

Superheroes and Comic Books

Comics have lots of pictures. The pictures are drawn inside panels and tell a story. Story text or speech bubbles also help the reader to follow what is happening.



The first superheroes included characters such as Superman, Batman, Captain America and Wonder Woman. Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, X-Men and Iron Man came later. You can still read about some of these characters today.

Superman

Other names: Man of Steel

Superpowers: X-ray vision, flight, super strength, super-fast speed and excellent hearing.

Weaknesses: Kryptonite

His other life: Clark Kent – A newspaper reporter who keeps his superhero powers a secret.

Childhood: Clark grew up on a different planet but was found on Earth as a baby.

Enemies: Lex Luthor, the Puzzler and the Galactic Golem.





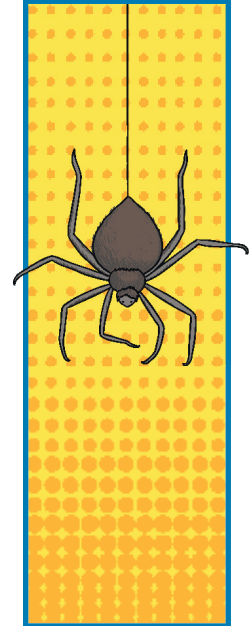
Spiderman

Superpowers: Super strength, amazing climber, fast speed, shoots spider webs from his wrists.

His other life: Peter Parker – A newspaper photographer who keeps his superhero powers a secret.

Costume: Red and blue with spiderweb patterns and a picture of a black spider on his chest.

Enemies: Kingpin, Dr Octopus and the Scorpion.



Superheroes and Comic Books Questions

1. Give the name of one of the first comic book superheroes.

2. Give the name of one of the later superheroes.

3. Give an example of one of Superman's superpowers.

4. What is Superman's weakness?

5. What is Clark Kent's job?

6. What is Spider-Man's real name?

7. Name one of Spider-Man's enemies.

Superheroes and Comic Books **Answers**

1. Give the name of one of the first comic book superheroes.

Answer will include one of the following names: Superman, Batman, Captain America or Wonder Woman.

2. Give the name of one of the later superheroes.

Answer will include one of the following names: Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, X-Men or Iron Man.

3. Give an example of one of Superman's superpowers.

Answer will include one of the following superpowers: X-ray vision, flight, super strength, super-fast speed and excellent hearing.

4. What is Superman's weakness?

Superman's weakness is Kryptonite.

5. What is Clark Kent's job?

Clark Kent works as a newspaper reporter.

6. What is Spider-Man's real name?

Spider-Man's real name is Peter Parker.

7. Name one of Spider-Man's enemies.

Answer will include one of the following: Kingpin, Dr Octopus and the Scorpion.

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.

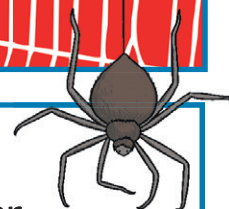
Weaknesses: Superman's only weakness is Kryptonite.

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?

Superheroes and Comic Books **Answers**

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

Story text or speech bubbles also help the reader to follow the plot.

2. When did superhero comics become popular?

Superhero comics became popular in the 1930s.

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

The Hulk was one of the later superheroes.

4. Where did Superman's superpowers come from?

Superman's superpowers came from the planet of Krypton, where he grew up.

5. Describe Clark Kent in two words.

Answer will include two of the following words: calm, kind or quiet.

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

Answers will include two of the following: incredible strength, he 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.

7. How did Peter become Spider-Man?

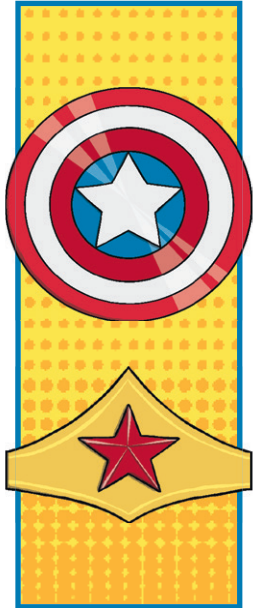
Peter became Spider-Man when he was bitten by a radioactive spider which left him with superpowers.

8. What does Spider-Man wear?

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.

Superheroes and Comic Books

Comics contain illustrations. The illustrations are drawn within frames, also known as panels, and placed in order to tell a story. Story text or speech bubbles also help the reader to follow the plot.

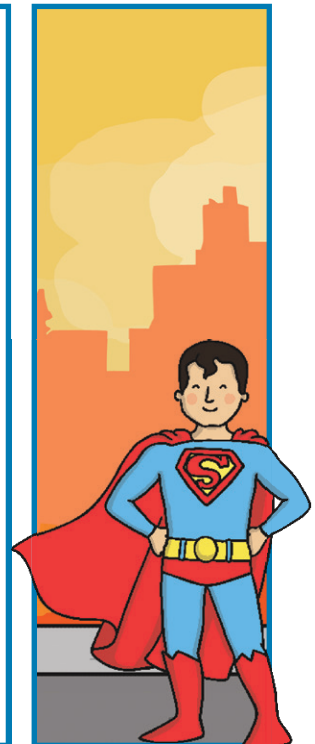


Superhero comics became very popular in the 1930s. In the early days of superhero comic books, the well liked characters included Superman, Captain Marvel, Batman, Captain America and Wonder Woman. Characters such as Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, X-Men and Iron Man came later. Some of these superheroes still have adventures today and are as popular as ever. Some superheroes have even had films made about them.

Superman

Superman is also known as the 'Man of Steel'. His powers include the ability to fly, X-ray vision, great strength and supernatural speed and hearing. Superman's powers came from the planet of Krypton, where he grew up. His only weakness is Kryptonite, a mineral which deprives him of all his powers.

Superman wears a blue, red and yellow costume, with a cape to help him fly. The yellow and red Superman symbol can be seen on his chest. He keeps his superhero identity



a secret by living his everyday life as newspaper reporter, Clark Kent. Clark is a good-natured and quiet man who is in love with Lois Lane, another reporter. Clark was found on Earth as a baby, rescued by a family and brought up to know the difference between right and wrong. He was taught to fight for what he believed in.

Superman's arch enemy is the evil genius, Lex Luthor. Lex doesn't have superpowers, but he uses different methods to try to defeat Superman, such as Kryptonite. Other enemies have included the Puzzler and the Galactic Golem.

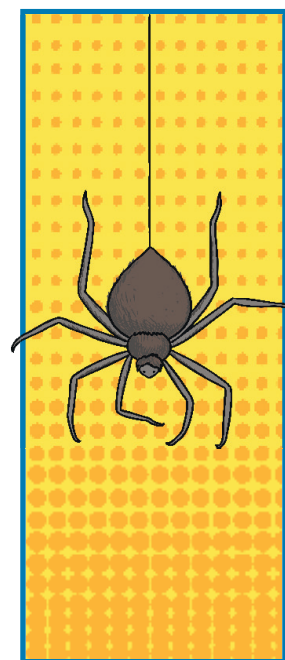
Final Fact: Superman has secret headquarters, known as the Fortress of Solitude.



Spiderman

Spider-Man was a teenager who had to deal with growing up, as well as having special powers.

His real name is Peter Parker, but he keeps his true identity a secret. Peter was bitten by a radioactive spider on a school trip, which left him with incredible superpowers. He had to learn about his powers without anyone finding out.



Spider-Man has incredible strength and shares many of a spider's capabilities. He has the ability to climb almost any surface, he has excellent reactions, can shoot spiderwebs from his wrists and can use these to grab items which are far away. His webs can also be used to trap people or to swing himself from place to place.

Spider-Man believes that, 'With great power, comes great responsibility.' This means that he only uses his special abilities for good, such as protecting people from crimes in New York City. Peter designed a costume for himself to wear, in order to conceal his true identity. It is red and blue and has web designs on it. A black spider symbol can be seen on his chest.

Some of Spider-Man's enemies have included Kingpin, Dr Octopus and the Scorpion. Like Spider-Man, they have gained powers through scientific accidents.

Final Facts: He marries Mary Jane Watson in one episode and his best friend is Harry Osborne, the son of the Green Goblin – one of his enemies! By day, Peter is a photographer for a newspaper.



Superheroes and Comic Books Questions

- 1. In addition to the illustrations, what also helps readers to follow the plot in a superhero comic book?

- 2. List three of the earlier comic book superheroes.

- 3. List three of the later comic book superheroes.

- 4. What are the three main colours of Superman's costume?

- 5. What is Kryptonite?

- 6. What might happen if Superman and Spider-Man's true identities were discovered?

- 7. Apart from wanting to keep their superhero identities a secret, write down two other similarities between Superman and Spider-Man.

- 8. How are Spider-Man's webs useful?

- 9. What does the phrase 'With great power, comes great responsibility.' mean?

Superheroes and Comic Books **Answers**

1. In addition to the illustrations, what also helps readers to follow the plot in a superhero comic book?

In addition to the illustrations, readers can look at the story text or speech bubbles to follow the plot.

2. List three of the earlier comic book superheroes.

Answer will include three of the following: Superman, Captain Marvel, Batman, Captain America or Wonder Woman.

3. List three of the later comic book superheroes.

Answer will include three of the following: Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, X-Men or Iron Man.

4. What are the three main colours of Superman's costume?

The main colours are blue, red and yellow.

5. What is Kryptonite?

Kryptonite is a mineral which deprives Superman of all his powers, leaving him helpless.

6. What might happen if Superman and Spider-Man's true identities were discovered?

Answer may include: Their enemies might find them./ It would stop them from doing their superhero job.

7. Apart from wanting to keep their superhero identities a secret, write down two other similarities between Superman and Spider-Man.

Answers will include two of the following: Both Superman and Spider-Man wear special costumes which include the colours red and blue, they are both strong and fast, they both have their superhero symbols on their chests, they both work for newspapers, they use their powers for good and they both have enemies.

8. How are Spider-Man's webs useful?

Spider-Man's webs are useful as they help him to grab items which are far away. His webs can trap people and he can use them to swing from place to place.

9. What does the phrase 'With great power, comes great responsibility.' mean?

The phrase means that Spider-Man is responsible for making sure that he uses his powers for good.