

Reading Part 4

Read the text and answer the questions. Use a maximum of three words for each answer.

Superman

Superman is a fictional character with amazing powers. Many people consider Superman the greatest superhero ever. He is certainly the best known. The 1978 Hollywood *Superman* movie made more money than any other film of its time and gave Superman a worldwide audience.

You have to look before 1978 for Superman's appearance in comics. The character was created in the early 1930s and in June 1938, the familiar figure was first seen by the public in *Action Comics*. Since then, he has been on radio and TV and even in a 1960s Broadway musical called *Is it a bird?*

Superman was created by American writer Jerry Siegel, and a Canadian artist colleague drew the character and designed his costume. Superman's powers included great strength, incredible speed and the ability to fly. This last power was added only in the 1940s for new cartoons.

Superman was raised by a farmer and his wife, who gave him the name Clark Kent to protect his superhero identity. The couple found Superman as a baby after his father, a scientist on the distant planet Krypton, sent him into space before the planet exploded.

Superman believed that only he escaped from Krypton. Later, he discovered that his cousin, Kara, also got away. Several super animals joined the story, but Kara was the only other person to survive the planet's destruction.

Superman was called *Man of Steel* because nothing on earth could harm him. Only kryptonite, which was rock from his home planet, could kill Superman. The one thing which protected him from its deadly rays was the common metal, lead. Superman had enemies who tried to kill him. His most famous enemy, Lex Luthor, was actually a childhood friend.

As Clark Kent, he worked as a journalist in Metropolis after his upbringing and education in his home town, Smallville. Whenever there was a crisis, he would swiftly change into his famous Superman costume which was entirely blue and red apart from the distinctive yellow letter S on his chest.

1. In which year did Superman first appear in comics?

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2. What nationality was the person who created comic book pictures of Superman?

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3. What could Superman not do before 1940?

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4. What was the occupation of Superman's father?

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5. How many people does the text say escaped from Krypton?

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6. What could protect Superman from kryptonite rays?

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7. What was the relationship between Superman and Lex Luthor when they were young?

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8. Where did Superman go to school?

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