

Superheroes and Comic Books

Comics are made up of lots of pictures. The pictures are drawn inside frames (also known as panels), and tell a story. Story text or speech bubbles also help the reader to follow the plot.



Superhero comics became popular in the 1930s. The first superheroes were Superman, Batman, Captain America and Wonder Woman. Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, X-Men and Iron Man came later. Some of these superheroes still have adventures in comic books today.

Superman

Other names: Superman is also known as the Man of Steel.

Superpowers: His powers include the ability to fly, X-ray vision, great strength and super-fast speed and hearing. Superman's powers came from the planet of Krypton, where he grew up.

Weaknesses: Superman's only weakness is Kryptonite.

His other life: Superman keeps his superhero identity a secret by working as a newspaper reporter, Clark Kent. Clark is a calm, kind and quiet man.



Childhood: Clark was found on Earth as a baby and taken in by a family who brought him up to be a good person.

Enemies: His biggest enemy is the evil genius, Lex Luthor. Lex doesn't have superpowers but he uses different ways to try to defeat Superman, such as the use of Kryptonite. Other enemies are the Puzzler and the Galactic Golem.



Spiderman

His other life: Spider-Man's real name is Peter Parker, but he keeps his true identity a secret. Peter works as a photographer for a newspaper. He was bitten by a radioactive spider which left him with superpowers.

Superpowers: Spider-Man has incredible strength and is similar to a real spider in many ways. He is an excellent climber, he's very fast, he shoots spiderwebs from his wrists and can grab items which are far away. Peter had to learn about his powers without anyone finding out about his secret. He only uses his powers to help others.

Costume: Peter designed a costume to hide who he really is. It is red and blue, and has web patterns on it. There is a picture of a black spider on his chest.

Enemies: Kingpin, Dr. Octopus and the Scorpion are a few examples.



Superheroes and Comic Books Questions

1. As well as the pictures, what also helps the reader to follow the plot?

2. When did superhero comics become popular?

3. Was the Hulk one of the earlier or later superheroes?

4. Where did Superman's superpowers come from?

5. Describe Clark Kent in two words.

6. List two of Spider-Man's superpowers.

7. How did Peter become Spider-Man?

8. What does Spider-Man wear?
