Peanuts is a syndicated daily and Sunday comic strip written and illustrated by Charles M. Schulz, which ran from October 2, 1950, to February 13, 2000 (the day after Schulz's death), continuing in reruns afterward. The strip is considered to be one of the most popular and influential in the history of the medium, with 17,897 strips published in all[1], making it "arguably the longest story ever told by one human being," according to Professor Robert Thompson of Syracuse University. At its peak, Peanuts ran in over 2,600 newspapers, with a readership of 355 million in 75 countries, and was translated into 21 languages. It helped to cement the four-panel gag strip as the standard in the United States, and together with its merchandise earned Schulz more than $1 billion.[2] Reprints of the strip are still syndicated and run in many newspapers.

Peanuts achieved considerable success for its television specials, several of which, including A Charlie Brown Christmas[3] and It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown[4] won or were nominated for Emmy Awards. The holiday specials remain quite popular and are currently broadcast on ABC in the United States during the appropriate season.

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History

The first strip from October 2, 1950.

Peanuts also viewed:
From the final Daily strip, and the only Sunday strip included all of the text death on coincidentally, the day after Schulz's The final daily original Schulz continued the strip until he was forced to retire because of health reasons. format and started using the entire length of the strip, in part to combat the dwindling size of the comics page, and also and shortly after the lettering became larger to accommodate the shrinking format. In 1988, Schulz abandoned this strict County During the 1980s other strips rivaled 1980s-1990s heyday of the daily strip, and there were numerous animated specials and book collections. Peanuts 14) to explain to Charlie Brown what threat of Lucy to "slug" someone, especially her brother Linus. Though violence would happen from time to time, no boy effort to kick the football while Lucy holds it. At the last moment, she would pull the ball away just as he was kicking. Peanuts which Snoopy tossed Linus into the air and boasted that he was the first dog ever to launch a human, parodied the family name added a little boy named " to their name in four gags to three different boys and one buried in sand. The series also had a dog that looked much like the early 1950s version of Snoopy In 1948, Schulz sold a cartoon to the Saturday Evening Post seventeen single-panel cartoons by Schulz would be published there. The first of these was of a boy who resembled Charlie Brown sitting with his feet on an ottoman.

In 1948, Schulz tried to have Li’l Folks syndicated through the Newspaper Enterprise Association. Schulz would have been an independent contractor for the syndicate, unheard of in the 1940s, but the deal fell through. Li’l Folks was dropped in 1949. The next year, Schulz approached the United Features Syndicate with his best work from Li’l Folks.

When his work was picked up by United Features Syndicate, they decided to run the new comic strip he had been working on. This strip was similar in spirit to the panel comic, but it had a set cast of characters, rather than different nameless little folk for each page. The name Li’l Folks was too close to the names of two other comics of the time; Al Capp’s Li’l Abner and a strip titled Little Folks. To avoid confusion, the syndicate settled on the name Peanuts, a title Schulz always disliked. In a 1957 interview, Schulz said of the title Peanuts: "It’s totally ridiculous, has no meaning, is simply confusing, and has no dignity — and I think my humor has dignity." The periodic collections of the strips in paperback book form typically had either "Charlie Brown" or "Snoopy" in the title, not "Peanuts", because of Schulz’s distaste for his strip’s title. The Sunday panels eventually typically read, Peanuts, Featuring Good Ol’ Charlie Brown.

1950s


Schulz made the decision to produce all aspects of the strip, from the script to the finished art and lettering, himself. Thus the strip was able to be presented with a unified tone, and Schulz was able to employ a minimalist style. Backgrounds were generally eschewed, and when utilised Schulz’s frazzled lines imbued them with a fraught, psychological appearance. This style has been described by art critic John Carlin as forcing "its readers to focus on subtle nuances rather than broad actions or sharp transitions." While the strip in its early years resembles its later form, there are significant differences. The art was cleaner, sleeker, and simpler, with thicker lines and short, squat characters. For example, in these early strips, Charlie Brown’s famous round head is closer to the shape of a football. Most of the kids were initially fairly round-headed.

1960s-1970s

Peanuts is remarkable for its deft social commentary, especially compared with other strips appearing in the 1950s and early 1960s. Schulz did not explicitly address racial and gender equality issues so much as he assumed them to be self-evident in the first place. Peppermint Patty’s athletic skill and self-confidence is simply taken for granted, for example, as is Franklin’s presence in a racially-integrated school and neighborhood.

Schulz would throw satirical barbs at any number of topics when he chose. Over the years he tackled everything from the Vietnam War to school dress codes to the new math. One of his most prescient sequences came in 1963 when he added a little boy named " to the cast, whose sisters were named "3" and "4", and whose father had changed their family name to their ZIP Code, giving in to the way numbers were taking over people’s identities. In 1957, a strip in which Snoopy tossed Linus into the air and boasted that he was the first dog ever to launch a human, parodied the hype associated with Sputnik 2’s launch of "Laika" the dog into space earlier that year. Another sequence lampooned Little League and "organized" play, when all the neighborhood kids join snowman-building leagues and criticize Charlie Brown when he insists on building his own snowmen without leagues or coaches.

Peanuts did not shy away from cartoon violence. The most obvious example might be Charlie Brown’s annual, futile effort to kick the football while Lucy holds it. At the last moment, she would pull the ball away just as he was kicking. The off-balance Charlie would sail into the air and land on his back with a loud thud. There was also the ever-present threat of Lucy to "slug" someone, especially her brother Linus. Though violence would happen from time to time, no boy was ever depicted hitting a girl. Schulz once said, "A girl hitting a boy is funny. A boy hitting a girl is not funny."

Peanuts touched on religious themes on many occasions, most notably the classic television special Charlie Brown Christmas in 1965, which features the character Linus van Pelt quoting the King James Version of the Bible (Luke 2:8-14) to explain to Charlie Brown what Christmas is all about. (In personal interviews, Schulz mentioned that Linus represented his spiritual side.)

Peanuts probably reached its peak in American pop-culture awareness between 1965 and 1980; this period was the heyday of the daily strip, and there were numerous animated specials and book collections.

1980s-1990s

During the 1980s other strips rivaled Peanuts in popularity, most notably Doonesbury, Garfield, The Far Side, Bloom County, and Calvin and Hobbes. However, Schulz still had one of the highest circulations in daily newspapers. The daily Peanuts strips were formatted in a four-panel "space-saving" format beginning in the 1950s, with a few very rare eight-panel strips, that still fit into the four-panel mold. In 1975, the panel format was shortened slightly horizontally, and shortly after the lettering became larger to accommodate the shrinking format. In 1988, Schulz abandoned this strict format and started using the entire length of the strip, in part to combat the dwindling size of the comics page, and also to experiment. Most daily Peanuts strips in the 1990s were three-panel strips.

Schulz continued the strip until he was forced to retire because of health reasons.

The end of Peanuts

The final daily original Peanuts comic strip was published on January 3, 2000. Original Sunday strips continued for a few weeks, with the last one published, coincidentally, the day after Schulz’s death on February 12. The final Sunday strip included all of the text from the final Daily strip, and the only
The initial cast of Peanuts was small, featuring only Charlie Brown, Shermy, Patty (not to be confused with Peppermint Patty), and a beagle, Snoopy.

Though the strip did not have a lead character at the onset, it soon began to focus on Charlie Brown, a character developed from some of the painful experiences of Schulz's formative years. Charlie Brown's main characteristic is either self-defeating stubbornness or admirable determined persistence to try his best against all odds: he can never win a ballgame but continues playing baseball; he can never fly a kite successfully but continues trying to do so. Though his inferiority complex was evident from the start, in the earliest strips he also got in his own jabs when verbally sparring with Patty and Shermy. Some early strips also involved romantic attractions between Charlie Brown and Patty or Violet (the next major character added to the strip).

As the years went by, Shermy, Violet, and Patty appeared less often and were demoted to supporting roles (eventually disappearing from the strip by the end of the 1960s/beginning of the 1970s), while new major characters were introduced. Schroeder, Lucy Van Pelt, and her brother Linus debuted as very young children — with Schroeder and Linus both in diapers and pre-verbal. Snoopy, who began as a typical puppy, soon started to verbalize his thoughts via thought bubbles. Eventually he adopted other human characteristics, such as walking on his hind legs, reading books, using a typewriter, and participating in sports. He also grew from a puppy to a full-grown dog.

One recurring theme in the strip is Charlie Brown's Little League baseball team. Charlie Brown is the manager of the team and, usually, its pitcher, with the other characters of the strip comprising the rest of the team. Charlie Brown is a terrible pitcher, often giving up tremendous hits which either knock him off the mound or leave him with only his shorts on. The team itself is also poor, with only Charlie Brown's dog Snoopy being particularly competent. Because of this, the team consistently loses. However, while the team is often referred to as "win-less", it does win at least 10 games over the course of the strip's run, most of these when Charlie Brown is not playing.[5][6]

In the 1960s, the strip began to focus more on Snoopy. Many of the strips from this point revolve around Snoopy's active, Walter Mitty-like fantasy life, in which he imagined himself to be a World War I flying ace or a bestselling suspense novelist, to the bemusement and consternation of the other characters who sometimes wonder what he is doing but also at times participate. Snoopy eventually took on many more distinct personas over the course of the strip, notably college student "Joe Cool".

Schulz continued to introduce new characters into the strip, particularly including a tomboyish, freckle-faced, shorts-and-sandals-wearing girl named Patricia Reichardt, known better as "Peppermint Patty." "Peppermint" Patty is an assertive, athletic but rather obtuse girl who shakes up Charlie Brown's world by calling him "Chuck," flirting with him, and giving him comments he is not so sure he deserves. She also brings in a new group of friends (and heads a rival baseball team), including the strip's first black character, Franklin, a Mexican-Swedish kid named Jose Peterson, and Peppermint Patty's bookish sidekick Marcie, who calls Peppermint Patty "Sir" and Charlie Brown "Charles." (Most other characters call him "Charlie Brown" at all times, except for Eudora, who also calls him "Charles"; Charlie Brown's sister, Sally Brown, who usually calls him "big brother"; and a minor character named Peggie Jean in the early 1990s who called him "Brownie Charles" after he could not remember his own name. Also, Snoopy calls his owner, Charlie Brown, "that round-headed kid.")

Several additional family members of the characters were also introduced: Charlie Brown's younger sister Sally, who is fixated on Linus; Linus and Lucy Van Pelt's younger brother Rerun; and Spike, Snoopy's desert-dwelling brother from Needles, California, who was apparently named for Schulz's own childhood dog.[1][1] Snoopy also had two other brothers who made some appearances in the strip.

Other notable characters include: Snoopy's friend Woodstock, a bird whose chirping is represented in print as hash marks but is nonetheless clearly understood by Snoopy; Peppermint Patty, the perpetually dirty boy who could raise a cloud of dust on a clean sidewalk or in a snowstorm; and Frieda, a girl proud of her "naturally curly hair", and who owned a cat named Faron, much to Snoopy's chagrin. (The way Faron hung over Frieda's shoulder prompted Linus to comment that he was "the world's first boneless cat.")

Peanuts had several recurring characters who were actually absent from view. Some, such as the Great Pumpkin or the Red Baron, may or may not have been figments of the cast's imaginations. Others were not imaginary, such as the Little Red-Haired Girl (Charlie Brown's perennial dream girl who finally appeared in 1998, but only in silhouette), Joe Shlabotnik (Charlie Brown's baseball hero), World War II (the vicious cat who lives next door to Snoopy - not to be confused with Frieda's cat, Faron), and Charlie Brown's unnamed pen pal. After some early anomalies, adult figures never appeared in the strip.

Schulz also added some fantastic elements, sometimes imbuing inanimate objects with sparks of life. Charlie Brown's nemesis, the Kite-Eating Tree, is one example. Sally Brown's school building, that expressed thoughts and feelings
Ages of the Peanuts characters

Over the course of their nearly fifty-year run, most of the characters' literal ages do not change more than two years. An exception are the characters who were newly introduced as infants, who begin at birth, catch up to the rest of the cast, then stop. Run is unique in that he stopped aging in kindergarten. Linus was first mentioned in the strip where his birth is announced, on September 13, 1952. He then ages to right around Charlie Brown's age over the course of the first ten years, during which we see him learn to walk and talk with the help of Lucy and Charlie Brown. When Linus stops aging he is about a year or so younger than Charlie Brown. Charlie Brown was four when the strip began and aged over the next two decades until he settled in as an eight-year-old (after which he is consistently referred to as eight when any age is given). Sally remains two years younger than her older brother Charlie Brown, although Charlie Brown was already of school age in the strips when she was born and seen as a baby.

In one strip, when Lucy declares that by the time a child is five years old, his personality is already pretty well established, Charlie Brown protests, "But I'm already five! I'm more than five!"

The characters, however, were not strictly defined by their literal ages. "Were they children or adults? Or some kind of hybrid?" wrote David Michaelis of Time magazine. Schulz distinguished his creations by "fusing adult ideas with a world of small children." Michaelis continues:

"Through his characters, [Schulz] brought... humor to taboo themes such as faith, intolerance, depression, loneliness, cruelty and despair. His characters were contemplative. They spoke with simplicity and force. They made smart observations about literature, art, classical music, theology, medicine, psychiatry, sports and the law."

In other words, the cast of Peanuts transcended age and were more broadly human.

Current events were sometimes a subject of the strip over the years. In a 1995 series, Sally mentions the Classic Comic Strip Characters series of stamps, which were released four years earlier, and a story about the Vietnam War ran for 10 days in the 1960s. The passage of time, however, is negligible and incidental in Peanuts.

Critical acclaim

*Peanuts* is often regarded as one of the most influential and well-written comic strips of all time. Schulz received the National Cartoonist Society Humor Comic Strip Award for Peanuts in 1962, the Reuben Award in 1980, the Emmy for *Peanuts* in 1955 and 1964, and the Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* won a Peabody Award and an Emmy; *Peanuts* cartoon specials have received a total of 2 Peabody Awards and 4 Emmys. For his work on the strip, Charles Schulz is credited with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a place in the Cartoon Hall of Fame. *Peanuts* was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine on April 9, 1965, with the accompanying article praising the strip as being "the leader of a refreshing new breed that takes an unprecedented interest in the basics of life."[12] Considered amongst the greatest comic strips of all time, *Peanuts* was declared second in a list of the greatest comics of the 20th century commissioned by *The Comics Journal* in 1999.[13] *Peanuts* lost out to George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*, a strip Schulz admired, and he accepted the positioning in good grace, to the point of agreeing with the result.[14] In 2002 *TV Guide* declared Snoopy and Charlie Brown equal 8th[15] in their list of "Top 50 Greatest Cartoon Characters of All Time",[16] published to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

Cartoon tributes have appeared in other comic strips since Schulz's death in 2000, and are now displayed at the Charles Schulz Museum. In May 2000, many cartoonists included a reference to *Peanuts* in their own strips. Originally planned as a tribute to Schulz's retirement, after his death that February it became a tribute to his life and career. Similarly, on October 30, 2005, several comic strips again included references to *Peanuts*, and specifically the *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* television special.

The December 1997 issue of *The Comics Journal* featured an extensive collection of testimonials to *Peanuts*. Over forty cartoonists, from mainstream newspaper cartoonists to underground, independent comic artists, shared reflections on the power and influence of Schulz's art. Gilbert Hernandez wrote "Peanuts was and still is for me a revelation. It's mostly from Peanuts where I was inspired to create the village of Palomar in *Love and Rockets*..."[17] Tom Batiuk wrote "The influence of Charles Schulz on the craft of cartooning is so pervasive it is almost taken for granted..." Batiuk also described the depth of emotion in *Peanuts*: "Just beneath the cheerful surface were vulnerabilities and anxieties that we all experienced, but were reluctant to acknowledge... By sharing those feelings with us, Schulz showed us a vital aspect of our common humanity, which is, it seems to me, the ultimate goal of great art."[18]

In 2001, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors renamed the Sonoma County Airport, located a few miles northwest of Santa Rosa, California, the Charles M. Schulz Airport in his honor. The airport's logo features Snoopy in goggles and scarf, taking to the skies on top of his red doghouse. A bronze statue of Charlie Brown and Snoopy stands in Depot Park in downtown Santa Rosa.[19]

Schulz was included in the touring exhibition "Masters of American Comics" based on his achievements in the art form while producing the strip. His gag work is hailed as being "psychologically complex", and his style on the strip is noted as being "perfectly in keeping with the style of its times."[20]

Television and film productions

In addition to the strip and numerous books, the Peanuts characters have appeared in animated form on television numerous times. This started with the first *Peanuts* television special in 1965, the *Charlie Brown Christmas*. The strip itself has been adapted for television in 1966 and 1972. The strip also appears regularly in television commercial spots for Kellogg's Rice Krispies.
Fantasy Records

In 1962, Columbia Records issued an album titled peanuts, with Kaye Ballard and Arthur Siegel performing (as Lucy and Charlie Brown, respectively) to music composed by Fred Karlin.

Fantasy Records issued several albums featuring Vince Guaraldi's jazz scores from the animated specials, including Jazz Impressions of a Boy Named Charlie Brown (1964), A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965), Oh, Good Grief! (1968), and Charlie Brown's Holiday Hits (1998). Both were later reissued on CD.

Record albums
Other jazz artists have recorded Peanuts-themed albums, often featuring cover versions of Guaraldi's compositions. These include Robert L. Short (1993); Elise Marsalis, Jr., and Wynton Marsalis (Joe Cool's Blues, 1995); George Winston (Linus & Lucy, 1996; David Benoit (Here's to You, Charlie Brown! 2000); and Pyrus Chestnut (A Charlie Brown Christmas, 2000).

Cast recordings (in both original and revival productions) of the stage musicals You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown and Snoopy!!! The Musical have been released over the years.

Numerous animated Peanuts specials were adapted into book-and-record sets, issued on the "Charlie Brown Records" label by Disney Read-Along in the 1970s and '80s.

RCA Victor has released an album of classical piano music ostensibly performed by Schroeder himself. Titled Schroeder's Greatest Hits, the album contains solo piano works by Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, and others, performed by John Miller, Ronnie Zito, Ken Bichel, and Nelly Kokoins.

The characters have been featured on Hallmark Cards since 1960 and can be found adorning clothing, figurines, plush dolls, flags, balloons, posters, Christmas ornaments, and countless other bits of licensed merchandise.

The Apollo 10 lunar module was nicknamed "Snoopy" and the command module "Charlie Brown." While not included in the official mission logo, Charlie Brown and Snoopy became semi-official mascots for the mission. Charles Schulz drew an original picture of Charlie Brown in a spacesuit that was hidden aboard the craft to be found by the astronauts once they were in orbit. This drawing is now on display at the Kennedy Space Center. Snoopy is the personal safety mascot for NASA astronauts.

The 1960s pop band, The Royal Guardsmen, drew inspiration from Peanuts, and their single "Snoopy vs. The Red Baron" reached number two on the charts.

In the Sixties, Robert L. Short interpreted certain themes and conversations in Peanuts as being consistent with parts of Christian theology, and used them as illustrations during his lectures about the gospel, and as source material for several books, as he explained in his bestselling paperback book, The Gospel According to Peanuts.

In 1980, Charles Schulz was introduced to artist Tom Everhart during a collaborative art project. Everhart became fascinated with Schultz's art style and worked Peanuts-themed art into his own work. Schulz encouraged Everhart to continue with his work. Everhart continues to be the only artist authorized to paint Peanuts characters.

Giant helium balloons of Charlie Brown and Snoopy have long been a feature in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Over the years, the Peanuts characters have appeared in ads for Dolly Madison snack cakes, Cheez-Its, Bounty, Cheerios, A&W Root Beer, Kraft Foods, and Ford automobiles. Pig-Pen appeared in a memorable spot for Regina vacuum cleaners.

They are currently spokespeople in print and television advertisements for the MetLife insurance company. MetLife usually uses Snoopy in its advertisements as opposed to other characters; for instance, the MetLife blimp are named "Snoopy One" and "Snoopy Two" and feature him in his World War I flying ace persona.

The Peanuts characters have been licensed to Dwellings, Inc., best known for Hello Kitty. They are currently spokespeople in print and television advertisements for the MetLife insurance company and also used in print and television advertisements for Hallmark Cards.

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Books

The Peanuts characters have been featured in many books over the years. Some represented chronological reprints of the newspaper strip, while others were thematic collections, such as Snoopy's Tennis Book. Some single-story books were produced, such as Snoopy and the Red Baron. In addition, most of the animated television specials and feature films were adapted into book form.[citation needed]

Charles Schulz always resisted publication of early Peanuts strips, as they did not reflect the characters as he eventually developed them.[citation needed] However, in 1997 he began talks with Fantagraphics Books to have the entire run of the strip, almost 18,000 cartoons, published chronologically in book form.[citation needed] The first volume in the collection, The Complete Peanuts: 1950 to 1952, was published in April 2004. Peanuts is in a unique situation compared to other comics in that archives quality masters of most strips are still owned by the syndicate.[citation needed] All strips, including Sundays, are in black and white. The following books publish much of this previously-unreproduced material.


The Complete Peanuts

Main article: The Complete Peanuts

The entire run of Peanuts, covering nearly 50 years of comic strips, is being reprinted in Fantagraphics' The Complete Peanuts, a 25-volume set to be released over a 12-year period, two volumes per year, published every May and October. The final volume is expected to be published in May 2016.[46]

References

1. ^ a b The man who recalled everything,” Maclean's, October 22, 2007.
3. ^ a b The comics: since 1945 Brian Walker 2002 Harry N. Abrams, Inc (New York)
8. ^ a b Masters of American Comics John Carlin Yale University Press 2005
11. ^ See Charles M. Schulz
12. ^ "Good Grief" Time Magazine Apr. 9, 1965
16. ^ "TV Guide" s 50 greatest cartoon characters of all time CNN accessed 30-11-2006
What we can be fairly sure of is that peanuts were used as food in Peruvian settlements as early as 700-800 BC (reference 1), due to the presence of pots with carved peanut shell motifs in burial sites of the Moche people of Peru.

The peanuts are then divided into different batches based on their size by passing them over screens—peanuts that are smaller than the holes fall through, while larger ones are carried to the next set of screens.

You want the peanut to be large enough that the shell cracks open when it passes between the drums but not so large that the nut is crushed.

More results at FactBites »
The Peanuts Gang Read up on all of your favorite characters. The Comics Read every "Peanuts" newspaper comic strip ever printed right here. The Genius Learn more about the creator of "Peanuts": Charles M. Schulz. The Peanuts Movie The hit animated movie now available on Blu-ray, DVD, and HD... The Peanuts Gang. Read up on all of your favorite characters. Read more >. The Comics. Read every "Peanuts" newspaper comic strip ever printed right here. Read more >. The Genius. Peanut The peanut, or Groundnut (Arachis hypogaea), is a species in the legume family Fabaceae native to South America, Mexico and Central America. It is an annual herbaceous plant growing to 30 to 50 cm (1 to 1½ ft) tall. Peanut The peanut, or Groundnut (Arachis hypogaea), is a species in the legume family Fabaceae native to South America, Mexico and Central America. It is an annual herbaceous plant growing to 30 to 50 cm (1 to 1½ ft) tall. Peanut leaves and freshly dug pods. Peanuts grow best in light, sandy loam soil. They require five months of warm weather, and an annual rainfall of 50-100 cm (20-40 inches) or the equivalent in irrigation water. The pods ripen 120 to 150 days after the seeds are planted. If the crop is harvested too early, the pods will be unripe. If they are harvested late, the pods will snap off at the stalk, and will remain in the soil.