



**Curriculum Links**  
**The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 7:**  
**Comic Book Creators**

**Suggested Grade Levels:**

Grades 4-12

**Curriculum Themes:**

- Counsellors
- Language Arts
- Legends
- Visual Arts

**Summary of Episode:**

For thousands of years, the visual arts have been a way for Canada's Aboriginal people to express themselves, share information, and provide imagery for stories and legends. Today, this art has evolved and progressed in methodology and style, but the core meaning remains a means of sharing stories from the Aboriginal point of view. For younger people, this ancient tradition is being kept alive through cutting edge design, stylish comic books, and a new form of contemporary art that is unique from anything seen before. We will follow some of today's Aboriginal artistic mavericks and share their stories, showing how traditional values are being blended with a modern approach to art.

### **Vocabulary:**

- Animation
- School
- Audience
- Awareness
- Bear Paws
- Birchbark Comics
- Books/Photographs
- Brandon Mitchell
- Cartoonist
- Chad Solomon
- Characters
- Comics
- Community members
- Connection
- Contemporary
- Create
- Draw
- Educate
- Elders
- Equality
- Factual
- Fair Treatment
- Family
- Feel Emotions
- First Nations content
- Fun
- Graphics
- Health
- History
- Human stories
- Ideas
- Illustrations
- Injustice
- Legends
- Lessons
- Meaningful
- Media
- Message
- Micmac Legend
- New approaches
- Ottawa
- Past
- Pictures
- Political
- Powerful
- Present
- Rabbit Paws
- Recent
- Sacred Circles
- Sean Muir
- Short Film
- Social Issues
- Steve Sanderson
- Story
- Story Board
- Studio
- Suicide
- Symbols
- Tanya Willard
- Teach
- Teenager
- Traditional teachings
- Underground movement
- Vancouver
- Visuals
- Working Class History
- Youth

### **Suggested Activities:**

- Study the art of comic book making. I.e. Story boards, styles of art, and cartoonists.
- Write a story about something you believe in and create art to go with it-make a cartoon.
- Look at statistics related to health in the Aboriginal and non-aboriginal community. Why is there a difference?
- Study diabetes. Aboriginal people's diet changed very rapidly and our systems seem to be having trouble adjusting to this change. What are your traditional diets? How are they the same/different from today's diet? How do you think this affects your body?

### **Suggested Activities (Continued):**

- Read newspaper and magazine articles from an Aboriginal Perspective. Some newspapers may include Grassroots News, Nunatsiaq News, The Métis Nation, Aboriginal Times etc. Look at social issues and examine from all perspectives.
- Study a legend from your area and make a cartoon out of it.
- Study the Micmac and the West Coast tribes. Read legends from their nations and learn about their values, practices and beliefs. *See blackline*
- If you are interested in going to Animation Art Schools, research where they are located and how you can get enrolled.
- Draw and write your own cartoons.

### **Additional Resources (online):**

- Birchbark  
<http://www.milehighcomics.com/comicindex/Publisher-Birch-Bark-Comics-BIRC.html>
- Brandon Mitchell  
[http://bcgh.ca/news/docs/2006\\_08\\_01\\_AH\\_standing.pdf](http://bcgh.ca/news/docs/2006_08_01_AH_standing.pdf)
- Rabbit and Bear Paws comics  
<http://www.rabbitandbearpaws.com/>
- Steve Sanderson info.  
<http://www.cbc.ca/arts/story/2006/06/21/cree-comic-hero.html>
- Tanya Willard  
[http://www.justiceforgirls.org/publications/pdfs/jfg\\_complete\\_report.pdf](http://www.justiceforgirls.org/publications/pdfs/jfg_complete_report.pdf)

# Story

**Legend:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Group legend is from:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Characters:**

**Main Teachings/morals Taught:**

**Main Events in the Story:**

**Conclusion:**