

DRAWING CARTOONS AND COMICS



Go to your public, school, and classroom libraries and check your home for any books about cartooning. Collect all the different materials you can on this topic and bring them to school. Read and research all you can about cartooning. Keep a bibliography on all the books you read and record them on your "Creating Cartoons" chart.

Cartoonists draw five major kinds of cartoons:

- Editorial or political
- Comic strip, panels, and comic books
- Gag or magazine
- Illustrative and advertising
- Animated

Tell about each type and provide examples of the first four types cut from newspapers, magazines, and other sources.

Collect 10 examples of editorial cartoons from the newspaper. Pick at least 5 of them and explain (in writing) each one's meaning and relevancy to current events.

Find out how a cartoonist creates a cartoon. Include how a cartoonist gets his/her ideas, develops those ideas and produces the finished cartoon. How is the cartoon or comic strip distributed? How will you show what you have learned?

Try to interview a cartoonist. Prepare at least ten questions in advance for your interview.

Research the history of comic art/cartooning. Make a timeline showing at least 10 significant dates.

Do comics/cartoons affect the times in which they are created or do the times affect the cartoons? Explain and give at least 5 examples.

Pick two cartoonists and research them and their lives. Tell about their training, their influences, and how they influenced the times in which they lived. Here are some ideas, but you should also pursue your own:

Bill Watterson
Dr. Seuss

Charles Schultz
James Thurber

Al Capp
Walt Disney

Read Chapter 1 in *Made in America* by Suid and Harris. Create a comic without drawing as outlined on pages 30-33.

Try your own hand at cartooning. Keep a cartooning sketchbook. Feel free to doodle and experiment. Date your entries. A helpful book is *Cartooning: the Head and Figure*.

Draw a week's worth of an original comic strip or cartoon. This final assignment should reflect all that you have learned about drawing, dialogue, comic plot and characterization.

