

LESSON PLAN 77 : CREATE A COMIC STRIP

Objective: Make a comic strip or comic book using the Marvel Superhero Squad

Age range: 8-14



The daring stories of Iron Man, Wolverine, Hulk, Captain America, and Silver Surfer have entertained us for decades. Originally created by Marvel, here's your chance to get your class creating their own stories using these famous characters.



ABOUT THE SUPER HERO SQUAD WEBSITE

Part of the Marvel Entertainment company, the site's aim is to "entertain and educate using Marvel Super Hero Squad's library of cartoon characters". It's been designed with children in mind, so is a kid-friendly environment.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Art, graphic design, presentation, literacy, storytelling.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer, internet access, and printer.

METHOD

1. Introduce to your class the concept of comic strips and comic books. Talk about cartoons and how they can be used to communicate messages.
2. See how many Marvel Super Hero characters they know. (There are some videos on the site that you can use to show them in action.)
3. Explain how you're going to create your very own comics using Marvel characters.
4. Go to superherosquad.marvel.com/create_your_own_comic



5. Choose either 'Create a Comic Strip' (for producing a quick one to three-panel strip) or 'Create a Comic Book' (for a one to 22-page comic).



6. Whichever one you go for, you'll be asked to choose a style, and then the text and elements (backgrounds, objects, dialogue boxes and characters) that can all be simply dragged and dropped into place, and resized as required to create your story.



7. Have a play – it really is very easy to use – and once you've learned how to do it and the options that are available, ask your students to come up with a story that they want to create. This could be done on the fly in the program itself. However, you may want to use it as a writing/creative exercise in class, and then go to the site when the story is ready – and get creating.
8. Download as a PDF and/or print your comic creation.



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