


IT'S POP CULTURE, KID!

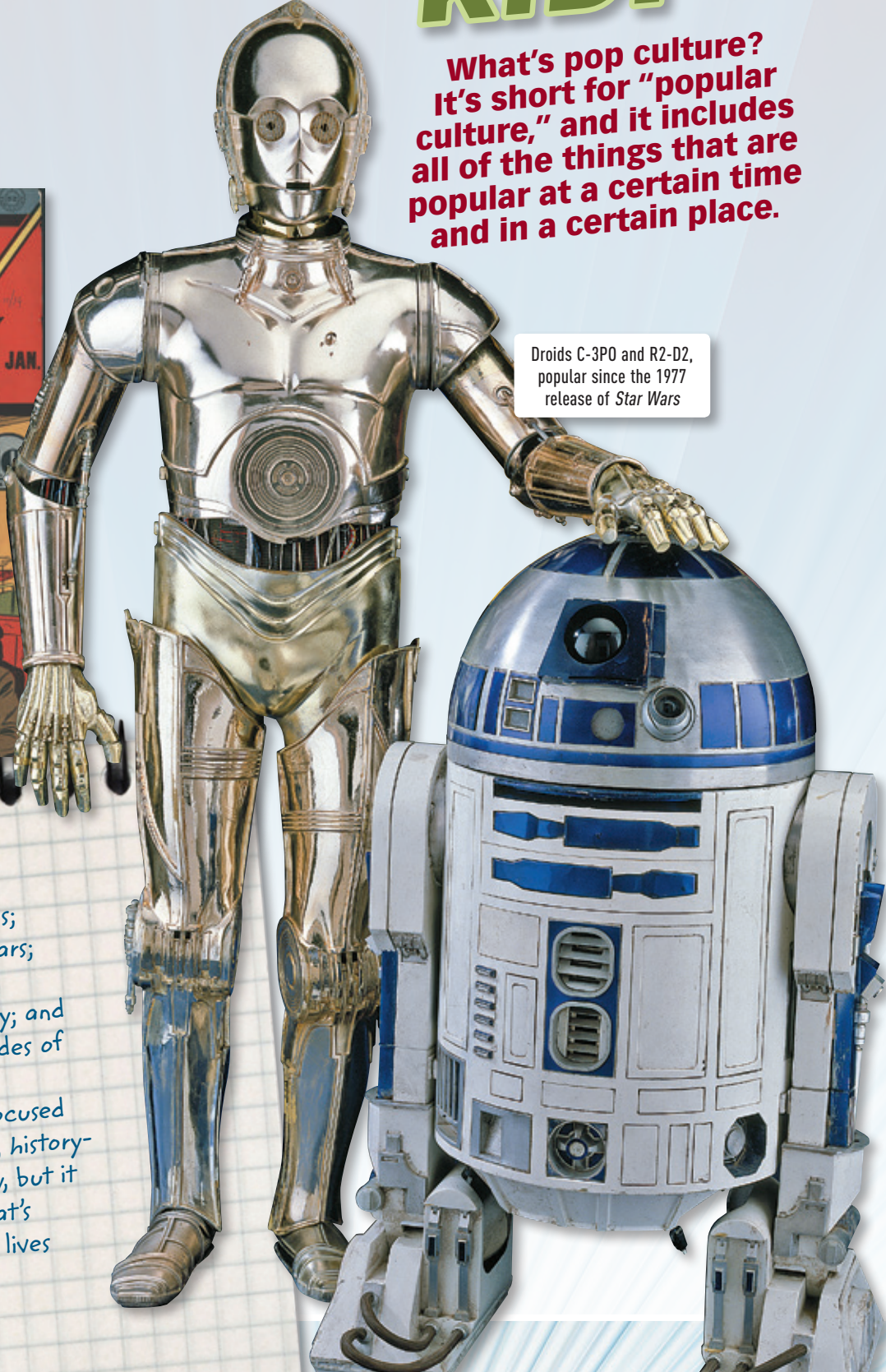


The Nintendo Game Boy, a hit in 1989

What's pop culture? It's short for "popular culture," and it includes all of the things that are popular at a certain time and in a certain place.



An Action Comics book from 1940 features the caped superhero, Superman.



Droids C-3PO and R2-D2, popular since the 1977 release of *Star Wars*

Pop culture can include:

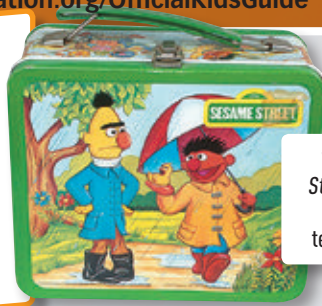
- popular TV shows;
- the coolest toys and games;
- the most famous movie stars;
- best-selling clothing;
- favorite sayings of the day; and
- common ideas and attitudes of the time.

Pop culture might not be focused on the most earth-shaking, history-making events in a country, but it can give us an idea of what's popular in the day-to-day lives of regular people.

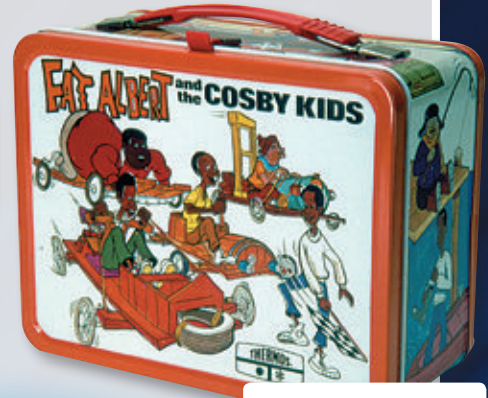
TRY THIS AT HOME!

DESIGN YOUR OWN POP-CULTURE LUNCH BOX.

Illustrate the lunch box below with something popular from your life today.



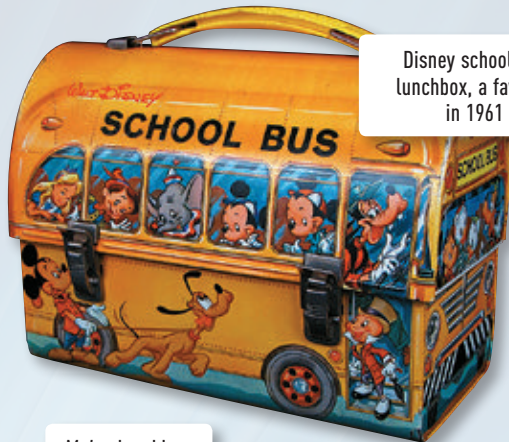
1983 Sesame Street lunchbox, based on television show



Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids lunchbox, based on an animated TV series in the 1970s and 80s

What do you use to carry your lunch to school?

What does your lunch container say about your taste in pop culture? Yes, even lunch boxes can give you an idea of what has been popular with kids over the past half-century.

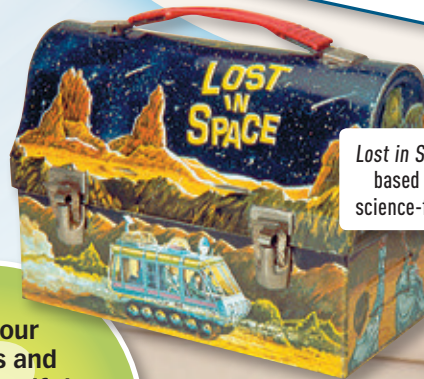


Disney school bus lunchbox, a favorite in 1961

Mulan lunchbox, based on the hit 1998 Disney movie



YOUR OWN LUNCH BOX:



Lost in Space lunchbox, based on a popular science-fiction program



Woody Woodpecker lunchbox, based on a cartoon popular in the 1960s

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN SEE DOZENS OF LUNCH BOXES FROM THE SMITHSONIAN'S COLLECTION IN THE STARS AND STRIPES CAFE, ON THE MUSEUM'S LOWER LEVEL.

Ask your parents and grandparents if they remember any of the lunch boxes on this page. They probably will!

POP QUIZ

TAKE A LOOK AT THE LUNCH BOXES ON THIS PAGE.

Which one do you think was the most popular lunch box of all time?

Answer: The Disney School Bus was the best-selling lunch box ever, with more than 9 million sold!