Superman



**Superman** is a fictional character, a [superhero](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superhero) that appears in [comic books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comic_book) published by [DC Comics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DC_Comics), and is considered an [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [cultural icon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_icon).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-TCS11-1)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-3)[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-4) Superman was created by writer [Jerry Siegel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Siegel) and artist [Joe Shuster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Shuster), high school students living in [Cleveland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland), Ohio, in 1933; the character was sold to Detective Comics, Inc. (later DC Comics) in 1938.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-SteelRootsCle-5)[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-TCS13-6)Superman first appeared in [*Action Comics*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_Comics) [#1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_Comics_1) (June 1938) and subsequently appeared in various radio serials, television programs, films, [newspaper strips](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comic_strip), and video games. With the success of his adventures, Superman helped to create the superhero genre and establish its primacy within the [American comic book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_comic_book).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-TCS11-1)

Superman's appearance is distinctive and iconic. He usually wears a blue costume, red [cape](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape), and stylized red-and-yellow ["S" shield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman_logo) on his chest.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-TCS18-7)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-8)[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-9) This shield is used in a myriad of media to symbolize the character.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-10)

The [origin story of Superman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origin_of_Superman) relates that he was born **Kal-El** on the planet [Krypton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krypton_%28planet%29), before being rocketed to [Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth) as an infant by his scientist father [Jor-El](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jor-El%22%20%5Co%20%22Jor-El), moments before Krypton's destruction. Discovered and adopted by a [Kansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas) farmer and his wife, the child is raised as [**Clark Kent**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_Kent) and imbued with a strong moral compass. Very early on he started to display[superhuman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superhuman) [abilities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powers_and_abilities_of_Superman), which upon reaching maturity, he resolved to use for the benefit of humanity. Superman resides and operates in the fictional American city of [Metropolis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolis_%28comics%29). As Clark Kent, he is a journalist for the [*Daily Planet*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daily_Planet), a Metropolis newspaper. Superman's primary love interest is [Lois Lane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lois_Lane) and his archenemy is [supervillain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supervillain%22%20%5Co%20%22Supervillain) [Lex Luthor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lex_Luthor).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superman#cite_note-Comics_166-11) Superman has fascinated scholars, with [cultural theorists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_studies), commentators, and critics alike exploring the character's impact and role in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) and worldwide. The character's ownership has often been the subject of dispute, with Siegel and Shuster twice suing for the return of legal ownership. Superman has been labeled as the greatest comic book hero of all time by.