

Rise of the Forest Rangers

An extension of "Female guardians of the forest"

The article "Female guardians of the forest" (pages 9–10, *What's Up* February 2024) tells us about how women in Aceh decided to work together to protect the forest. Let's draw a comic strip to portray the chain of events that led to this decision!

STEP 1: Drawing a comic is like writing a story: you will need characters (who), the setting (where), and the plot (what happened). Read the article and fill in the spaces below.

Where?

Damaran Baru, a village at the edge of a (1)_____. It is surrounded by (2)_____ and (3)_____.

Who? *(As the villagers are not named in the article, come up with 2–4 fictional names for each category below)*

▪ The group who trekked through the forest:

▪ Women who decided to become forest rangers:


▪ Men who opposed them:

▪ Village leaders:

What happened?

- One day in 2015, the villagers woke up to find that the stream was (4)_____.
- They knew something was wrong with the (5)_____ of the stream.
- A group of villagers trekked through the (6)_____, following the stream.
- They were surprised to find the river blocked by (7)_____.
- They knew more (8)_____ would follow.
- A week later, a (9)_____ swept through the village.
- The villagers had to evacuate and live in camps, which caused them (10)_____.
- The women decided to become forest rangers to protect the land, but many men (11)_____.
- However, the women felt it was their right to (12)_____.
- The village leaders finally (13)_____ and the women applied for a permit.
- In November 2019, they (14)_____ the permit.

STEP 2: Before drawing a comic strip, artists usually do a storyboard. This is where you decide what goes into each panel of the comic strip. Using the points under "What happened?" on Page 1, plan your comic by jotting down the key point of each panel and adding a simple sketch below. The first one has been done as an example.

<p>1. One morning in 2015....</p> 	<p>2. The villagers woke up to find that the stream was muddied.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>4.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>6.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>8.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>10.</p>

11.	12.
13.	14.

STEP 3: Now, it is time to get creative! Using your storyboard as a guide, draw your comic strip on a fresh piece of paper.

Some tips

- You do not have to stick to the layout used in the storyboard. Some panels may be bigger. You may even omit the outline of the panel!
- Make your comic livelier by adding some dialogue in speech bubbles. For example, what might the villagers say when they see the muddy stream?
- Consider how much of a scene to show. For example, instead of showing a villager's whole body, you might draw only his face — this lets you show his expression more clearly.
- Use visual sound effects called onomatopoeia (see below) for impact.



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