

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Safety in Cartoons

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward students with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Participants will explore ways in which they stay safe in everyday life situations as a way to make connections to the Navy's safety campaign cartoons during World War II to help safeguard crew members. Facilitators will encourage participants to draw connections between their own safety and ways they protect themselves and safety concerns shown in various cartoons. Participants will visually explore a series of cartoons to identify details they notice. By the end of this lesson, participants will be able to connect safety on a Navy ship to their own safety by creating their own safety cartoon and message.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through how they stay safe, identifying how some spaces on *Intrepid* could be unsafe, visual observations of the Navy's Dilbert cartoons, and a fun activity where they make their own safety cartoon.

Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

Materials

- [Safety in Cartoons I/DD Slideshow](#)
- [Safety Cartoon Worksheet](#)
- **Optional: Crayons, markers, stickers, glitter**

Discussion Questions

Why is safety important?

What safety rules do you follow?

Why does the Navy want sailors to stay safe?

Lesson

1. Introductory Activity

- Participants will discuss the ways they practice safety and explore the different everyday symbols and objects they encounter to help keep them safe. Explain to participants the US Navy also worked to keep sailors and pilots safe. Educators can share some ways they stay safe to encourage participation.
 - **Why is safety important?**
 - **What safety rules do you follow?**
 - **When do you need to follow safety rules?**
- Participants will be introduced to USS *Intrepid* and make connections between their own safety and that of sailors and pilots that served on ships like USS *Intrepid*. Explain to participants that *Intrepid* served as an aircraft carrier for the Navy. There were sailors and pilots living and working on the ship. After the ship's service, *Intrepid* became a museum in New York City.
 - **What did the Navy do to help sailors on *Intrepid* stay safe?**
- Explain to participants that many different jobs existed in the Navy, especially on *Intrepid*. Because these people fought in wars, their jobs required safety rules. Discuss the image of sailors working in the anchor chain room aboard *Intrepid*. Click on the historic image with the chain and facilitate discussion and exploration of that space through Google Arts & Culture. Encourage participants to find areas that may not be safe.
 - **What can you find that might be unsafe?**

2. Core Activity

- Beginning with [slide 9](#), explain to participants that they will explore the ways the Navy promoted safety using cartoons and videos. Show participants the video and discuss what they noticed about Dilbert.
 - **What did Dilbert do that was unsafe?**
 - **What could Dilbert do differently to practice safety?**

- Discuss how the Navy wanted to prevent accidents. They created this campaign with the characters Dilbert and Spoiler. Ask participants what they notice about the first cartoon image on slide 12.
- Guide participants through slides 13-16. Analyze what they notice and discuss why safety is needed in the cartoons.
 - **What is unsafe in this cartoon?**
 - **What other details do you notice?**

3. Make Your Own Safety Cartoon

Using the [worksheets](#) attached and visual instructions on the [slideshow](#), participants will explore a safety message they want to include in their own cartoon in order to convince other people to stay safe.

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own and create their own [safety cartoon](#). Ask them to write or draw a picture of a safety rule important to them, add an important message, and then combine the two in a cartoon. Then have them upload a picture of it to Padlet or Google Drive.

Extension Activities

To deepen student engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities :

Class Safety Cartoon Book

As participants saw in the lesson, *Intrepid* and other Navy ships were tasked with protecting one another through the Don't Be a Dilbert campaign. Encourage participants to be creative by making a class cartoon book about safety. Identify key safety rules as a group, and assign a rule to each participant to create their cartoon, either with words or without, in the same way they designed their own safety cartoon at the end of this lesson. Publish the book for participants to see how their work is important and valued.

Additional Resources/ References

[Intrepid Museum Google Arts & Culture](#)

[National Archives World War II Posters](#)

[Mrs. P's Specialties: Teaching Students with Disabilities About Safety](#)

The Museum is deeply grateful to the funders that make our education programs possible:



*This project was made possible in part by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Award ID:
CAGML-247144-OMLS-20*

ACTIVITY: Make a Safety Cartoon!

Directions

Use the template to combine a safety rule with a message to make your own safety cartoon.

- Write or draw a safety rule that is important to you.
- Write a short message about the rule.
- Combine the two to make you safety cartoon.

A safety rule important to me...	My message about this rule...
My safety cartoon! 	