



Total time

60 mins

Age range

10-18

CLIMATE COMIC CONTEST

A Workshop for the Class and Community



Subject

Science, Geography, Social Studies, Language Arts, Creative Writing, Art and Drawing

About

Bring the [Climate! Comic! Contest!](#) to the classroom or community! This contest invites students to create and submit a climate-saving superhero (by October 22), for the chance to produce their very own comic! The workshop toolkit walks the class through a climate change lesson plan and a creative superhero-building activity. The top submissions will be voted on worldwide during the UN Climate Conference in November. The winner will work with a professional team to bring their superhero to comic-book life!

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Draw connections between climate change and their daily lives
- Learn and reflect about how human activity impacts climate change and how climate change impacts human well-being
- Creatively synthesize and express a solution to climate change through a superhero and story-arch
- Contribute to a global wide climate comic contest with a chance of co-producing a comic book with UNICEF.

Timeline

October 5 - 22: Superhero submissions open!

November 6 - 17: Global vote on top superheroes!

End of November: Winner announced!

April 22: Climate comic book launch!

Tools included

- Activity worksheet: [Annex 1](#)
- Presentation: A powerpoint including a lesson on climate change and a walk-through of the activity. Want to download and adapt it? Visit [here: Annex 2](#)
- Vocabulary sheet: [Annex 3](#)
- To learn more about the contest, visit [here](#)
- Parental Consent Form: Sample provided, but customize accordingly: [Annex 4](#)

Materials Needed

- Printed activity worksheet
- Writing and drawing materials: pencils, pens, markers, color pencils, etc.
- Video and audio equipment for powerpoint presentation
- Scanning abilities for submissions

Alternative!

If you have access to a computer lab and internet, go eco-friendly with the [online application](#) instead of printing out the worksheet. Students will need to upload their drawing to the online form so drawing materials are still required.

Lesson Preparation

- Print and have students complete Parent consent form ([see Annex 4](#))
- Print copies of the activity for students to do by hand.
- If students are submitting their superheroes through the online application, reserve a computer lab.
- Set up powerpoint with video ([see Annex 2](#)).
- Bring drawing and writing materials.

Want to assign homework?

For secondary students and above: if you want to assign introductory reading as homework before the class session, download any of these:

- [SDG 7: Energy.](#)
- [SDG 12: Consumption and Production.](#)
- [SDG 13: Climate Action.](#)
- [SDG 14: Oceans.](#)
- [SDG 15: Life on Land.](#)

Get the class in the comic spirit

Existing climate comics are available for reading [here!](#)

For younger students, read [Simon Says Save the Climate](#) and for all ages, read [Chakra and Climate Change](#).

More specific books include [Annie Sunbeam and Friends](#) on oceans and [Wild for Life](#) on wildlife preservation.

Submit by 22 October 2017!

In order to make your students' voices heard, submit their superheroes to the contest by **22 October 2017**. The top submissions will be selected, voted on globally on the [comic contest website](#) and the winner will work with a professional team to develop and publish a comic book.

- Scan and email your students' work to engage@unicef.org.
- If your students participated in the workshop online, the form automatically submitted their work.

Key Vocabulary

For full definitions, [see Annex 3](#). Ahead of the lesson, familiarize yourself with these key words or provide your students with the annex definition page

- Sustainable
- Climate Change
- Environmental Degradation
- Atmosphere
- Oxygen
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Consumption
- Energy
- Waste
- Pollution
- Deforestation
- Natural Resources
- Renewable Resource
- Recycling
- Severe weather events
- Droughts
- Typhoon
- Diseases

Important Note

This activity can take place in the classroom but is also designed for workshop facilitation in a flexible setting. Are you a young leader? Host this workshop in your community, on your campus and with your friends 25 years old and under! Anyone can lead a workshop. For the purpose of this plan, participants are called "students."

Special Thanks

This lesson has been produced as a collaboration between the World's Largest Lesson and UNICEF with special thanks to Andrea Karina Burgeno and Gonzalo Rovegno Rocha who designed the activity.

Bring the Climate Comic Contest to the Classroom and Community

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

If each of us is responsible for contributing to climate change, what is in our power to fix it?

STEP 1: Introduce the Climate Comic Contest

3
mins

Beginning the slideshow (Annex 2), share with students the objectives and steps of this activity.

- 1. What are we doing?**
 - We are doing a creative activity to come up with a superhero and storyline to save the climate
 - We'll submit our superheroes to the Climate Comic Contest for a chance to be featured on a global voting platform and if selected, win the opportunity to create a real comic book featuring your superhero
- 2. Why are we participating in the Climate Comic Contest?**
 - To learn more about climate change and creatively think about how we can all take positive action
 - To participate in a global activity that will be shown to the world online and to leaders at the Global Climate Conference (COP 23) and on Earth Day

STEP 2: Introduce the Global Goals

5
mins

- 1.** Present the Sustainable Development Goals by showing students the poster. Describe the work of the United Nations and explain how the world came together to set these 17 goals as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030.
- 2.** In addition show the video introduced by Malala Yousafzai (<https://vimeo.com/138852758>) that sets the scene and introduces the Global Goals in a child friendly way. *The link is embedded in the powerpoint.*

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



STEP 3: Connect Climate Change to Human Activity and Well-Being

5
mins

Using these next slides, walk your students through the diagrams illustrating how human activity contributes to climate change and environmental degradation and how this negatively impacts human well-being.

The desired outcome of this section is to demonstrate how people and planet are interconnected.

This will ultimately provide context as to why and how “superpowers” are needed to take action.

STEP 4: What can we do?

10
mins

Hopefully students will feel inspired to take action once they learn the impacts climate change and environmental degradation have on people and themselves.

Introduce the actions young people can take -- and are already taking by showing this video introduced by Emma Watson (<https://vimeo.com/138852758>). *This video is also embedded in the powerpoint.*

Optional:

There are existing comic books that can be supplemental reading for the class. Try the Chakra the Invincible comic book on climate change which explains the impacts of climate change in different regions of the world.

For younger students, Simon Says Save the Climate, explains the process and impacts of climate change.

REFLECT

Pause here and ask your students to reflect on what they have learned so far. You can use the following prompts

“When I learn about climate change, I feel ____”

“When I think about the actions we can take, I feel ____”

ACTIVITY

STEP 5: Introduce the Activity

10
mins

Pass out the activity worksheet ([Annex 1](#)) and pair the students up.

Show the “Facts” slide and ask students to turn to page one of their worksheets. In groups, students are to choose the climate fact they would most like to solve. Ask them to map out the problems and solutions together.

The problems should address how humans contribute to the problem and how the problem affects humans.

The solutions should focus on how humans can help prevent, reverse or resolve the problem.

STEP 6: Get Creative. Character and Story Development

15
mins

1. Superpower Selection

Individually, have the students turn to page two of the worksheet and think about the superpower they want to use in solving their selected problem.

2. Character Development

Each student will develop their character based on the superpower selected.

The purpose of coming up with their hero's name, origin, nemesis and other characteristics is to inspire details for the next story-line activity.

3. Story Arch

On page three, the students will outline the "adventure" of their superhero that helps solve climate change or an impact of climate change.

They will outline the beginning, middle and end.

1. Beginning: students should explain where and why the problem takes place.

2. Middle: students should introduce their superhero and explain how their hero can solve the problem but who or what the conflict is.

3. End: students should finally portray how the superhero overcomes the problem and how the world now looks.

STEP 7: Draw

10
mins

The drawing on page four is the final creative step to help illustrate their superhero.

If in art class, this is an opportunity to put artistic abilities and techniques to work. For the purpose of the contest, however, criteria for selection is not based on artistic ability but on creativity and concept.

The drawing is a mandatory element of the contest in order to be considered. Don't worry, we love stick figures!

STEP 8: Conclude and Submit

2
mins

Explain to the students that their creations will be submitted to the global [Climate Comic Contest](#).

Ensure their submissions are scanned and sent in to engage@unicef.org. UNICEF will be highlighting the superheroes at the UN Climate Conference (COP 23) in November (6-17) and inviting the world to vote on the top superheroes via the [online platform](#).

The winner will work with a professional team and young comic artist to bring the superhero to comic-book life! The final book will be launched globally and at the United Nations on Earth Day, 22 April 2018.

Follow the Campaign

Share

Post photos or videos of participants working on their superheroes and images of their final products

Vote

Engage your students in the online vote taking place at COP from November 6-17. The campaign website will be live here.

Through the following hashtags you can connect on social media:

#ClimateComic

#WorldsLargestLesson

#TeachSDGs

#GlobalGoals

Tag **UNICEF** and the **World's Largest Lesson**:



@UNICEF

@TheWorldsLargestLesson



@UNICEF

@TheWorldsLesson



@UNICEF

@theworldslesson

CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS



Group
Activity

With a partner, select a fact from the list below that you most want to solve!

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



- Our **energy consumption** is the dominant **contributor** to climate change, accounting for around 60% of total global greenhouse gas emissions
- Only **1/5** of our **energy** is from **renewable sources** such as wind, solar and water power

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



- Our ocean pollution is **poisoning** the fish we eat which nearly half the world relies on
- At the current rate, by 2050, there will be **more plastic** in the ocean **than fish**

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



- We are **polluting water** faster than earth's rivers and lakes can recycle and clean it
- By 2050 we will need nearly **3 planets** worth of **natural resources** to sustain our current **lifestyles**
- Climate change is making **food** a more **precious** resource but 1.3 billion tonnes of food is **wasted** every year

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



- Climate change impacts **severe weather** like heatwaves, floods, typhoons and droughts
- Severe weather can lead to **unsafe drinking water**
- Climate change can lead to more **diseases** like malaria and zika
- Severe weather and diseases **prevent children** from going to **school**
- Climate change will soon become one of the largest drivers of **human migration** and **refugees**

15 LIFE
ON LAND



- Land **degradation** and **drought** threatens **plants**, which make up 80% of the human **diet**.
- 80%** of earth's land **animals** live in **forests** but deforestation **destroys their homes**

PROBLEMS

With a partner, list the problem you selected and think about how we contribute to the problem and how the problem affects us.

we contribute by...

it affects our...

SOLUTIONS

What are ways in which we could solve the problem?

SUPERHERO



Superpower Categories

- MIND READING
- TIME TRAVEL
- FLIGHT
- INVISIBILITY
- LIGHT GENERATION
- THERMAL RESISTANCE
- SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH
- CREATURE CREATION
- SPEAKING TO PLANTS (LANGUAGE ABILITIES)
- COLLECTING ENERGY
- HEALING
- WATER GENERATION
- CAMOUFLAGE
- ANIMAL MORPHING
- FLEXIBILITY
- FREEZING
- CREATE YOUR OWN!

On your own, pick a SUPERPOWER Category and tell us how this ability can help solve the problem you listed on the PROBLEMS worksheet.

What is your superhero's name?

Where is your superhero from?

Who or what is their nemesis? (enemy, opponent, villain)

What are your superhero's characteristics and physical qualities? Are they funny? Serious? Smart? Tall?

SUPERHERO



What is your name?

Superhero name

How old are you?

Superpower

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- I do not identify as female or male
- Other: _____

Please create your own drawing of your superhero. Remember, we will not focus on your artistic ability. We want to see interesting, unique and diverse superheroes!

What country are you from?

Tell us a little about yourself!

Annex 2: **Powerpoint**

CLIMATE! COMIC! CONTEST!



Partner:
unicef 

INTRODUCE



WORLD'S
LARGEST
LESSON



Partner
unicef



GET CREATIVE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

PARTICIPATE IN OUR CONTEST

Learn more about climate change.

Create a **superhero** with an earth-saving adventure!

The world will **vote** on the top submissions at the UN Climate Conference, COP23.

The **winner** will bring their superhero to life in **comic-book** form worldwide on earth day!

Are you ready to **save the world**?

. **BAM!** ✨

WHY?

To show **the world** that young people are superheroes for climate change.

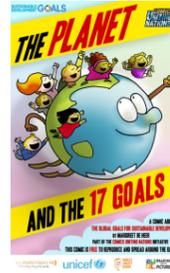
CLIMATE CONFERENCE

COP 23: World Leaders attend the Climate Conference (COP) every year to review the progress countries are making on climate. This year is November 6-17 and the 23rd time meeting.





1. **Submit** your superhero by Oct 22



2. Participate in the global **vote** on top heroes 6-17 Nov



3. **Win** a chance to work with a professional comics team



4. **Launch** the final comic on Earth Day!

5. Become an official **author** of Comics Uniting Nations



Take climate **action!**



WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



WHY DO THEY MATTER?

In September 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development which could mean an end to extreme poverty, inequalities and climate change by 2030.

We can only solve global challenges like poverty, inequality and climate change by working together – the SDGs provide the framework for that to happen. Every country and every person has a role in achieving the SDGs.



WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



[Watch here](#)



CONNECT



WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON



Partner
unicef



HOW DO OUR ACTIONS AFFECT OUR ENVIRONMENT?

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

HUMAN ACTIVITY

- **Polluting:** not properly disposing of waste (ex: littering)
- **Energy:** using energy that releases greenhouse gases (ex: leaving the lights on and using a gas run car)
- **Deforestation:** cutting down a wide area of trees
- **Wasting:** using and throwing away too many items
- **Overusing resources:** like soil or water (ex: excessive farming)



Pollution



Energy Consumption



Deforestation



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE CHANGE THE ENVIRONMENT WE LIVE IN?

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

HUMAN ACTIVITY

CLIMATE CHANGE

Our actions are releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. This is accelerating the Earth's changing climate, where its average temperature is slowly increasing over time.



CAUSING SEVERE WEATHER

A large rise in temperature leads to droughts, floods and severe weather events (typhoons and hurricanes).

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Our actions are leading to the deterioration of the environment and threatening of our natural resources.



THREATENING NATURAL RESOURCES

The harming of our environment leads to unclean and unsafe soil, air and water and destroys animal's homes



Droughts



Floods



Cyclones



Dirty drinking water



Animal's homes melting



Toxic air



HOW DO THESE CHANGES AFFECT US?

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



Food and Water Insecurity



Disease



No access to school



Migration



REFLECT



WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON



Partner
unicef



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

CHANNEL YOUR INNER SUPERPOWER

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



[Watch here](#)



WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT HOW DO YOU FEEL?

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



ACTIVITY



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WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

Choose one you want to solve.

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



Our **energy consumption** is the dominant contributor to climate change, accounting for around 60% of total **global greenhouse gas emissions**

Only 1/5 of our energy is from **renewable sources** such as wind, solar and water power.



We are **polluting water** faster than earth's rivers and lakes can **recycle** it.

By 2050 we will **need** nearly **3 planets** worth of natural resources to sustain our **current lifestyles**.

Climate change is making **food** a more **precious** resource but 1.3 billion tonnes of food is **wasted** every year.



Climate change impacts **severe weather** like heatwaves, floods, typhoons and droughts.

Severe weather can lead to **unsafe drinking water**.

Climate change can lead to more **diseases** like malaria and zika.

Severe weather and diseases can **prevent** children from going to **school**.

Climate change will soon become one of the largest drivers of **human migration and refugees** in the world.



Our ocean **pollution** is poisoning the **fish** we **eat** which nearly half the world relies on.

At the current rate, by 2050, there will be **more plastic** in the ocean **than fish**.



Land **degradation and drought** threatens **plants**, which make up 80% of the human **diet**.

80% of earth's land animals live in forests but deforestation destroys their homes



GET CREATIVE



WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON



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SUPERPOWERS TO THE RESCUE

CHOOSE YOUR POWER

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

SUPERPOWER IDEAS

- Mind Reading
- Time Travel
- Flight
- Invisibility
- Light Generation
- Thermal Resistance
- Superhuman Strength
- Creature Creation
- Speaking To Plants (Language Abilities)
- Collecting Energy
- Healing
- Water Generation
- Camouflage
- Animal Morphing
- Flexibility
- Freezing
- *Create Your Own!*



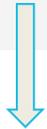
DEVELOP YOUR CHARACTER...



THE ADVENTURE

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

BEGINNING...



Explain the problem you chose and where it's taking place

MIDDLE...



Introduce your hero and the conflict or their enemy

...AND END

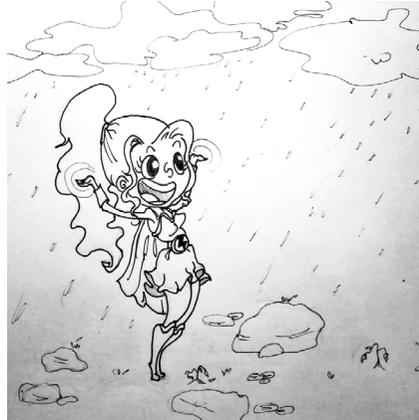


How does your hero save the world?



THE DRAWING

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**



WHAT'S NEXT?



WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON



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TELLING THE WORLD THE POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE

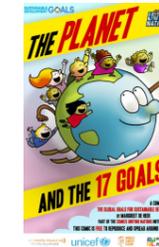
CLIMATE! COMIC! CONTEST!

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The top submissions will be posted on the Climate Comic Contest website and voted on by young people around the world during the UN Climate Conference (COP 23)

WORKING WITH A PROFESSIONAL TEAM TO BRING A HERO TO COMIC- BOOK LIFE

The winner of the vote will get paired with a comic book artist and work with a professional team to create a comic book featuring the winner's hero and storyline.



EARTH DAY

The final comic book will be launched globally and at the United Nations as an official Comics Uniting Nations book.



THANKS!!



WORLD'S LARGEST LESSON



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**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

ANNEX: VOCAB



SOME IMPORTANT WORDS TO KNOW...

**CLIMATE!
COMIC!
CONTEST!**

Sustainable: If something is sustainable, it means that we could keep using or doing it without it running out

Climate Change: A change in the Earth's climate, where it's average temperature is slowly increasing over time. This is because of an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, caused by our actions.

Environmental Degradation: The deterioration and harming of the environment.

Atmosphere: gases surrounding the earth

Oxygen: A gas in the atmosphere that humans breathe

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: putting gasses in the atmosphere that traps heat in the atmosphere and warms the planet.

Natural Resources: materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and land that are in nature

Renewable Resource: something that can be replaced in the same or less amount of time as it takes to draw from.

Recycling: changing waste into something that can be used again.

Energy: power from physical or chemical resources, especially to provide light and heat

Pollution: The introduction of a harmful substance into the environment by human activity

Deforestation: Cutting down a wide area of trees

Severe weather events: any dangerous weather

Droughts: when it does not rain for a long time, resulting in not enough water

Typhoon: a violent, tropical storm with high winds. Also called hurricanes or cyclones.

Diseases: a sickness, often contagious



Annex 3: Vocab Sheet

Have you seen these words before? Are any new to you?

Sustainable: If something is sustainable, it means that we could keep using or doing it without it running out

Climate Change: A change in the Earth's climate, where it's average temperature is slowly increasing over time. This is because of an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, caused by our actions.

Environmental Degradation: The deterioration and harming of the environment.

Atmosphere: gases surrounding the earth or another planet: "the air"

Oxygen: A gas in the atmosphere that humans breathe

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: putting gasses in the atmosphere that traps heat in the atmosphere and warms the planet.

Energy: power from physical or chemical resources, especially to provide light and heat

Pollution: The introduction of a harmful substance into the environment by human activity

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Droughts: when it does not rain for a long time, resulting in not enough water

Typhoon: a violent, tropical storm with high winds. Also called hurricanes or cyclones.

Diseases: a sickness, often contagious

Climate! Comic! Contest! Parental consent form

From 5-22 October 2017 UNICEF will host a Climate Comic Contest inviting children and young people worldwide to submit a concept for a superhero who is addressing climate change. A panel of judges from UNICEF will select a collection of the top submissions and from 6-17 November 2017, these will be shared for a global online vote. The winner of the vote will work with a professional team to create their own comic which will be launched on Earth Day (22 April 2018). Throughout the contest UNICEF will share their favorite superhero concepts on social media. To learn more about the contest and to read the full Terms and Conditions please visit the contest website: <http://uni.cf/climatecomic>

If you have any additional questions please email: engage@unicef.org

By signing this form I, _____, hereby give permission for my child, _____, to participate in UNICEF’s Climate Comic Contest and I am aware that his/her drawings may be shared on social media.

Signed: _____ (parent/caregiver) Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Participant) Date: _____

