Drawing Cartoons to Support Writing

Art is a great tool to make writing clearer. Drawings, like cartoons, show key details, and they help readers understand the writing. They also make it interesting! You can draw cartoons to add details and explanation to your writing.

There are 3 main steps to making a cartoon:

1. **Come up with an idea.**
2. **Outline your words and drawings.**
3. **Make a final, careful version of your cartoon.**

First, **think about what you want to make**. Brainstorm ideas. There are no bad ideas. Think of many different possibilities! Then, **pick one idea**. For example, we will create a cartoon about the scientific process of measuring volume by putting an object in water (called water displacement). This list shows ideas for cartoons that show this science concept.
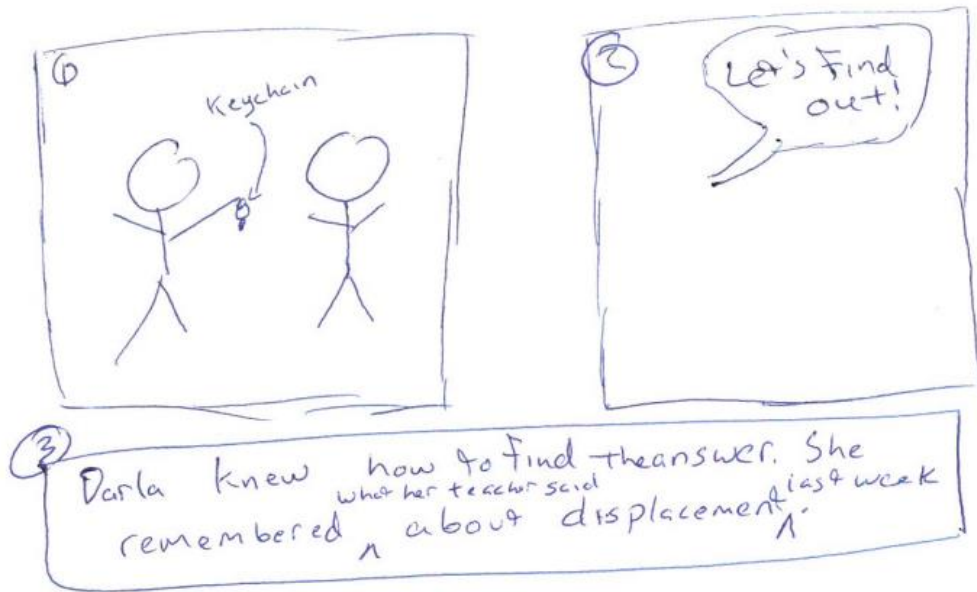
- Brainstorm of cartoon ideas
    - activity using water in class
    - metal or plastic keychain test
    - presentation about water displacement

Second, **outline your words and drawings**. **Start making a draft** of your text. It helps make your writing clearer. Here is the plan for the cartoon:
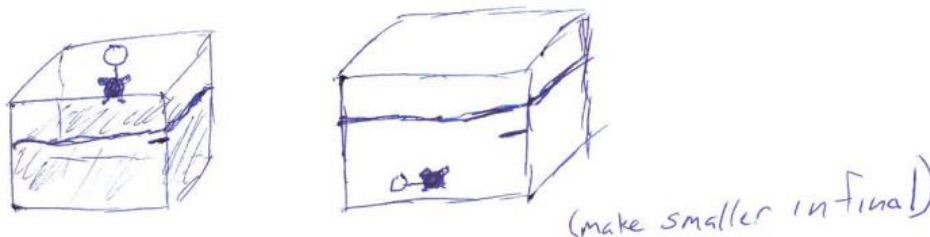
Show first character (Darla) holding out a keychain shaped like a turtle to the second character (Liam). Text bubbles say: "Look at my new keychain, Liam!" and "Cute, Darla! Is it made of metal or plastic?"

Your drawings should match the writing. The next step is to **sketch rough drawings** of your cartoon. The drawings can be simple. You do not need to make this draft perfect. Make sure you know how **you want your cartoon to look**.

These first drawings are very rough first sketches. They help show the important parts of the drawing. They also help show the text so you can edit it. The final text shows how we can edit text to make it clearer.
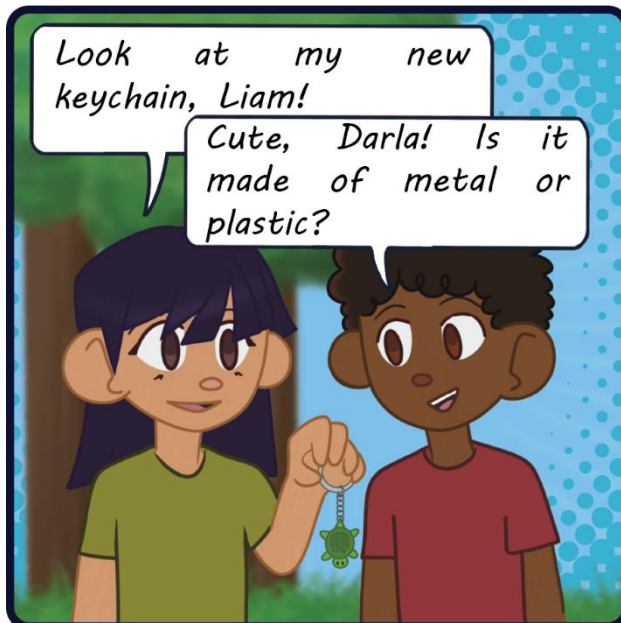
The two drawings below show more care. The drawings show the key idea of how to measure volumes using water. The final note "make smaller in final" is a note to improve the final version. If we make the boxes smaller, then it will show the volume change better.
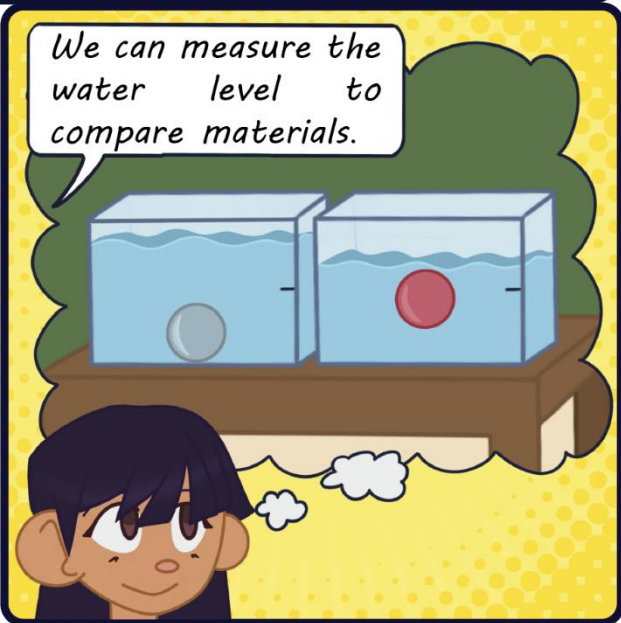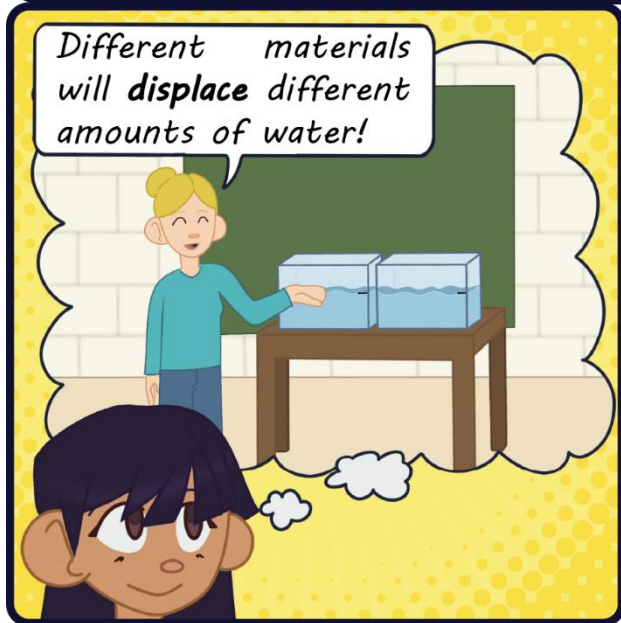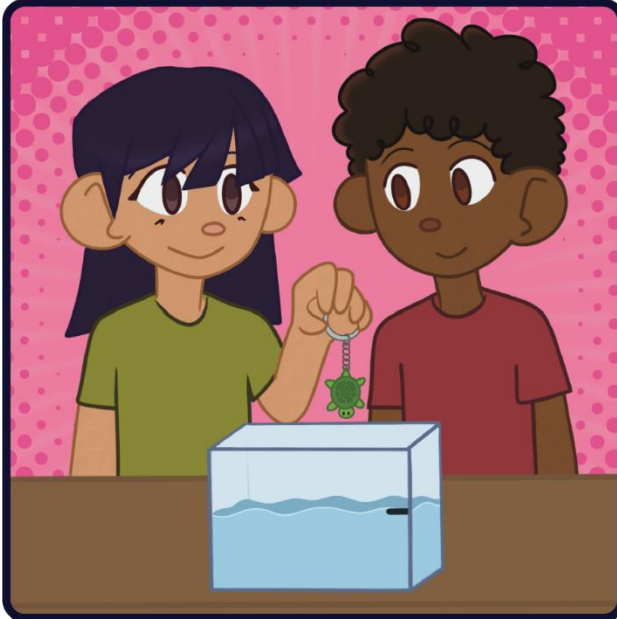

Finally, **make the cartoon**! Work carefully on each drawing. **Keep it neat**. Use any colors that are helpful. Show important details. **Follow your plan**. Everyone makes art differently. Just make sure it matches your ideas!

The next pages show the **final drawings** for the water displacement cartoon. This art is the completed cartoon story we put in *Coherent Foundational Learning at Grade 4*. You do not need to draw this well or use a computer to help you draw. Simply make your drawings and texts in your cartoons as clear as possible.
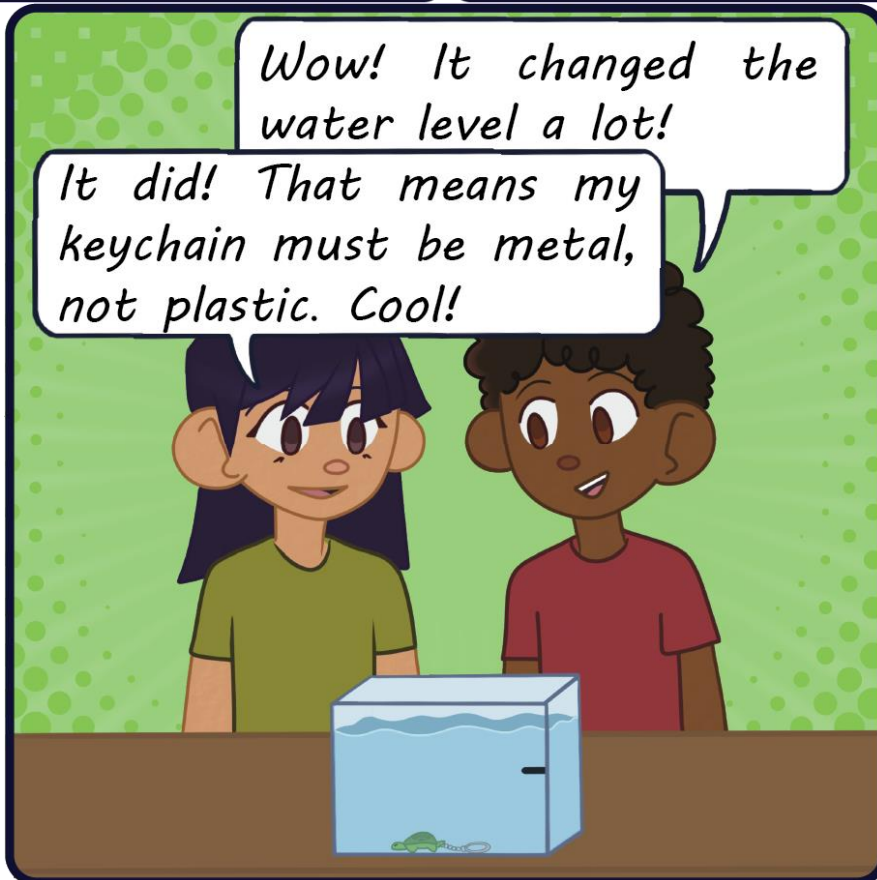
myedme.com/challenge

Darla and Liam went inside to set up the experiment.

She knew plastic would only displace a little water, but metal would displace a lot.

Wow! It changed the water level a lot!

It did! That means my keychain must be metal, not plastic. Cool!