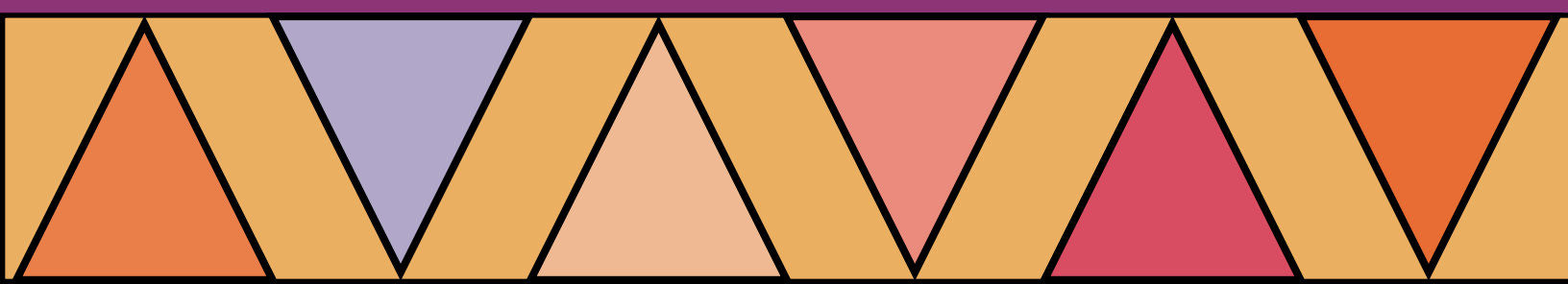




Northern Ontario

**FIRST
NATION
GRAPHIC
NOVEL
COLLECTIVE**

DISCUSSION | ACTIVITY GUIDE



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Northern Ontario First Nation Graphic Novel Collective Discussion | Activity Guide is an electronic resource for librarians and patrons to engage with *Marvel's Voices: Indigenous Voices #1*. Each section of this guide corresponds with the following stories:

Page 2	"The Watcher" Jeffrey Veregge
Pages 3-4	"Echo: Hitting Back" Rebecca Roanhorse & Weshoyot Alvitre
Pages 5-6	"Mirage: Multifaceted" Darcie Little Badger & Kyle Charles
Pages 7-8	"Silver Fox: Blue Moon" Stephen Graham Jones & David J. Cutler

PROGRAM GOALS

- Highlight Indigenous graphic novel storytellers and artists.
- Build literacy confidence to encourage life-long learning through on-reserve public libraries.
- Celebrate Indigenous heritage.
- Encourage storytelling and art.
- Promote community engagement and pride.

FACILITATOR STEPS

1. Libraries receive 10 copies of *Marvel's Voices: Indigenous Voices #1*.
2. Libraries use existing Facebook accounts, or seek permissions to set up a library Facebook account to engage with patrons. (See *First Nation Libraries and Facebook: Simple Tips and Tricks to Maximize Outreach* via LearnHQ).
3. Librarians introduce *Marvel's Voices: Indigenous Voices #1* to patrons and distribute the copies to interested participants.
4. Librarians share the hyperlinks found in this Facilitator Guide to patrons via Facebook as they see fit. Librarians may share or email this entire PDF document to participants.
5. Librarians facilitate the "Making Comics @ Home" program (pp. 9-12) which includes hosting online discussions and group storytelling sessions as they see fit through social media or Zoom.
6. Librarians share "Artist Videos" on social media to engage participants (pp. 13-14).
7. Librarians collect "Making Comics @ Home" images from participants and send to Ontario Library Service for editing (see instructions on pp. 12).



Photo by Morgan Veregge.

"The Watcher"

Jeffrey Veregge
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

After Reading "The Watcher"

- Find out more about the original character by viewing Who is The Watcher? (via Marvel).
- Who are the community leaders from your First Nation? What are their special skills, and how do they uplift people in times of need?

About the Artist

- Check out Jeffrey Veregge's website!

About Their Community

- Check out the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe website.
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has a skatepark! Watch Sheckler Foundation Be The Change project skatepark project (2012) to learn more.

Digging Deeper

- Watch This Artist Is Bringing Native American Representation To Comic Books (HuffPost).
- Watch Local artist reimagines Marvel superheroes in traditional Native American style - KING 5 Evening.
- Skip to 29:00 to hear Jeffrey answer – What Are Some Words of Wisdom for People Starting Out in Your Field?
- Read S'Klallam artist Jeffrey Veregge gifts mural to Kingston High School (Kitsap Daily News). If you got a chance to do a mural for your high school, what imagery would you use?



GoodReads.com

“Echo: Hitting Back”

Rebecca Roanhorse

After Reading “Echo: Hitting Back”

- Find out more about the original character by reading Meet Echo, Maya Lopez aka the Original Ronin BY EMILY KIMURA (via Marvel)
- What communities stories fall into the supernatural category?

About the Writer

- Check out Rebecca Roanhorse’s website!

Digging Deeper

- Skip to 27:20 to hear Rebecca Roanhorse talk about her writing process and using Indigenous languages – “Author Storytelling” Comic Con 2020
- CBC Day 6 – interview with Rebecca Roanhorse “Marvel’s newest collaboration features Indigenous voices writing Indigenous characters”
- “The Sci-Fi Author Reimagining Native History As Rebecca Roanhorse’s work has been praised in the literary world, it’s drawn criticism in some circles.” By Lila Shapiro (VULTURE)



Marvel.Fandom.com

“Echo: Hitting Back”

Weshoyot Alvitre

**Tongva (Los Angeles Basin)
and Scottish**

After Reading “Echo: Hitting Back”

- Watch “How to Draw ECHO w/ Weshoyot Alvitre!” (Marvel Live!)

About the Artist

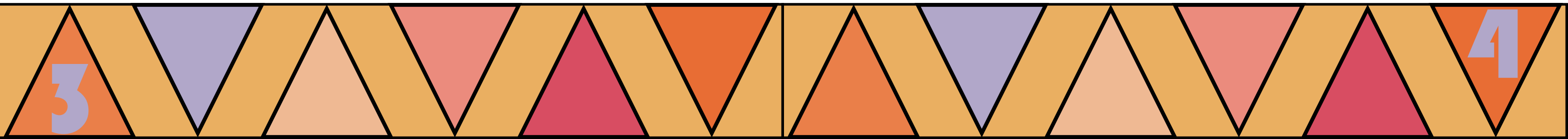
- Check out Weshoyot Alvitre’s website!

About Their Community

- Learn more about the Tongva Tribe by watching Native Narratives: Tongva Traditions
- Welcome to Tongvaland by Pamela J. Peters (Navajo)

Digging Deeper

- Watch “Indigenous Comic Con (Indige-Con) 2018 Women in the Biz”
- Watch “This comic book illustrator is giving voice to Native American history” (Beautiful News)





DarcieLittleBadger.wordpress.com

“Mirage: Multifaceted”

Darcie Little Badger
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas

After Reading “Mirage: Multifaceted”

- Read Darcie Little Badger on Dani Moonstar: “Like All Native Folks, She’s Many Things Simultaneously” (via Marvel)
- Who is a multi-talented person from your community?

About the Writer

- Visit Darcie Little Badger’s website!

About Their Community

- Visit Lipan Apache Tribe - Museum and Cultural Center
- PBS interviews Lipan Apache Band of Texas students and scholar Margo Tamez

Digging Deeper

- Watch Spotlight on Darcie Little Badger | Comic-Con@Home 2020



TrueNorthCountryComics.com

“Mirage: Multifaceted”

Kyle Charles
Cree from Whitefish Lake
First Nation (Alberta)

After Reading “Mirage: Multifaceted”

- Listen to “Edmonton artist featured in Marvel’s Indigenous Voices issue” (CBC)

About the Artist

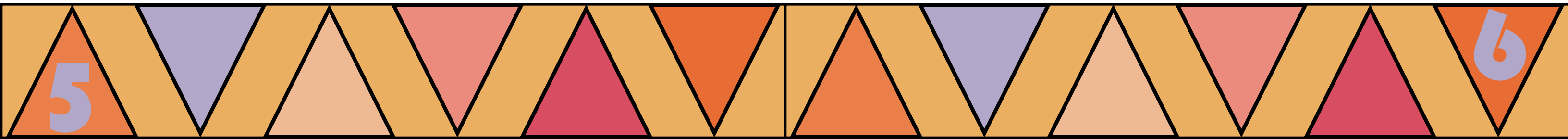
- Check out Kyle Charles’s online portfolio!

About Their Community

- Visit the Whitefish Lake First Nation 459 website
- Learn about Wahkohtowin: Cree Natural Law

Digging Deeper

- Watch “From homeless to famous: Edmonton artist signs on with Marvel Comics” (CTV Edmonton)
- Listen to “In Conversation With Kyle Charles” (TrueNorthCountryComics)





Colorado.edu

“Silver Fox: Blue Moon”

Stephen Graham Jones
Blackfoot Nation

After Reading “Silver Fox: Blue Moon”

- Read Who is Silver Fox? (via Marvel)
- What historical event has happened in your territory?

About the Writer

- Visit Stephen Graham Jones’ blog!

About Their Community

- Watch “Blackfeet Stories: History, Culture, Ceremony, and Language” (Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian)

Digging Deeper

- Video - “Ten Questions With... Stephen Graham Jones” (The Westport Library)
- Interview (audio) - In His New Book, Stephen Graham Jones Explores The Idea Of ‘Good Indians’ (NPR)
- Video/Lecture - “Being Indian is Not a Superpower: Distinguished Professor Lecture by Stephen Graham Jones”
- Article/Interview – “Marvel’s Silver Fox returns, thanks to Stephen Graham Jones for Indigenous Voices” By Chris Arrant (GamesRadar.com)
- Interview With Stephen Graham Jones by Travis Hedge Coke (Comic Watch)
- Short Story - “The Night Cyclist” by Stephen Graham Jones (Tor.com)
- Short Story - “Wait for Night” Stephen Graham Jones (Tor.com)
- Short Story - “Chapter Six” Stephen Graham Jones (Tor.com)



DavidJCutlerArt.com

“Silver Fox: Blue Moon”

David J. Cutler
Qalipu Mi’kmaq First Nation

About the Artist

- Visit David J. Cutler’s website!

About Their Community

- Qalipu Mi’kmaq First Nation website
- Land & Sea: The Mi’kmaq journey (CBC)

Digging Deeper

- Visit David J. Cutler’s digital portfolio (TumblrArt)
- Visit David J. Cutler digital portfolio (DeviantArt)

MAKING COMICS @ HOME

Group or Independent Activity

What you'll need:

- Your Story/Idea.
- A general outline of the dialogue your characters will be saying.
- A camera or cellphone.
- A friend to take photos of you acting out your story.
- Markers, paper or cardboard.

Step One - Writing the Storyline

1. As a group or individually, think of a story or topic. The story can be simple, complex, or somewhere in between. You can create an individual storyline or contribute as a group for one main storyline. The example below is a simple and funny fictitious story that put emphasis on imagery rather than dialogue.

EXAMPLE: Story/Topic – A young kwe (woman) is walking in the bush and notices something in the sky. As she looks up, a bright light comes down and shines on her. In very short time, her tummy begins to grow. Next thing she knows, a new little relative is born into the world! What will their first adventure be?

Other Stories/Ideas: A funny hunting or fishing trip, being broken down in the bush, hearing an unknown noise in the woods, stories about lakes and waterways, or classic stories from the community. Or invite Elders to storytelling groups to get new ideas!

Step Two - Preparing Scenes

1. As a group or individually, plan out how many images your storyline requires. Watch the video below to learn about sequential art. Using the comic cells template, sketch out your scenes to determine the length of the comic.

Learn about “sequential art” by watching this video featuring Will Eisner -- What is sequential art? (4 minutes, 22 seconds)

Now that you have a general understanding of sequential art, decide whether your Story/Topic can fit into 4 images, 6 images, or 9 images.

- Fast-paced panel storyline = 4-6 panels per page
- Slow paced panel storyline = 9 panels per page

MAKING COMICS @ HOME

Group or Independent Activity

Step Three - Preparing Dialog

1. Using the tips below, start preparing your dialogue. Remember the poses in Step Four will also convey your story/message. In this step, you can get creative and use paper or cardboard to create dialogue boxes.

- How much textual storytelling is needed?
- Can you find a way to make the imagery tell the story?
- Do you want to translate the dialogue into an Indigenous language?

TIPS:

- Not every panel benefits from having a balloon bubble or narration box.
- There should only be three narration bubbles per box.
- Each narration bubble should have less than 30 words.

EXAMPLE: Kwe says “what’s that?” as she points to the sky. The little relative says “aanii” when they appear. A narration box asks, “what will their first adventure be?”

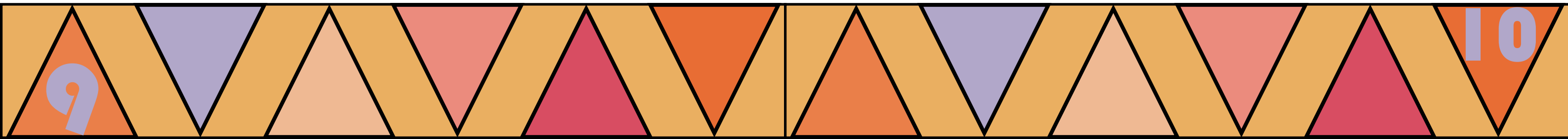
Step Four - Capturing Images

1. Rather than drawing the comic cells, you will be using a cellphone or camera to capture the story. With a friend/family member or individually, start taking photos of someone/people acting out your storyline. Remember to leave enough room around the actors to include dialogue bubbles.

TIPS:

- Think about what Will Eisner said – what frames, poses, or body language are most important to convey a story and emotion?
- Comics offer a rare opportunity to illustrate a story much easier than a written or oral story. Here is a quote from Stephen Graham Jones (Blackfoot Tribe) on the magic of comic books:

“Comic books aren’t illustrated fiction, and they’re not colored storyboards for movies. The medium of the comic book is its own unique, amazing thing, and, when done right, it accomplishes things that neither fiction nor film can touch.” – Stephen Graham Jones, Oct. 20, 2020



MAKING COMICS @ HOME

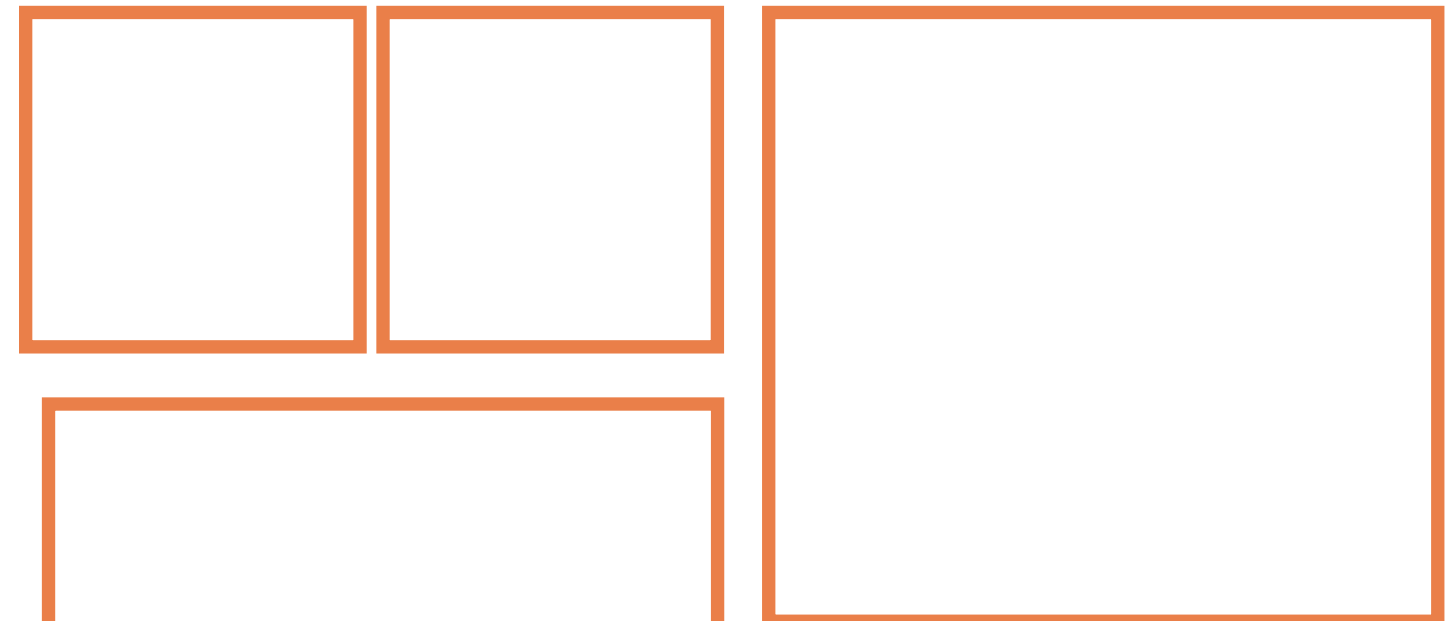
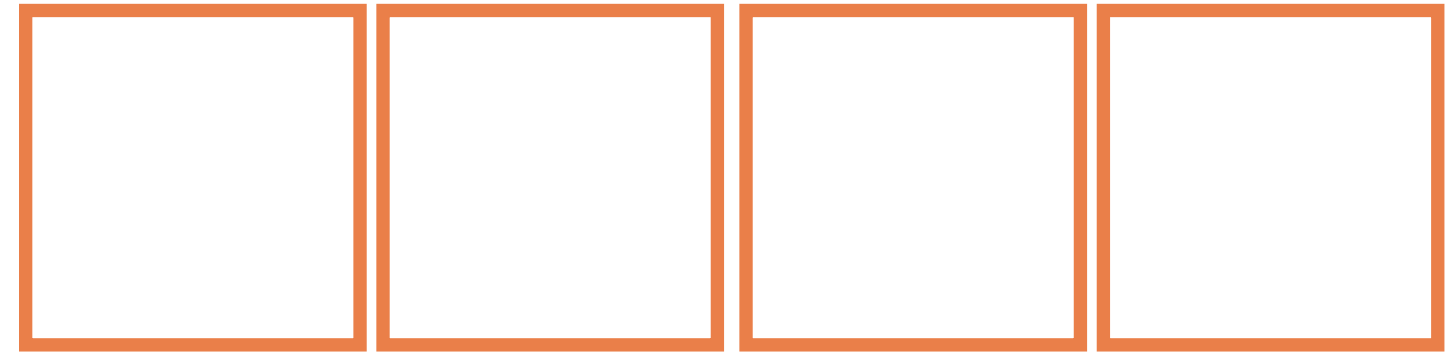
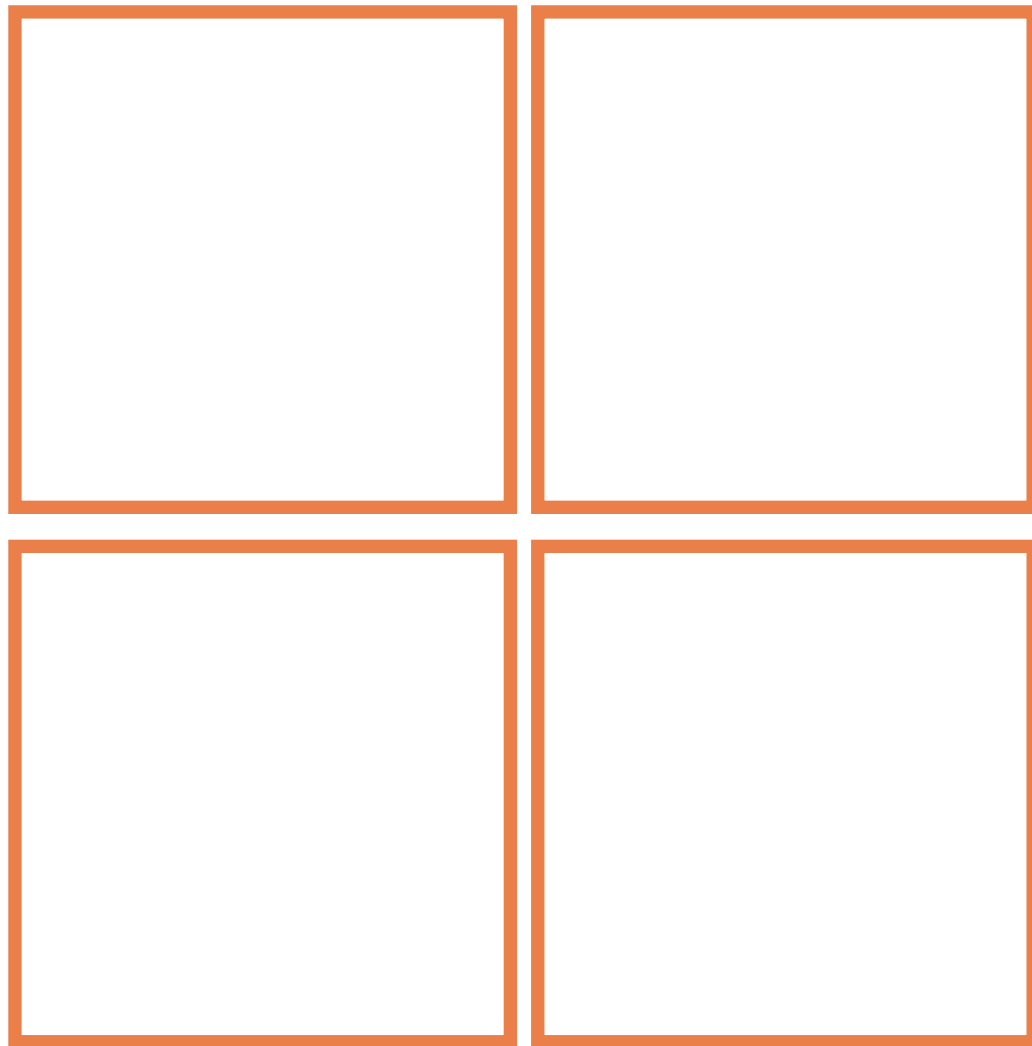
Group or Independent Activity

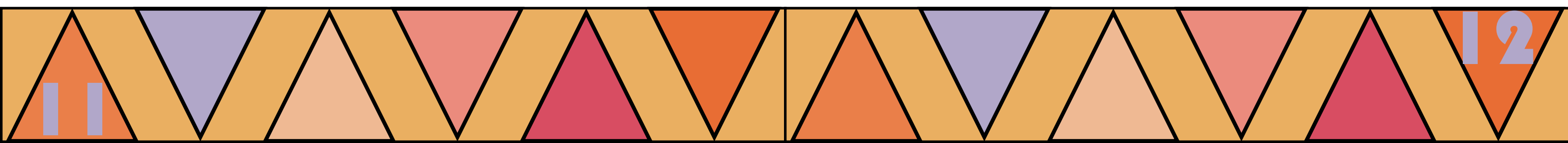
COMIC TEMPLATE

Step Five - Submitting Images

1. Once you are satisfied with your images and storyline, send them to your local librarian. The librarian will send them off for final editing and they will be returned to you as a comic strip. You can let the librarian know if it is okay for them to share on social media or with other libraries. **It's okay to not want to share your comic strips with the public.**

KWE MINWAA BINOJIIAS







Waltowallwpg.com/portfolio/cedar-eve/

CLOSER TO HOME LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Cedar Eve
Saugeen First Nation

About the Artist

Cedar Eve is an Anishinaabae (Ojibway) artist from Saugeen First Nation and Wiikwemikoong First Nation, but was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. In 2012 she earned a BFA in Studio Arts, with a focus on drawing and painting at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. Cedar is a full time artist, working as both a muralist and a maker of beaded jewellery. During the school year she works with Indigenous youth in Cree communities throughout Northern Quebec.

About Their Community

- Saugeen First Nation website
- Cultural Revival of Saugeen First Nation (The Agenda with Steve Paikin)



**Watch Cedar
Eve talk about...**



Alchetron.com/Jay-Odjick

CLOSER TO HOME LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Jay Odjick
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

About the Artist

Jay is an artist, writer and television producer from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabe community in Quebec. In comics, Jay has worked for several independent publishers and created the web comic POWER HOUR for Kevin Smith's Movie Poop Shoot site and also wrote and illustrated the graphic novel KAGAGI: The Raven, published by Arcana Comics. More recently, Jay has also served as an Executive Producer, lead writer and designer on the animated series adaptation, Kagagi on APTN. In addition to his work in these fields, Jay is an activist, speaker and has worked in other creative endeavours such as children's book illustrations, having illustrated seven books published for the first time in Ojibwe, written by author Robert Munsch.

About Their Community

- Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg website / virtual tour.



**Watch Jay Odjick
talk about...**

Further Exploration

Indigenous Graphic Novel Community

- The Maziibiige Indigenous Graphic Novel Collection: HomeComics (University of Manitoba)
- Red Man Laughing - The Indigenous Comic Books Roundtable
- HOW DO GRAPHIC NOVELS GET MADE? THE MAKING OF "NORTHWEST RESISTANCE" (Portage & Main Press)
- IndigiPop X Festival (Albuquerque, New Mexico).
- "How comics change mainstream narratives about Native Americans (PBS)"
- Skip to 9:14 to hear Chag Lowry speak about creating comic books in a respectful way - Reclaiming Indigenous History and Culture Through Comics (Comic-Con@Home 2020)
- Skip to 25:27 to hear Chag Lowry give some words of encouragement for native people pursuing comic book art - Reclaiming Indigenous History and Culture Through Comics (Comic-Con@Home 2020)

Comic Development

- Borrow "How To Draw Comics The Marvel Way Paperback by Stan Lee, John Buscema" from your library.
- Watch How To Write Short Comics (Jake Parker)
- Watch "Will Eisner: His Life and Legacy, with Danny Fingeroth (The Comics Cube)

Funding | Project Credits



Ontario Library Service – North
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