

# The Addams Family – Comic Strip Creations!

**Art Form: Visual Arts**

## DESCRIPTION:

The Addams Family was created by American cartoonist Charles Addams. They originally appeared in a series of 150 standalone single-panel comics between 1938 and 1988. The Addams Family have since been adapted into a variety of other media, including television and films, video games, comic books, and a musical.

In contrast to multi-panel comic strips, which may involve dialogue in speech balloons, a single-panel comic usually has only one spoken line printed in a caption beneath the illustrated panel itself. In this Artworks Anywhere, try your hand at making your own single or multi-panel comic strip!

## RECOMMENDED AGE(S):

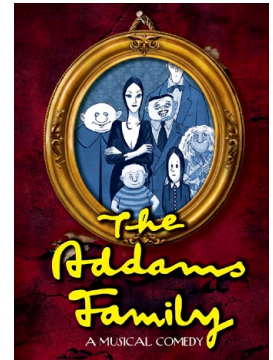
First grade and up

## TIME TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 30 minutes, though it is best to allow for as much time as the student needs to feel inspired and create.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ▶ White paper
- ▶ Pencils
- ▶ Coloring utensils (colored pencils, markers, etc.)
- ▶ Fine-tipped black marker
- ▶ Ruler
- ▶ Comic Strip Templates (optional)



## WHAT YOU DO:

### 1: Think of an idea for your comic: determine a theme, a setting, and character(s)

What happens to these characters? What can you imagine them doing from one comic strip panel to the next?

### 2: Plan a story: work out what's going to happen in each box; sketch a rough draft first Comics are like any other short story. They have three parts:

1. Beginning- Introduction
2. Middle-Build-Up
3. End- Punchline (Conclusion)

### 3: Keep the drawings simple: straightforward line drawings or stick figures work great!

Comic panels are the individual frames in the comic strip. They are usually separated by a small whitespace known as a gutter. There are many different layouts and ways to arrange your comic panels.

You can make your own using a pencil and ruler or you can start with any of the templates attached to this activity sheet.

### 4: Use speech bubbles: these are a simple and effective way to tell what's going on in your story.

Draw your own speech bubbles and add words throughout the comic strip; think about what you are wanting the characters to communicate and how.

The size of the lettering can show whether a character is shouting or whispering. For example, large letters in all capitals can show that someone is shouting.

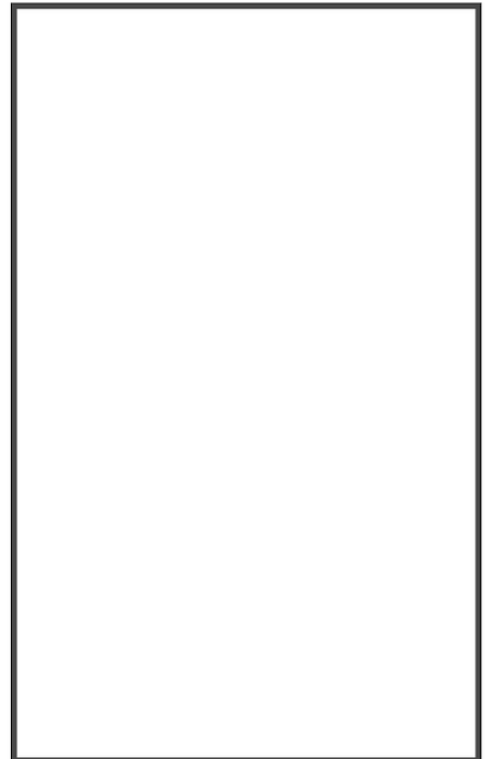
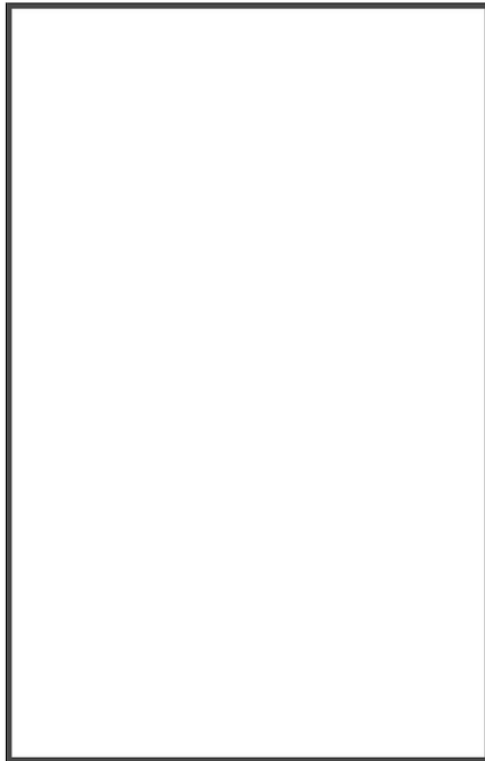
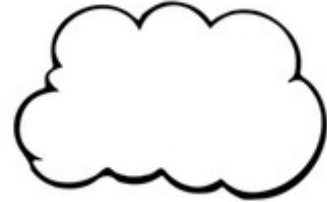
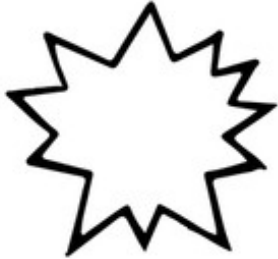
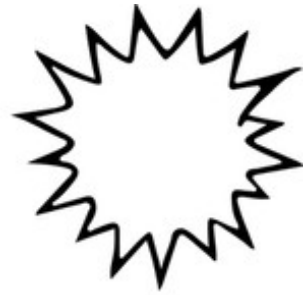
### 5: Add details to your cartoon

Now it is time go back and add any extra details, such as expressions, backgrounds, movement lines, etc.

### 6: Outline in ink:

When you are happy with your drawing(s), take a fine tipped marker and draw over your pencil lines. It will make it easier to read the text and see the characters.

Examples of speech (dialogue) bubbles:



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 StarTech.com  Sara Roberts Foundation