



FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

Stan Lee: A Life in Comics

Make a Family History Comic

Every family has a great story to tell. Take inspiration from Stan Lee and recast your own family history as a superhero comic book. Family histories are filled with real-life superheroes.



First, gather stories. Interview older family members about your family history. Have folks moved across the globe? Across the country? Who has tried to learn a new language or start a new business? Even a small anecdote can make a great comic book.

Now create your characters. Draw each one and list some of their personality traits and backstories. Keep the drawings simple enough so you can re-create them again and again. Draw several versions of each character with different expressions each time.

Superheroes often have recognizable props. Did Aunt Hannah make the best pies? Draw her in an apron, holding a magic rolling pin. Did Cousin David love animals? Draw him with a flying puppy, putting them in matching capes. Did Grandpa Charlie play golf? Perhaps he has supersized golf balls that can defeat villains. You get the idea!

Next, it's time to outline the story. Where does your story begin? ("About a hundred years ago, Aunt Hannah had a pie bakery.") What was the conflict? ("She delivered her pies by donkey and wagon, but one day the donkey refused to move.") How did your superheroes — er, family members — cope with it? ("Cousin David's puppy scared the donkey into moving, but he ran so

fast, that all the pies fell off the wagon!") How does your story resolve? ("That's when Grandpa Charlie finally bought a Model T.")

Write your script with notes about what you will draw, in each frame. If you use our template on the next page, keep in mind the number of panels you will need. You can also create your own panels. (Remember that comics can be shown rather than told. Keep the dialogue short enough to fit in speech bubbles or keep your print small!)

Now start drawing! You can draw directly in the template, if you're using it. Use pencil so you can make changes as you go. Once the drawings are the way you want them, color them.

When your story is complete, make photocopies that you can staple together and distribute to family and friends. You can also scan it and send it out via email.

If you are not using a template, consider drawing each frame on separate pieces of paper. That way you can swap out frames or redo them if you decide to change them later.

Share your comic book far and wide — and start working on your characters' next story!

