



CLIMATE

One WORLD

Comics session: leader's notes

Learning objectives

By the end of this session young people will:

- understand how and why *Grassroots comics* are used for campaigning around the world.
- have the opportunity to make a comic to campaign on an issue that is important to them (for example, climate change).

Target age

11-16

Time

60+ minutes

Curriculum links

See page 7 of *One Climate, One World Action guide for young people*.

Note

One Climate, One World – OCOW.

This session explores comic-drawing as a way to campaign on any issue. Students need to be familiar with the particular issue in order to use this method. If your young people wish to use comic-drawing to advocate on climate change, please first use our *OCOW Campaign session* at cafod.org.uk/secondary/climate to explore this issue with your group.

You will need:

- PowerPoint and projector or appropriate PowerPoint pages printed out and copied
- pencils
- black ink pens
- scrap paper
- comic templates (PowerPoint slide 13) copied onto A3 paper – enough for one template per person or pair.

Background:

Grassroots comics can be made by anyone – you do not have to be professional cartoonist. They each address one social issue and are distributed in a local area to encourage debate. *Grassroots comics* are inexpensive and easy to make, you just need pen and paper. The Grassroots Comics Movement was started by cartoonists, development journalists and activists looking to use their skills to help improve society. This method is now used all over the world. For more information, visit worldcomicsindia.com

cafod.org.uk/secondary/climate

CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.

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Just one world

Icebreaker *What's on your face?* (10 mins)

This icebreaker introduces young people to drawing faces for comics.

- Show the PowerPoint slide two, or demonstrate, drawing a face with a circle and T shape.
- Divide the group into pairs or small groups. Give one person in each group a piece of scrap paper and pencil. Tell the others to close their eyes.
- Quickly show the people with the paper and pencil the word 'happy', then take the word down. The person then draws a happy face using the circle and T shape. The rest of the group guesses what emotion they are drawing. Give a point to the team to guess the correct emotion first.
- Young people take turns to be the person drawing. Other emotions to draw could be 'worried', 'confused', 'angry', 'relaxed' etc. Congratulate the winning team.

Drawing faces

- You can draw a face with just the letters O and T.
- Keep the O the same, then change the position of the T to give different expressions.
- Plan the faces of the characters in your story. Add moustaches or hair styles so that each character is recognisable.



Icebreaker *What's on your face?*



Input *World Comics* (10+ mins)

This input explains how comic drawing can be used to campaign and why it works.

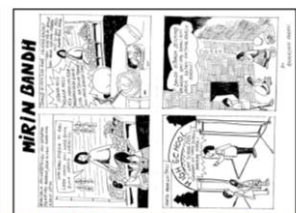
Explain that campaigning means getting your voice heard on important issues and calling for positive change. Comic drawing has been used by CAFOD partners in Sri Lanka.

Input *World Comics*

- A way to campaign.
- Used by CAFOD partners in Sri Lanka.
- Look at a comic, what message is the artist trying to get across?
- What are the benefits of putting your message across through a comic?
- What are the drawbacks?



Stick up the five example comics (PowerPoint slides five to nine) around the room (or give one to each pair of young people). Ask them to look at the comics and work out what message the artist is aiming to get across. As a group, gather feedback on each comic and share the message for each comic if the young people have not identified the correct message themselves.



To explore this campaigning method more deeply, you could ask the group, what are the benefits of getting your message across through a comic? What are the drawbacks? Do this either through group or pair discussion, or give each young person two post-it notes. Ask the young people to write a benefit on one and a drawback on the other, and come and stick them up at the front and read what others have written.

Benefits may include: easy to do; not expensive; anyone can do it – don't need to be powerful or be able to read and write; inexpensive to produce; fun to look at or they make people think. Drawbacks may include: not everyone is happy drawing or other mediums may be more useful in getting your point across in some places.

Explain the benefits of using comics in Sri Lanka. For example: they are a good way to reach people who cannot read and write; a way for people to enable their priorities to be heard by local government; children and young people enjoyed making them on issues important to them and there have been exhibitions of comics at important meetings.

Individual or pair work *What's the story?* (15+ mins)

In this section young people will decide on the story they will tell through their comic. For example, they may want to tell a story about how climate change affects them, or others around the world, in order to influence politicians to take action.

What's the story?

- It should have a message to get across.
- Choose a theme, a specific area of the theme and a target audience.
- It should have four parts: an introduction, development, a twist and a conclusion.
- It should be between 4 and 9 sentences long.
- For example: My story is on the theme of climate change. It will show the benefits of sustainable energy for a community overseas to persuade politicians solar power is useful and we should use more of it. It is based on Veronica's story from the *One Climate, One World Action guide for young people*.

If the focus of your session is to tell a story on the theme of climate change or sustainable energy, then pick a particular aspect of this theme. For example:

- The effect of climate change on a particular community.
- The benefits of sustainable energy for a particular community.
- How living more simply and sustainably makes a difference to looking after our world.
- How politicians need to take the opportunity now to come to a global agreement on climate change.

Once they have decided on a topic, ask the young people to make their topic into a short story. It should have four parts:

1. introduction
2. development,
3. twist
4. conclusion.

The story should be between four and nine sentences long.

For example: My story is on the theme of climate change. It will show the benefits of sustainable energy for a community overseas in order to persuade politicians that sustainable energy is useful and we should use more of it. It is based on Veronica's story (*OCOW Action guide for young people*, page 2).

Example story

1. Veronica lives on a farm in a beautiful area of rural Kenya with lots of sunshine.
2. She wants to be successful when she grows up, so she studies hard at school.
3. But there is no electricity in her area, so she cannot see her books to do her homework in the evening.
4. She won a solar lantern at school, for doing well at school. This means she can now study in the evening. She is pleased as she has some big exams coming up so she will be fully prepared.

1. Veronica lives on a farm in a beautiful area of rural Kenya with lots of sunshine.
2. She wants to be a successful when she grows up so she studies hard at school.
3. But there is no electricity in her area, so she cannot see her books to do her homework in the evening.
4. Because she is hardworking, she won a solar lantern at school, which means she can now study in the evening. She is pleased as she has some big exams coming up so she will be fully prepared.

Individual/pair work Make a comic (30+ minutes)

In this section, young people create their own comic on a climate change or sustainable energy theme.

Share PowerPoint slides 14-16 on how to create a comic. Provide copies of the comic template on PowerPoint slide 13 copied onto A3 paper for each person/pair. Then give the following instructions:

- Plan what your characters look like on scrap paper.
- Draw your cartoon in pencil in the comic template. The template should be used in the portrait direction.
- Add in speech bubbles or captions.
- Check you are happy with your story, go over the pencil lines in ink and rub out the pencil when the ink is dry.
- Add a catchy title.

Give the group the chance to share their comics with each other.

Plan your panels

Draw your characters in the bottom of the panel and their speech in the top.

Comics are read from left to right and from up to down.

Use foreground and background features to add detail to the story.



Drawing bodies

A body is equivalent to the height of seven heads.

Try drawing a body in different postures, maybe ask someone to act out the posture so you can draw them.

Add clothes to make a complete body.

Try adding distinctive characteristics such as a hat so each character is recognisable.



Speech balloons

Use different types of balloons for:

• normal speech

• thinking

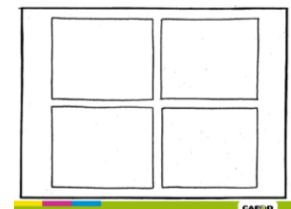
• shouting

• whispering

• crowds.

Put the balloon for the person speaking first at the top of the panel.

Write in capital letters.



Follow up Share your comics

Facilitate the group to work out how they will display their comics with maximum impact. You could:

- hold an exhibition in your school or parish.
- email a copy to your local parliamentary candidates, if climate change is your chosen theme, so they know you want them to work for an agreement on climate change. Remember, CAFOD does not seek to influence voters for or against a particular political party, candidate or category of candidates.
- take photos of any comics on a climate change theme and share them through social media, tagging **@cafod #OneClimateOneWorld**.

Follow up Share your comics

You need to share your comics to get your message out there! You could:

• Hold an exhibition in your school or parish.

• If your chosen theme was climate change, email a copy to your local parliamentary candidates so they know you want them to work for an agreement on climate change.

• Take photos of any comics on a climate change theme and share them through social media, tagging @CAFOD #OneClimateOneWorld.

• Evaluate the impact of your comics.





- send photos of them to CAFOD to share on our website education@cafod.org.uk, making sure you have the correct permissions.

Finally, help the group to evaluate what difference sharing their comics have made.

What can we do next?

- If your chosen theme was climate change, encourage young people to send an online message to party leaders calling for action to stop climate change pushing people deeper into poverty – cafod.org.uk/greatgeneration
- Encourage young people to live more simply and sustainably. Find ideas in the *OCOW Action guide for young people*.
- If you are working with a sixth form group, you could invite them to become regular MP correspondents and sign up to contact their MPs three times a year. A briefing pack and sign up form are available at cafod.org.uk/mpc
- Download lots of free resources to engage young people in the climate campaign at cafod.org.uk/secondary/climate

Note

We thank World Comics India for allowing us to share and adapt their *Grassroots comics* advocacy method for this session. Find out more about World Comics India and download a detailed comic-making guide at worldcomicsindia.com

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