imagine how these could be turned into a comic strip story. Then make up a story.

**Step 2: Choose a story to tell.** At heart, comics are another method of storytelling. If you've got comic characters in mind already (people or animals you doodle in notebooks, perhaps?), let those inspire your story. If not, the story you come up with will lead you to your characters. Keep your story simple-it might even be one quick moment! In the next steps, you'll turn this story into a four-panel comic.

**Choices-Do one:**

- **Think of a story from your life.** Choose something that happened to you, a friend, or a family member. It could be a funny moment or a dramatic one, a favorite memory or an activity from Girl Scouts you want to share.
- **Think of story from a book or movie.** Have you seen a movie or read a book recently that had a part in it that you could turn into a comic strip?
- **Make something up.** Think about the comic books, comic strips, or graphic novels you've liked. Now think of your own made-up story that would make a good comic tale.

**Step 3: Draw it out.** Take the characters in your story and start some rough sketching. (You may have only one character, depending on your story.) Stick figures are great! Bring them to life one of these ways.

**Choices-Do one:**

- **Use tracing paper.** Find a comic strip with a style you love. Trace 10 or 12 panels, paying attention to the forms beneath the drawings, the simple shapes the artist likely started with. Now see if you can draw each character in your story in a similar fashion.
- **Do a "free draw".** Get a big stack of scrap paper and just keep drawing. And drawing. And drawing! Move quickly at first. Refine any details as you go until you feel you have characters worked out.
- **Use a how-to book, video or software.** Are your characters people, animals or both? Find one of the many manuals, such as the Marvel comics software, that give step-by-step instructions on drawing humans and particular animals.

**Step 4: Frame it in four panels.** It's time to put your characters into action, and that means framing them-drawing them in little boxes called panels. So, imagine your story as characters in a series of actions. Create panels with sticky notes or by using a ruler to draw them on paper. Tell your story from step 2 by placing your characters into four panels in one of these ways.

**Choices-Do one:**

- **Use facial expressions.** Some comics use only faces to illustrate their stories, simply changing the expressions to show emotion and move the story along.
- **Use body postures.** For some comic artists-and for some stories-it's more about action than emotion. You can leave the faces pretty much the same and move the story along by showing small movements, such as shrugs, and big actions, such as running and leaping.
- **Use both facial expressions and body posture.** Illustrate movement and emotion using both techniques. Many artists will switch from one style to the other: One panel might show a ball falling on a girl's head, and the next panel might show a close-up of her face as she reacts.

**Step 5: Add the words.** Yes, there are comics out there with no 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 in one of these ways.

**Choices-Do one:**

- **Add some dialogue.** If you have more than one character, a classic way to tell your story is through dialogue. If both characters speak in a panel, the one on the left should speak first. Write your character's words in oval conversation bubbles connected to the character with a fine line.
- **Add thought bubbles.** If your story revolves around one character, have her "speak" in thought bubbles, putting the words in ovals connected to her with tiny bubble circles.
- **Run a narrative in separate boxes below the panels.** Instead of telling your story through dialogue or inner thoughts, you can write a running third-person narrative at the bottom of each panel.

**\*Once completed, this badge can be purchased at the Girl Scout shop for \$3.00 at:**

<https://www.girlscoutshop.com/CADETTE-COMIC-ARTIST-BADGE>

**\*Be sure to fill out your [Virtual Badge Completion Survey!](#)**