



## Charles M. Schulz Museum Educator Resource Guide

This guide is designed to help you make the most out of your Charles M. Schulz Museum program, whether it's a field trip to the Museum, library or classroom outreach visit, or online synchronous or asynchronous presentation.

Once you have reserved a program with the Schulz Museum, we recommend that you read the **Contract** you receive from the Schulz Museum carefully to help you prepare. Please also utilize and share the information on our website with any teachers, parents, and/or administrators who will enjoy this experience with you and your students. Guidelines for field trip chaperones and tips to help prepare for a field trip can be found on our website: [schulzmuseum.org/educators](http://schulzmuseum.org/educators)

and at the bottom of the field trip page under **Field Trip Preparation:** [schulzmuseum.org/field-trips](http://schulzmuseum.org/field-trips)

We hope you use the information in this guide to supplement and enrich your pre- and post-Museum experience.

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## Welcome to the Charles M. Schulz Museum!

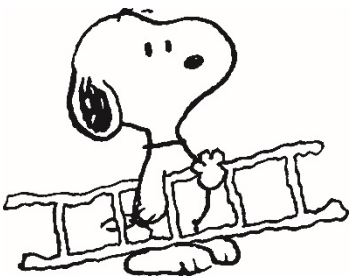
Charles Schulz, the creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip, was beloved and admired throughout the world by comic fans and artists alike. His work has impacted millions of people. What made *Peanuts* so popular? What is it about Schulz's work that helped *Peanuts* become one of the most widely circulated comic strips in history? And, most importantly, why dedicate an entire museum to *Peanuts* and its ambitious creator?

Charles Schulz was not simply a comic artist, but a commentator on the human condition. As children, we perceive the *Peanuts* characters as funny little kids who get themselves into silly situations. As adults, we realize that contained within the classic humor of Schulz's comic strips are messages and observations about life. The characters' reflections—at once sophisticated and childlike—address the entire range of human emotions, introducing themes of rejection, anguish, depression, and alienation in a humorous context. *Peanuts'* worldwide popularity stems from the fact that its meanings are universal and translatable into almost any language and culture. In fact, *Peanuts* is published in 75 countries in over 20 different languages. Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the *Peanuts* Gang populate the page, the screen, and the hearts of many.

Use this guide to introduce your students to Charles Schulz and the *Peanuts* Gang!

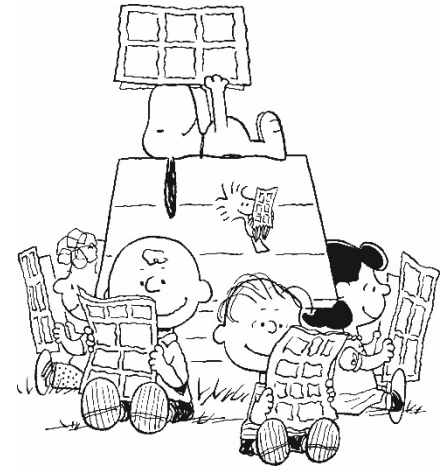
### About the Museum

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center officially opened on August 17, 2002, when a dream became a reality. For many years, thousands of admirers had flocked to see Charles M. Schulz's original comic strips at exhibitions outside of Santa Rosa because his work didn't have a proper home. As the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Peanuts* drew close, the idea that there should be a museum to hold Schulz's work began to grow. Schulz didn't think of himself as a "museum piece" and was, therefore, reluctant to accept the idea. That left the "vision" work to local cartoon historian Mark Cohen, wife Jean Schulz, and Schulz's longtime friend Edwin Anderson. Schulz's enthusiasm for the Museum was kindled in 1997 after seeing the inspired and playful creations by artist and designer Yoshiteru Otani for the Snoopy Town shops in Japan. From that point on, plans for the Museum moved forward. A Board of Directors was established, a mission statement adopted, and the architect and contractor hired. The location for the Museum is particularly fitting - located across the street from Snoopy's Home Ice, the ice arena and coffee shop that Schulz built in 1969, and one block away from the studio where Schulz worked and created for 30 years. Since its opening in 2002, hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world have come to the Schulz Museum to see the enduring work of Charles M. Schulz, which will be enjoyed for generations to come.



## Charles M. Schulz Biography (1922-2000)

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 26, 1922, Charles M. Schulz was the only child of Dena and Carl Schulz. From birth, comics played an important role in Schulz's life. At just two days old, an uncle nicknamed him "Sparky" after the horse Spark Plug from the *Barney Google* comic strip. Throughout his youth, he and his father shared a Sunday morning ritual reading the funnies. Schulz always knew he wanted to be a cartoonist and was very proud when Ripley's newspaper feature, *Believe it or Not*, published his drawing of the family dog in 1937.



Schulz put his artistic ambitions on hold during World War II while serving as a machine-gun squad leader, though he regularly sketched episodes of daily army life in his sketchbook. Following his discharge in 1945, Schulz returned to St. Paul to pursue a cartooning career. Between 1947 and 1950, he drew a weekly comic panel for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and sold comic gags to *The Saturday Evening Post*. After many rejection slips, Schulz realized his dream of creating a nationally syndicated daily comic strip when *Peanuts* debuted in seven newspapers on October 2, 1950. By 1965, Schulz was twice honored with the Reuben Award by the National Cartoonists Society, and *Peanuts* was an international success.

By the time Schulz announced his retirement for health reasons in December 1999, *Peanuts* was published in more than 2,600 newspapers worldwide. Schulz died on Saturday, February 12, 2000, just hours before the final *Peanuts* Sunday strip appeared in newspapers. The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center opened in 2002, with the mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of this legendary cartoonist.

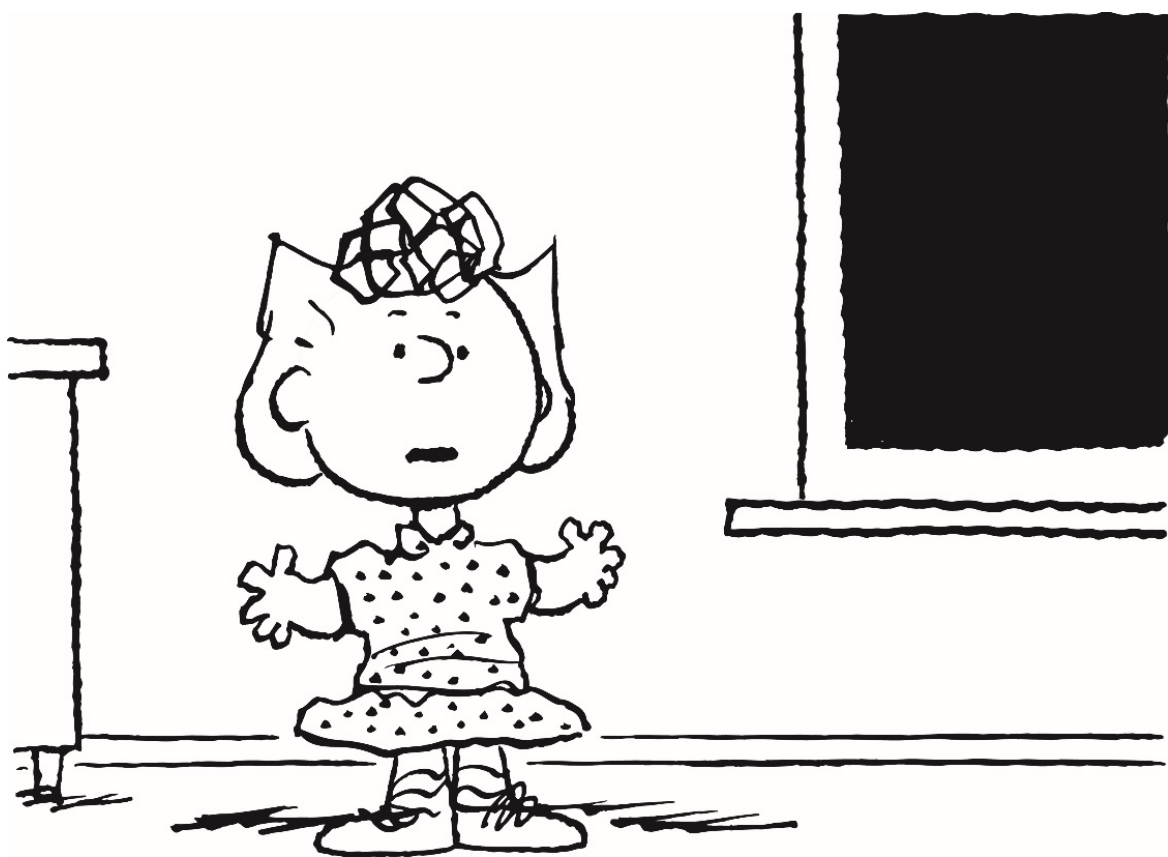
### Charles M. Schulz & *Peanuts* Fun Facts

- Charles Schulz drew 17,897 *Peanuts* comic strips throughout his career.
- In a bit of foreshadowing, Schulz's kindergarten teacher told him, "Someday, Charles, you're going to be an artist."
- In the 1930's Schulz had a black-and-white dog who later became the inspiration for Snoopy. The dog's name was Spike.
- Schulz moved from Minnesota to Sebastopol, California in 1958.
- *Peanuts* was not the name Schulz chose for his strip; in fact, he didn't even like the title. Schulz named his comic strip *Li'l Folks*. United Feature Syndicate renamed it *Peanuts*.



Photograph by Brian Lanker©1986

- The first *Peanuts* animated special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, aired in 1965, and won both a Peabody Award and an Emmy for outstanding children's programming.
- Charles Schulz earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1996.
- The final *Peanuts* strip ran on February 13, 2000.
- *Peanuts* qualified for a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records* after being sold to the 2,000<sup>th</sup> newspaper in 1984. Today, *Peanuts* is still circulated in approximately 2,000 newspapers. The strips published today are re-runs of the ones Schulz created between 1950 and 2000.



## Pre- and Post-Activity Ideas

The Museum hopes you and your students will use the Schulz Museum experience as a jumping-off point, culmination, supplement, or extension of your classroom curricula. The following pages include activity ideas to introduce your students to the world of *Peanuts*. Most of the activities are designed for a wide age range. You will need to select and adapt activities to fit the needs of your students.

### 1. Discover *Peanuts* (pre-k – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

**Objective:** To familiarize students with *Peanuts* and its characters.

**Instructions:**

1. Print ***Peanuts* Coloring Pages** for students to color before or after your Museum experience. Select, print, and copy coloring sheets here:  
<https://schulzmuseum.org/coloring-sheets/>
2. Ask students if they recognize or know the names of any of the *Peanuts* characters featured on the coloring sheets. What do they know about them?
3. Watch an animated *Peanuts* short special as a class. Find a list of animated specials in the **Recommended Resources** section of this packet.

### 2. Create Your Own Comics (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)

**Objective:** To understand the elements of a comic strip and that comics are a form of visual storytelling.

**Instructions:**

1. If possible, share examples of popular comic strips or graphic novels with students.
2. Download and print any of the three comic strip or comic book activities below from our website. Scroll down the web page and click on the Download link for a printable template to copy for your students:  
[schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home](https://schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home).

#### **Make a *Peanuts* Mini Comic**

Cut out and assemble a *Peanuts* mini comic book. Then use the blank template on page 4 to make your own.

#### **Create Your Own Comics**

Read *Peanuts* comic strips based on Charles Schulz's life. Then use the blank 4-panel comic strip template to draw your own comic.

#### **Happiness Is...Pocket Accordion Book Project**

Use the directions, and a piece of blank paper to fold an accordion book. Fill the book with your own comic story.

### 3. Make it Move with Animation (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)

**Objective:** To combine science and art to make two drawings appear animated.

**Instructions:**

1. Find, download, and print directions available at [schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home](http://schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home) for **Make a Peanuts Thaumatrope!**
2. Use the directions, rubber bands, scissors, and printed templates to assemble a *Peanuts* thaumatrope (an early optical toy). Then use the blank template to make your own.

### 4. Adapt a Lesson (all grades)

**Objective:** To integrate the *Peanuts* characters and themes into your curriculum.

**Instructions:**

1. Visit [schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home](http://schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home) and explore the downloadable and printable activities. The Schulz Museum has created over 20 activities, including an outdoor scavenger hunt, physical challenges, and how-to-draw instructions to learn to draw Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, and Woodstock! The activities can stand alone as a way to become familiar with Charles Schulz and his comic strip or can connect to other areas of study like science, art, storytelling, and even PE.
2. Visit [peanuts.com/activities/peanuts-lesson-plans](http://peanuts.com/activities/peanuts-lesson-plans)  
This website has lesson plans for TK through middle school designed to support science, language arts, and art lessons on topics ranging from space exploration, plant growth, and the environment, to celebrating friendship.
3. Find a lesson plan that works for your age level and desired topic. Print, copy, and share the lesson plan and worksheets. Or adapt the ideas to your needs.

### 5. Learn More (all grades)

**Objective:** To continue to learn about *Peanuts*, cartooning, Charles Schulz, animation, and other topics introduced through the Schulz Museum experience.

**Instructions:**

1. Use the recommended resources on the following pages to learn more about a topic of interest to individual students or the whole class.
2. Read a book about Charles Schulz's life and career. Read books by other cartoonists and graphic novelists working today. Watch a *Peanuts* movie or documentary.
3. Have fun continuing to learn with the *Peanuts* Gang!



## Recommended Resources

Use these additional resources to learn more about Charles Schulz, the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, *Peanuts*, or the art of cartooning.

### **Web Sites:**

**Charles M. Schulz Museum** ([schulzmuseum.org](http://schulzmuseum.org)) and **Schulz Museum at Home** ([schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home](http://schulzmuseum.org/museum-at-home))

- Official website of the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center.
- Free activities and templates to download, print, copy, and share.

**Charles M. Schulz Museum Store** ([charles-m-schulz-museum.myshopify.com](http://charles-m-schulz-museum.myshopify.com))

- Books and media.

**Peanuts** ([peanuts.com](http://peanuts.com))

- *Peanuts* character profiles.
- Download an app to have comic strips at your fingertips.

**Go Comics** ([gocomics.com](http://gocomics.com))

- Access to *Peanuts* comic strips, as well as other comics.

**Scholastic Kids** ([kids.scholastic.com/kid/books/graphix](http://kids.scholastic.com/kid/books/graphix))

- Graphic novels for children and teens.

**The Center for Cartoon Studies** ([cartoonstudies.org/teachingcomics](http://cartoonstudies.org/teachingcomics))

- Official website of The Center for Cartoon Studies.
- Budding cartoonists may be interested in continuing their education here.
- Links to other educational resources concerning comics.

**National Cartoonists Society** ([nationalcartoonists.com](http://nationalcartoonists.com))

- Official website of the National Cartoonists Society.
- Information on how to become a professional cartoonist.
- Information on awards given for cartooning.

## **Books**

### **For Adults**

Clark, Benjamin, and Gertler, Nat, and the Charles M. Schulz Museum. *Charles M. Schulz: The Art and Life of the Peanuts Creator in 100 Objects (Peanuts Comics, Comic Strips, Charlie Brown, Snoopy)*. Weldon Owen International, 2022.

Gherman, Beverly. *Sparky: The Life and Art of Charles Schulz*. Chronicle Books, 2010.

Bang, Derrick, and Victor Lee. *50 Years of Happiness: A Tribute to Charles M. Schulz*. Santa Rosa, CA: Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center, 2002.

### **For Students**

Lowell, Barbara, and Andreasen, Dan. *Sparky & Spike: Charles Schulz and the Wildest, Smartest Dog Ever*. New York, NY: Cameron Kids, 2019.

Debus, Luca, and Matteuzzi, Francesco. *Funny Things: A Comic Strip Biography of Charles M. Schulz*. Top Shelf Productions, 2023.

Klingel, Cynthia and Noyed, Robert B. *Charles Schulz (Wonder Books, Level 2 Reader)*. Chanhassen, MN: The Child's World, 2002.

Schulz, Charles M. *Peanuts: A Golden Celebration: The Art and the Story of the World's Best-Loved Comic Strip*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1999.

Schuman, Michael. *Charles M. Schulz: Cartoonist and Creator of Peanuts (People to Know)*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2002.

Whiting, Jim. *Charles Schulz (Real-Life Reader Biography)*. Bear, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, Inc., 2003.

## **Abbreviated List of Peanuts Shows and Movies**

### **Prime-Time Specials**

**A Charlie Brown Christmas:** Charlie Brown becomes the director of the *Peanuts* Gang's Christmas pageant. Can he overcome their preference for dancing instead of acting, find a good Christmas tree, and discover the true meaning of Christmas?

**A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving:** Peppermint Patty invites herself and friends to Charlie Brown's for Thanksgiving dinner. With Snoopy and Linus' help, he decides to cook his own version of a Thanksgiving meal.

**It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown:** While the gang goes trick-or-treating, Linus waits in the pumpkin patch for the Great Pumpkin; Snoopy plays the World War I Flying Ace and is shot down over "no man's land."

**It's the Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown:** Peppermint Patty tries to teach Marcie how to decorate eggs. Snoopy gets a birdhouse for Woodstock, and Linus convinces Sally that she doesn't need to color eggs because the Easter Beagle will bring them.

**Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown:** Charlie Brown hopes for Valentine's Day cards in his mailbox and at the school Valentine's Day party; Linus buys a present for Miss Othmar, and Sally hopes Linus will notice her.

**Snoopy's Reunion:** Charlie Brown decides to cheer up Snoopy by hosting a reunion party with his brothers and sisters. Learn about their first days at the Daisy Hill Puppy Farm and how they came to leave it.

**This Is America, Charlie Brown** This eight-part series, advertised as "the first animated miniseries ever," was broadcast in prime-time on CBS during the 1988-89 season. Meant as both education and entertainment, the shows find the *Peanuts* Gang witnessing and participating in historic events and discoveries. In addition to the animated characters, historical pictures and footage are used. The series includes:



***The Mayflower Voyagers***  
***The Birth of the Constitution***  
***The Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk***  
***The NASA Space Station***  
***The Building of the Transcontinental Railroad***  
***The Great Inventors***  
***The Smithsonian and the Presidency***  
***Music and Heroes of America***

### **Documentaries and Live-Action Shows**

Although part of the *Peanuts* television canon, these shows are either not primarily animated, or are a blend of interviews, archival footage and retrospectives that incorporate sequences from earlier specials.

***A Boy Named Charlie Brown:*** A gentle and informative examination about Charles Schulz and the comic strip; featuring Charles Schulz driving his children to school while he discusses where he gets his ideas, answering his fan mail, at work in his studio, drawing his famous creations, and more.

***A&E Biography—Charles Schulz: A Charlie Brown Life:*** An overview of Charles Schulz's life and career, including snippets from animated shows.

***The Making of a Charlie Brown Christmas:*** This 17-minute documentary focuses on the creation of the first *Peanuts* TV special, including interviews, an example of the earliest *Peanuts* animation, and a tribute to Vince Guaraldi, composer of the *Peanuts* theme.

### **Movies**

There have been five theatrically released feature-length *Peanuts* movies.

***A Boy Named Charlie Brown:*** After winning local competitions, Charlie Brown competes in a national spelling bee.

***Snoopy Come Home:*** Snoopy decides he must return to his previous owner.

***Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown:*** The *Peanuts* Gang goes to summer camp and competes in a whitewater race.

***Bon Voyage, Charlie Brown (And Don't Come Back):*** Charlie Brown, Linus, Peppermint Patty, Marcie, and Snoopy travel to France as exchange students and confront a mystery surrounding their hosts.

***The Peanuts Movie:*** Released in 2015, Charlie Brown embarks upon an epic and heroic quest, while his best pal, Snoopy, takes to the skies to pursue his arch-nemesis, the Red Baron.