

ANIMAL ZINES

AGES

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Zines are back! Many teens will already be familiar with the eight-page mini zines made out of a single sheet of printer paper, but anyone from children to adults can have fun making larger zines too. Let teens peruse some age-appropriate zine samples, then give them some topic ideas. Zines can be as simple or complex as participants want to make them. If your library (or another local library) has a zine collection, be sure to tell teens about it.

Animal mini zine topic ideas:

- A profile of an animal hero or a weird animal
- Portraits of themselves as different animals
- A fictional to-do list for their favorite animal
- A fictional account of an animal's best or worst day
- Drawings: One animal doing six different activities
- Drawings: Six different animal habitats
- Drawings: One animal's six favorite foods

Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Sample zines (see SLJ article below for purchasing ideas)
- Printer paper
- Pencils, pens, and markers
- Scissors and tape
- Long-arm stapler (optional but recommended)
- Old magazines (optional)
- Cardstock or construction paper (optional)
- Access to photocopier
- Various other art supplies

You can make an eight-page mini zine out a single piece of 8.5 x 11" printer paper (see Resources for folding instructions), and the most common size for larger zines is 8.5 x 11" paper folded in half (as many pages as the zine requires).

WHAT IS A ZINE?

A zine is a self-published booklet, typically made of photocopied pages, and often traded or given away for free. Zines may have only words, only pictures, or a combination of both.

TIP:

Do your teens love zines? Establish a regular zine club or zine swap, or set up a teen volunteer-run zine lending library. A distribution plan for the zines they make will increase teen engagement.

TIP:

Consider integrating zine-making as one of a two-part creative writing series. In the first session, teens write or draw character ideas (Chapter 01: Character Design for Teens); in the second, they turn their character profiles (or short stories based on those characters) into zines.

TIP:

Repurpose a brochure display to showcase teens' zines in the library!

RESOURCES

Web

One-page zine folding instructions: <https://bit.ly/2zQZgZy>

Zine guide from Vice: <https://bit.ly/2zQJkqa>

Zine guide from Barnard College: <https://bit.ly/2zcBmlb>

Teens and zines from *School Library Journal*: <https://bit.ly/2ZcLPhr>

Broken Pencil magazine's list of zine fairs: <https://bit.ly/3cK0nZQ>

Teen Nonfiction

How to Make Books: Fold, Cut & Stitch Your Way to a One-of-a Kind Book by Esther K. Smith (2007)

Make a Zine!: Start Your Own Underground Publishing Revolution (2017) by Joe Biel and Bill Brent

Whatcha Mean, What's a Zine? (2006) by Mark Todd and Esther Pearl Watson

TIP:

Adult writers and cartoonists also make and distribute zines, so check your community for people who might be willing to help run this workshop.