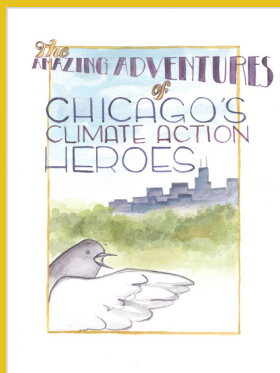


IDEAS FOR USING THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF CHICAGO'S CLIMATE ACTION HEROES AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL



The Amazing Adventures of Chicago's Climate Action Heroes illustrates the impacts of global climate change on the Chicago region's human and nonhuman populations and shows what four Chicago communities are doing in response. In each neighborhood, the climate action heroes take action that benefits their natural environment while also improving their community's quality of life in other ways. The story's conclusion invites the reader to become a climate action hero and tell their neighborhood's climate action story. The book is a great fit for upper elementary school to early secondary school youth and can also be used with adults.

GROUP READING

There are 13 large and small speaking parts in the comic book. Depending on time and space constraints, a group can either do a "table read" or act out the comic book like a play. Those without speaking parts can participate by miming some of the environmentally-friendly practices as they are described by those playing the comic book characters (e.g., weatherizing a house, swapping recipes).

To add to the experience, each participant can complete a "character study" of the character they'll play, then present their findings to the rest of the group. For example, the person playing the part of the butterfly might research the migration patterns of Monarch butterflies, and the person playing Amira might research the history of the Southeast Side.

After the reading, the group can recap what projects they saw at work in the comic book and talk about what they do themselves that is similar, or what they would like to do and how they would go about doing it. What resources would they need? Who else could they recruit to help them?



MAKE YOUR OWN

The comic book is meant to inspire action and is a great starting point for readers to initiate their own individual and group climate action projects. These projects can advance skills in scientific research, creative thought, and collaboration.

On the last page of the book, there are instructions for making your own comic book. If you're teaching a unit on climate change that involves a climate action component, you can have students create comic books to tell the story of their climate action project(s). In this way, the class project begins and ends with a comic book: the one that inspired the class, and the one each student makes after the class completes the project. Students might also create a comic book to show others how to do what they did (e.g., a step-by-step guide to installing a rain barrel, or five small changes you can make to reduce your classroom's energy use).

Participants can also interview friends, relatives, and neighbors and then use the comic book format to tell their community's green stories (e.g., my grandfather's vegetable garden, my church's annual rummage sale). In either case, the group can then come together and use their comic books to share climate action stories and learn from one another. Remind your group that an effective climate action comic book clearly presents an environmental challenge and then shows a solution that is good for both people and nature.

A sheet of letter-sized paper will produce a fairly small comic book. You might consider using larger-format paper. Regardless of which size paper you use, remember that the blank back side of the comic book artwork can be used to say more about the project or topic. If you take a look at the instructions for folding and cutting, you'll see that the final book unfolds into a full sheet of paper with just a small slit in the center. This provides a good amount of space for more detailed information.



VISUAL AID FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LESSONS

The comic book is available as a high-resolution digital file at climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn, making it easy to enlarge single pages or frames for use in presentations. The comic book's stylized, light-hearted illustrations can serve as a fun and accessible alternative or supplement to more complex scientific diagrams, such as those in the more detailed climate science booklet, *Climate Change in the Windy City and the World*.

DISTRIBUTION

This comic book was created to stand on its own and is a great resource to make available at workshops or in public waiting areas, for people to read on site or take home. It includes links to additional information if readers are interested in learning more about local wildlife, climate science, and taking climate action on their own.

Please share your ideas and experiences using this and our other tools:
climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/share



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- For more help teaching the science of climate change, see *Climate Change in the Windy City and the World*, available at: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/learn
- To learn more about the real climate action projects that inspired the comic book, visit: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/communities. The website includes video documentaries, photo slideshows, and more.
- For additional guidance developing climate action project ideas for your community, visit: climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org/doyourown



Find this and other climate action tools at climatechicago.fieldmuseum.org

