

SUPERMAN: ***the facts***

NAME: Earth name – Clark Kent
Krypton name – Kal-El
Also known as The Man of Steel

BORN: on the planet Krypton

LIVES: in the city of Metropolis, and
at the Fortress of Solitude in the Arctic

SPECIAL POWERS:

- Can fly
- Can run at superspeed
- Can jump over high buildings
- Has superstrength: can lift cars and houses
- Can see through things
- Can heat things with his eyes

EQUIPMENT: only his red and blue suit

WEAKNESS: kryptonite takes
away his strength. Only the
Earth's sun can return it.

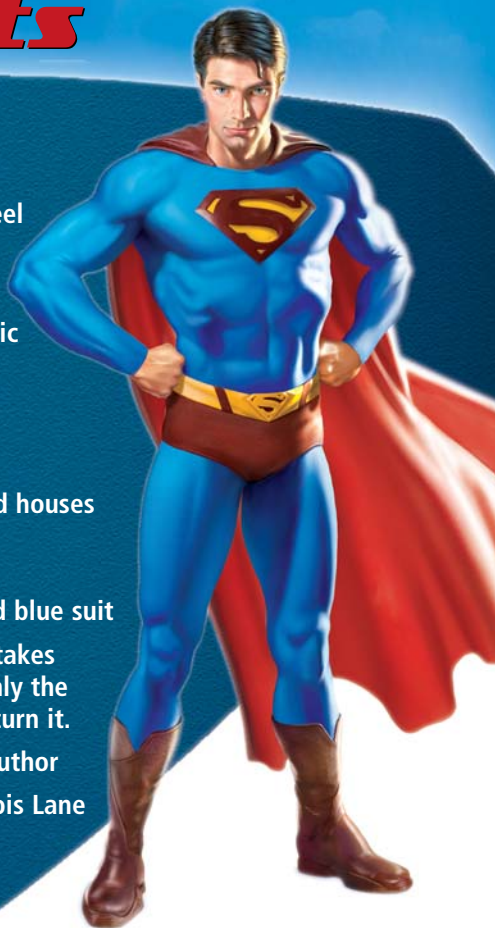
**Superman
came to Earth
from the planet**

Krypton. His father, Jor-
El, knew there would be an

explosion so he put his son Kal-El in a
spaceship and sent him to Earth. The spaceship landed in the
town of Smallville. The people who found him, Jonathan and
Martha Kent, became his Earth parents. They called him Clark.
As Clark got older, it became clear that he was very special...

ENEMY: Lex Luthor

LOVES: Lois Lane



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

power strength energy breathe gravity hormones emergency

The **SCIENCE** of **Superman**

Of course, Krypton isn't a real planet, and kryptonite doesn't exist – luckily! But we do know some things about the science behind Superman.

Q: Why is Superman so strong?

A: Superman's strength comes from Earth's yellow sun which gives him his powers. The sun won't give us superstrength, of course, but it gives us life. Plants get all their energy from the sun. This energy is very important to us. It makes food for animals and air to breathe.

Q: What could destroy a planet?



A: If a giant rock crashed into Earth, it would break the planet into bits. Over time, the pieces would come together and make a new planet. This might have one or two large moons. Scientists think Earth's moon was made in this way. If a planet's sun explodes, that planet is destroyed.

Q: Does superstrength really exist?

A: We can never be strong like Superman because of Earth's gravity. It pulls us to the Earth. But when people go to the moon, they can do 25 metre jumps and lift big things easily. This is because the moon has much weaker gravity than Earth.

However, sometimes people can do amazing things. For example, in an emergency there are more hormones in the blood. This means that more oxygen (O₂) goes to the body. So sometimes people can lift very heavy things, like cars.



Look at Superman's special powers. What would Superman do?

Clark Kent is at the Daily Planet offices one evening when the phone rings. It's Lois. She sounds terrible. Her son, Jason, is lost. He didn't come home from school. She doesn't know what to do. What does Clark/Superman do?