

A Graphic History

Graphic Storytelling and Comic Creation

INTRODUCTION:

Children will read a short graphic story about Jesse Owens and watch a video about the research, writing and illustrating process for the graphic story. Then children will conduct original research on a figure of their choice and create a short biography about that person in graphic or comic form.

GRADES:

6 through 12

DURATION:

Suggested time: approximately 12 total work-time hours – Total time will vary based on child’s grade level, topic of research and creative process.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Children will understand how to read, interpret and analyze graphic stories and comics as literature or nonfiction works.
- Children will perform historical research using online databases to collect information on a topic, then compile that research into a narrative, graphic-form story.
- Children will interpret and analyze digital primary and secondary sources to identify main ideas and key facts.
- Children will use common comic and graphic story conventions to tell a narrative story.

MATERIALS:

- “The Jesse Owens Story” comic (attached), as featured in the November 2018 issue of *Echoes*, the Ohio History Connection’s publication for members
- Process Guide (attached, optional)
- Computer with internet access
- Panel Outlines (optional) or blank paper
- Felt-tip markers, pens, colored pencils, etc. for illustrating the story

ACTIVITY:

1. Read the comic “The Jesse Owens Story” (attached below), then watch the video [“The Making of ‘The Jesse Owens Story’”](#).
2. Consider a person of historical significance from Ohio. This figure can be someone from the past or currently living. This could also be a family member or someone you know who has a story you want to tell.

TIP: Looking for ideas? Visit OhioHistoryCentral.org and browse by topic to find entries on Ohio’s historical figures that might be of interest to you. You can visit OhioMemory.org and browse subjects. Lastly, check out [this list of Ohio Women of Significance](#) for short

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biographies on important Ohio women. If you want to choose a family member or someone you know, be certain that you have access to primary or secondary sources about them such as photo albums, letters, diaries or oral histories. Check out [our activity on collecting oral histories](#) to guide you in collecting an oral history.

3. Visit [OhioMemory.org](#) to search for primary sources such as diaries, letters or newspaper articles to begin your research. Don't forget to collect photographs, portraits or other images of your figure!
4. Use the attached process guide to help develop your outlines, drafts and illustrations (optional). Be sure to proofread for accuracy. If not using the process guide, be sure to outline the key facts about your figure, then compose a rough draft of the narrative you'd like to tell. Remember that this isn't an essay! You can use bullet points to organize the main points you want to make if you choose not to use the process worksheet. Check out [this handout on comic terminology](#) and [this handout on story structure](#) from the National Association of Comic Art Educators and the Center for Cartoon Studies.
5. Complete a final draft of your comic or graphic story using the panel outlines or your own blank paper.
6. Share your work with us! Tag @OhioHistory on Twitter, @OhioHistoryConnection on Facebook or email us at education@ohiohistory.org.

