

ScienceNews

Activity Guide for Students: Telling Science Stories With Comics

Directions:

Before beginning this activity, read the *Science News for Students* graphic tale "[How bees play telephone to form a swarm](#)." During the first class period, you will analyze the tale using the first set of questions below. Then, in a small group, you will search for a *Science News* or *Science News for Students* article to adapt into a graphic tale. During the second class period, your group will plan and create the graphic tale using the second set of questions below.

Analyzing graphic tales

1. What is the graphic tale's main takeaway?
2. What aspects of the graphic tale make it engaging? Consider medium, art style, characters, literary devices and story block narratives.
3. What STEM concepts were covered in the graphic tale?
4. How does the information conveyed in the graphic tale reflect experimental or engineering design?
5. Brainstorm STEM topics that you think would be easy to convey in a graphic tale. Examples include new scientific discoveries or theories, changes in an existing engineering design or new information that could change ideas about a common science topic.
6. In a small group, search the *Science News* or *Science News for Students* archive for an article about a topic of the group's choice. Read and write a summary of the article for homework to be turned in during the next class period.

Plan your own graphic tale

1. What article will the graphic tale be based on?
2. Who is doing each task to create the graphic tale? Possible tasks include scripting, making the storyboard and finding or doing the illustrations.
3. What is the graphic tale's main takeaway?
4. What pieces of information are you focusing on from the source article?
5. How are you going to convey that information in a captivating manner?
6. What literary devices do you intend to use?
7. What characters are you going to create?
8. What STEM field will the graphic tale cover?
9. What topic within that field will the graphic tale is being covered?
10. What experimental or engineering design concepts will your graphic tale include?

11. Use the storyboard template provided by your teacher to make a rough draft of your graphic tale. Include as many panels as necessary to make the tale engaging. If your group uses images created by someone else, please include a list of citations. Any unfinished tasks should be completed as homework, along with the creation of the final version of the graphic tale. Turn in the graphic tale planning worksheet and storyboard along with the final graphic tale. In addition, briefly describe in writing your own efforts and those of your fellow group members.

