

# THE X-MEN COMIC

The film *X-Men* came out in 2000, but the team is much older. The X-Men were first in a comic from Marvel in 1963. Stan Lee was the writer and Jack Kirby was the artist. Lee and Kirby brought many of the most famous super-heroes to the world – Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Incredible Hulk ...



## WERE THE FIRST X-MEN THE SAME AS IN THE FILM?

Professor X put the first team of mutants together, and Cyclops and Jean Grey were there. But the other X-Men were different. In the first comic, the X-Men were also against Magneto and his bad mutants.

## WHAT MADE THE X-MEN DIFFERENT FROM OTHER COMICS?

The X-Men were teenagers with teenagers' problems. At first they didn't know how to use their powers well. Professor X wanted to teach and help them. The rest of the world didn't like these super-heroes. Most people were frightened of mutants and hated them.

## WHY DID THE TEAM CHANGE?

Marvel ended the first comic of the X-Men in 1969. Many readers loved the comic, but more people read other super-hero comics like *Spider-Man*.

But Marvel didn't forget the X-Men. They decided to bring the team back in 1975. This time the X-Men were different. Jean Grey, Cyclops and Professor X were still there, but the new team also had Logan (Wolverine), Storm, and other new mutants with very different powers. And they weren't all from America. Storm was from Africa. A mutant called Colossus was from Russia.

### 'STAN THE MAN'

Many people think of Stan Lee as the 'father' of super-hero comics. He likes to be in the films of his comics. In *X-Men*, when Senator Kelly comes out of the water, Stan Lee is near the hot dog stand..

# THE BIGGEST COMIC IN THE WORLD

More and more people read the new X-Men comic. Soon writer Chris Claremont started to work on the comic. He worked on *X-Men* for around 15 years and wrote many of the most famous stories.

Logan and his claws quickly became the readers' favourite. Sometimes there were stories just about Logan.



In the 1980s, Marvel brought out more comics about Professor X and his school for mutants:

- **The New Mutants** were young students at the school in Westchester. This team later became X-Force.
- **X-Factor** had the old X-Men from the first comic back in the team.
- **Excalibur** put some British superheroes into a team of mutants.

The X-Men went through many changes over the years. Some mutants left the team and new ones arrived. Some died - and some died and came back to life. There was even a change in Magneto – he became good and worked with the X-Men for a while!

Over the years, the X-Men comics sold more than any other around the world – more than 400 million comics! And the comic was in twenty-two different languages.

Do you read super-hero comics?  
Which is your favourite?

What do these words mean?  
You can use a dictionary.

comic artist brought (*past of bring*)  
super-hero hot dog stand became  
(*past of become*)