



# COMIC LIFE



EASILY CREATE DOCUMENTS THAT LOOK LIKE COMICS  
START WITH A PAGE TEMPLATE  
ADD IMAGES  
ADD BALLOONS  
YOU HAVE A COMIC!

- **SETTING PAGE FORMAT & STYLE**
  - CHOOSE "PAGE FORMAT..." UNDER "FILE" ON THE MENU BAR
  - NEXT TO "PAGE SIZE" CHOOSE THE STYLE OF PAGE YOU ARE GOING TO CREATE
  - IT IS BEST TO CHOOSE YOUR PAGE FORMAT BEFORE YOU BEGIN CREATING YOUR COMIC
  - CHOOSE BACKGROUND COLOR BY SELECTING THE DETAILS PANE AND CHOOSING YOUR COLOR FROM THE "STYLE ATTRIBUTES"
- **CHOOSING A PAGE TEMPLATE & WORKING WITH PANELS**
  - DRAG & DROP A TEMPLATE FROM LIBRARIES PANE ONTO YOUR PAGE
  - DRAGGING A NEW TEMPLATE TO A PAGE THAT ALREADY HAS A TEMPLATE WILL CREATE A NEW PAGE.
  - ADD ADDITIONAL PANELS TO A PAGE BY DRAGGING THE ICON FROM "DRAG A PANEL" TO YOUR PAGE.
  - ADJUST PANEL SHAPES USING "PANEL ATTRIBUTES" IN THE DETAILS PANE.
- **ADDING IMAGES**
  - DRAG & DROP IMAGES ONTO A PANEL FROM YOUR IPHOTO LIBRARY, ANY FOLDER ON YOUR COMPUTER OR ON A SERVER OR BY CAPTURING AN IMAGE USING A BUILT-IN OR ATTACHED CAMERA.
  - TO ADD A SECOND IMAGE TO A PANEL HOLD DOWN THE APPLE KEY WHEN DROPPING THE IMAGE ONTO THE PANEL AND THE SECOND IMAGE WILL BE ADDED.
  - USE THE BRING FORWARD/MOVE BACKWARD ARRANGE MENU ITEMS TO ADJUST THE ORDER IN WHICH THE IMAGES ARE DISPLAYED.
  - FREE ARTWORK FOR COMIC LIFE
    - MAC: [HTTP://PLASQ.COM/PICS/COMICLIFE/ARTWORK/HOLLE-CARTOONS-PDF.ZIP](http://plasq.com/pics/comiclif/artwork/holle-cartoons-pdf.zip)
    - WIN: [HTTP://PLASQ.COM/PICS/COMICLIFE/ARTWORK/HOLLE-CARTOONS-PNG.ZIP](http://plasq.com/pics/comiclif/artwork/holle-cartoons-png.zip)
- **LETTERING, BALLOONS & CAPTIONS**
  - **BALLOONS**
    - SIZING – USE THE GREEN HANDLES
    - MOVING THE TAIL – GRAB THE BLUE HANDLE
    - EXTENDING ADDITIONAL BALLOONS – CLICK ON THE BALLOON YOU WANT TO EXTEND AND DRAG THE "EXTEND" BALLOON TO IT.
  - **CAPTIONS**
    - **CHANGING FONTS**
      - SELECT THE "DETAILS" PANE, THEN SELECT "CHOOSE" AT THE BOTTOM TO CHANGE YOUR FONT AND/OR FONT SIZE
    - **CHANGING STYLES**
      - SELECT THE "DETAILS" PANE, THEN SELECT "STYLE ATTRIBUTES" TO CHANGE THE STYLE OF YOUR CAPTION
  - **LETTERING (TITLES)**
    - **CHANGING ATTRIBUTES**
      - SELECT THE "DETAILS" PANE, THEN SELECT "LETTERING ATTRIBUTES" TO CHANGE THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SPREAD OR SKEW/STAGGER OF YOUR LETTERING
    - **CHANGING STYLES**
      - SELECT THE "DETAILS" PANE, THEN SELECT "STYLE ATTRIBUTES" TO CHANGE THE STYLE OF YOUR LETTERING
    - **CHANGING FONTS**
      - SELECT THE "DETAILS" PANE, THEN SELECT "CHOOSE" AT THE BOTTOM TO CHANGE YOUR FONT AND/OR FONT SIZE

- THE LITTLE THINGS
  - GREEN SQUARES VS. BLUE DOTS
    - GREEN SQUARES ALLOW YOU TO SIZE ITEMS
    - BLUE DOTS CHANGE THE SHAPE OF ITEMS.
  - CUSTOMIZING THE TOOLBAR
    - TO CUSTOMIZE THE TOOLBAR, GO TO "VIEW" TO "CUSTOMIZE TOOLBAR"
    - DRAG ITEMS YOU WANT IN YOUR TOOLBAR TO THE TOOLBAR. TO REMOVE AN ITEM, DRAG IT FROM THE TOOLBAR.
    - "LOCK" IN THE DETAILS PANE LOCKS ITEMS SO THAT THEY CANNOT BE CHANGED OR MOVED.
  - CHANGING PAGE ORDER
    - IN THE PAGE ORGANIZER ON THE LEFT YOU CAN CHANGE THE ORDER OF YOUR PAGES BY DRAGGING THE PAGE TO REORDER THE PAGES
  - SAVING & EXPORTING YOUR FILE
    - YOU CAN SAVE YOUR FILE AS A COMIC LIFE DOCUMENT OR EXPORT IT TO ANOTHER FORMAT
    - EXPORT TO HTML
      - EXPORTING TO HTML CREATES A FOLDER OF ITEMS FOR THE WEB
      - UPLOAD THE ENTIRE FOLDER TO A WEB SERVER TO VIEW YOUR COMIC
    - EXPORT TO QUICKTIME
      - IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE PAGES YOU CAN CREATE A QUICKTIME MOVIE OF YOUR COMIC
    - EXPORT TO PDF
      - YOU CAN EXPORT YOUR COMIC TO A PDF FILE
    - EXPORT TO IPHOTO
      - THIS SENDS YOUR COMIC TO IPHOTO AS A SINGLE IMAGE
    - EMAIL COMIC
      - THIS CREATES AN EMAIL USING YOUR EMAIL SOFTWARE WITH YOUR COMIC IN A SMALLER SIZE FIT FOR EMAIL
    - EXPORT TO IMAGE
      - THIS CREATES AN IMAGE OF YOUR COMIC
- IDEAS FOR USING COMIC LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM
  - COMIC LIFE MEETS CURRICULUM – THIS WEB SITE HAS TEMPLATES FOR TEACHERS TO USE WITH THEIR STUDENTS AS WELL AS LINKS FOR OTHER RESOURCES:  
[HTTP://WWW.COUNTRYMEADOWS.DISTRICT96.K12.IL.US/COMIC\\_LIFE\\_SITE/CLINDEX.HTML](http://www.countrymeadows.district96.k12.il.us/comic_life_site/clindex.html)
  - VOCABULARY WORDS
    - DEFINE WORDS WITH VISUALS
    - CREATE STORIES USING VOCABULARY WORDS
  - STORYTELLING
    - MAKE UP A STORY
    - WRITE ABOUT A BOOK YOU READ
      - [HTTP://HOMEPAGE.MAC.COM/ADAM\\_BEZARK/COMICLIFE/](http://homepage.mac.com/adam_bezark/comiclife/)
  - STORYBOARDING
  - BIOGRAPHIES
  - SCIENCE TOPICS
    - SOLAR SYSTEM
    - WATER CYCLE
  - FIELD TRIP REVIEW
  - READ-WRITE-THINK (INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION) HAS AN ONLINE COMIC CREATOR. THEIR LESSON SUGGESTIONS WOULD WORK WELL WITH COMIC LIFE.  
[HTTP://WWW.READWRITETHINK.ORG/STUDENT\\_MAT/STUDENT\\_MATERIAL.ASP?ID=21](http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=21)
  - TIMELINES – SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- SAMPLES
  - CONIFERS
    - [HTTP://ESCRAPBOOKING.COM/PROJECTS/SCRAPCOMIC/CONIFERS/LAUNCHER.HTML](http://escrapbooking.com/projects/scrapcomic/conifers/launcher.html)
  - THE LIFE OF LAURA WILSON
    - [HTTP://ESCRAPBOOKING.COM/PROJECTS/SCRAPCOMIC/LAURA/LAUNCHER.HTML](http://escrapbooking.com/projects/scrapcomic/laura/launcher.html)
  - POWHATEN VILLAGE 1607
    - [HTTP://ESCRAPBOOKING.COM/PROJECTS/SCRAPCOMIC/VILLAGE/LAUNCHER.HTML](http://escrapbooking.com/projects/scrapcomic/village/launcher.html)
  
- FONTS
  - FONTS MARKED WITH A RED DOT ARE PRO FONTS, FONTS WITH NO DOT ARE FREE FONTS, AND FONTS WITH A BLUE DOT ARE LIMITED EDITIONS.  
[HTTP://BLAMBOT.COM/FONTS.SHTML](http://blambot.com/fonts.shtml)
  - DAFONT.COM – FREE FONTS [HTTP://WWW.DAFONT.COM/](http://www.dafont.com/)
  - SCRAPVILLAGE – FREE FONTS [HTTP://WWW.SCRAPVILLAGE.COM/FONTS.HTM](http://www.scrapvillage.com/fonts.htm)
  - 1001 FREE FONTS – [HTTP://WWW.1001FREEFONTS.COM/FONTS/AFONTS.HTM](http://www.1001freefonts.com/fonts/afonts.htm)
  - URBAN FONTS – FREE FONTS [HTTP://WWW.URBANFONTS.COM/](http://www.urbanfonts.com/)
  - ABSOLUTE FONTS ARCHIVE – FREE FONTS  
[HTTP://WWW.GRSITES.COM/ARCHIVE/FONTS/](http://www.grsites.com/archive/fonts/)
  - SCRAPNFONTS – SOME FREE, SOME PAID FONTS  
[HTTP://WWW.SCRAPNFONTS.COM/](http://www.scrapnfonts.com/)
  - TEACHING DELIGHTS – CD'S CONTAINING FONTS & GRAPHIC ALPHABETS FOR TEACHERS AT MINIMAL COST (\$7 PER CD)  
[HTTP://WWW.LETTERINGDELIGHTS.COM/SEARCHPROD.PHP?PRODLINES=TEACHINGDELIGHTS](http://www.letteringdelights.com/searchprod.php?prodlines=teachingdelights)