Marvel Comics’ character roster boasts some of the best known and most popular characters ever conceived—heroes that are international household names, such as Spider-Man, the Hulk, Silver Surfer, and Wolverine. This unique, one-volume encyclopedia contains more than 1,000 of Marvel’s greatest, with full details of their powers and their thrill-packed careers.

The range of spectacular art features eye-popping work by Marvel’s finest artists, while the authoritative text is supplied by top Marvel comic book experts.

The Marvel Comics Encyclopedia is an essential book for new fans and for everyone who grew up loving the excitement, heroism, and humor of the Marvel Universe.
THE MARVEL COMICS ENCYCLOPEDIA
A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE CHARACTERS OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE
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The Contributors


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What a great idea!

It ranks way up there with the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel. Just like them, it represents an epic milestone in the history of the human race. That's why I'm so incredibly proud to be writing this intro for a book that mankind has been hungering for: a book that is—now and forever—a shining beacon of wonder, a titanic tribute to talent unleashed, with the simple but awesome title of—"The Marvel Encyclopedia."

Just imagine, within these colorful pages you'll find more than a thousand of Marvel's most classic characters, all brilliantly illustrated, with their lives and vital statistics laid bare for your closest scrutiny and your browsing delight.

On a personal note, I must confess, when I first dreamed up some of the more prominent characters you'll find in this great collectors' edition, I never dreamed that decades later they would have achieved the fame and popularity which they now enjoy. It's almost impossible to describe the feeling of pride, almost mixed with disbelief, that I feel when I realize how many great movies, video games, DVDs, toys and books are based on these heroes, villains and far-out stories which we, in the mighty Marvel bullpen, had so much fun creating. None of us could have suspected that our creations would become so famous throughout the world that we'd one day find ourselves featured in a prestigious encyclopedia.

And, speaking of this extraordinary volume, when it comes to finding the hero or villain you may be seeking, the publishers, out of the goodness of their fan-loving hearts, have made it as easy for you as recognizing the Hulk in a crowd. They've put the names of each and every one—of more than a thousand characters—in convenient alphabetical order.

Just imagine, starting with the creation of the "Fantastic Four," the world's greatest comic book (as we so modestly called it), you'll be able to find decade-by-decade highlights from Marvel's fabulous comic book history. If you want to know about any of the more than one thousand characters featured in this magnificent tome, you've only to turn to the right letter.

But what about the artwork? Glad you asked! You'll find illustrations from the very best of Marvel's amazing array of artists, pencillers and inkers who have made their indelible marks on the consciousness of comic book fans worldwide.

And, naturally, the accompanying texts are written by the most acclaimed scriptwriters in Marvel's galaxy of gifted scribes. Every sentence is a tribute to the greatest Super Hero creations this side of Asgard.

But that's not all. Realizing that some of the spectacular characters in our Super Hero stable have actually achieved such status and fame that they are now truly worldwide legends, the editors have wisely decided to accord these special heroes and villains full-page, or even double-page layouts, plus a brief guide to their essential storylines.

There's so much more that I could say, but if I do it'll keep me from leaving my computer and reaching for my beautiful, brand-new Marvel Encyclopedia which is proudly sitting on my corner table. It might be my imagination, but I seem to see a glow around that voluminous volume, as though it's illuminated by some supernatural aura, some mystic radiance emanating from the combined power of the fantastic characters within its pages.

I know I must be fantasizing, and yet—as I slowly reach out to touch the cover of this magnificent book, I wonder—as you may wonder, too—what magic lies within?

Excelsior!

Stan Lee
**Abomination**

Born in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Emil Blonsky became a spy and infiltrated the US Air Force base where scientist Bruce Banner (see Hulk) was stationed. Blonsky discovered gamma-radiation equipment with which Banner intended to commit suicide. Testing the device on himself, Blonsky became the monstrous Abomination. The Abomination fought the Hulk for domination of the Earth. Their first battles ended when he was kidnapped by the Stranger. The crew of the starship Andromeda rescued him, and he served as their first mate until his return to Earth.

Further defeats by the Hulk eroded the Abomination's courage and he retreated to the New York sewers. Envious of Bruce Banner's apparent happiness, Blonsky poisoned his wife Betty (see Banner, Betty). The Hulk brought Blonsky to justice and the Abomination was imprisoned in a military installation.

**Powers**

Superhuman strength enables leaps of two miles; tough skin withstands seenile arms fire. Unlike Hulk, the Abomination's strength does not increase with rage, and he rarely returns to human form. However, he retains all Blonsky's mental faculties.

---

**Absorbing Man**

Seeking a pawn to use against his nemesis Thor, the Asgardian god Loki endowed brutal prisoner "Crusher" Creel and his ball and chain with the power to "absorb" the physical properties of anything it touched. Creel broke out of prison and battled Thor, as Loki intended. However, Creel overtook himself by trying to absorb the power of the whole Earth and exploded. Thanks to his new powers, however, Creel was not truly dead, and Loki magically reassembled him. Loki then enlisted the Absorbing Man as his ally in an attempt to overthrow Odin, monarch of Asgard (see Gods of Asgard), but Odin banished Creel into outer space.

Over the years the Absorbing Man has repeatedly battled his archfoe Thor and his other leading adversary, the Hulk. Among the Absorbing Man's other main opponents are Spider-Man and the Avengers. During the first "Secret War" staged by the Beyonder, Creel met another super-villain, Mary "Skeeter" MacPherran, the second Titania. Together they served in Baron Zemo's Masters of Evil, when that team took over Avengers Mansion. Creel and MacPherran became partners in crime, and eventually got married. They have since divorced and Creel has resumed his criminal career.

---

**Acolytes**

When he formed the Acolytes, Fabian Cortez claimed they were dedicated to Magneto's dream of a world ruled by mutants. However, Cortez betrayed Magneto and lied with him for control of the group. Appointing Exodus as leader, Magneto often sent the Acolytes to do his dirty work. When the Scarlet Witch used her reality-altering powers against mutankind, most of the Acolytes lost their powers.

---

**Abomination**

The Abomination is even stronger than the Hulk. His body is covered with reptilian scales.

---

**Absorbing Man**

The Absorbing Man's body can even duplicate the unknown alloy of Captain America's shield.

---

**Acolytes**

Mutant telepath Pingo of the X-Men attracts the unwelcome attentions of Magneto's Acolytes team.
**Adversary**

**First Appearance:** Uncanny X-Men #100 (Dec, 1984)
**Real Name:** Unknown (alias Naze, the great trickster)
**Occupation:** Ancient deity
**Base:** An unknown dimension
**Height/Weight/Eyes/Hair:** Not applicable
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can assume any form he desires; may be fought successfully through magic, but not through most forms of physical force; vulnerable to iron, steel, and adamanium.

The Cheyenne believe that the Adversary is a demonic god that toys with the fate of the universe, heedless of the deaths he causes. Forge was trained to be a shaman and combat him. After his teacher, Naze, was murdered and replaced by the Adversary, Forge joined the X-Men in an attempt to stop the monster. The Adversary is imprisoned by mystical spells, but may one day escape confinement.

**Agamemnon**

**First Appearance:** Incredible Hulk Vol. 2 #91 (May 1991)
**Real Name:** Vali Halfing
**Occupation:** Godlike observer
**Base:** The Mount, a mountain base in Arizona
**Height:** 6′ 7″
**Weight:** 140 lbs
**Eyes:** Brown
**Hair:** Brown
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Virtually immortal; projects a hologram of himself as an old, bearded man (below) so that no one suspects that he truly looks like a teenaged boy.

The son of an Asgardian god and a mortal mother, Vali traded the pick of his future offspring with the alien Trojan race in exchange for knowledge of immortality. He wished to improve the human condition by bringing an end to war, famine and disease and so he founded the Pantheon, an interventionist think-tank, whose members include many of the children he has sired over the years, and others he has adopted. However, when Agamemnon's betrayal of his children became known to the Pantheon, he attempted to slay them all! He seemingly died trying to escape Pantheon members when his rocket was shot down.

**Agent X**

**First Appearance:** Agent X #1 (September 2002)
**Real Name:** Nijo (aka Alex Hayden)
**Occupation:** Mercenary
**Base:** Mobile
**Height:** 6′ 2″
**Weight:** 210 lbs
**Eyes:** Brown
**Hair:** None
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Augmented strength, agility, and dexterity; superhuman regenerative abilities; certain advanced mental abilities; enhanced skill as a marksman.

Agent X's real name is Nijo, but during a bout of amnesia he adopted the name Alex Hayden. Agent X is a combined consciousness which resides in the body of Nijo but which also contains the mental powers of Deadpool and Black Swan. Agent X was created when the corpse of Nijo was revived and given Deadpool's healing power by Black Swan, who has the ability to enter a person's mind and unleash viruses similar to computer viruses into their brain. Agent X subsequently founded a team of mercenaries known as Agency X with his girlfriend Outlaw, Taskmaster, Sandi Brandenberg, and the mutant Mary Zero.

**Agent Zero**

**First Appearance:** (as Maverick) X-Men Vol. 2 #5 (Feb, 1992)
**Real Name:** Christopher Nord (changed to David North)
**Occupation:** Secret agent, mercenary
**Base:** Berlin, Germany
**Height:** 6′ 3″
**Weight:** 220 lbs
**Eyes:** Blue
**Hair:** Brown
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can absorb kinetic energy and utilize it for superhuman strength or release it as concussive blasts; possesses aging suppression and enhanced healing factors.

Born in East Germany, Christopher Nord became a freedom fighter against the oppressive, postwar Communist regime. He was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency for its Weapon X project and he changed his name to David North. By the early 1960s, North was partnered with Logan and Victor Creed, the future Wolverine and Sabretooth, in the CIA's "Team X." Later, North became a mercenary under the code name Maverick. After nearly being killed by Sabretooth, Maverick reluctantly rejoined the Weapon X project, which saved his life. Nord subsequently became the project's leading special operative, taking the new identity of Agent Zero.

**Aguila, El**

**First Appearance:** Power Man/Warrior #6 (August 1977)
**Real Name:** Alejandro Montoya
**Occupation:** Wealthy swashbuckler
**Base:** New York City
**Height:** 5′ 8″
**Weight:** 190 lbs
**Eyes:** Brown
**Hair:** Black
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can discharge electrostatic blast over 30 ft (9 meter) range, of up to 10,000 volts; highly skilled swordfighter; above-average strength; great agility.

Born in Madrid, Spain, Alejandro Montoya developed the mutant ability to discharge bursts of electricity through metal conductors; such as his steel sword. Making his way to New York City he joined other costumed vigilantes, branded himself "El Aguila" (the Eagle) and fought those who preyed on the poor and needy—drug dealers, slumloards and the like. His exploits brought him into conflict with the police as well as those famed heroes for hire: Power Man (see Cage, Luke) and Iron Fist.
Ahab

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four Annual #29 (1980)
**REAL NAME** Dr. Roderick Campbell
**OCCUPATION** Geneticist
**BASE** Mobile
**HEIGHT** 6 ft 1 in
**WEIGHT** 160 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** Brown

*A special powers/abilities* Ahab possesses a robotic body, and wields psychic lances which cause those struck to feel pain, to be enslaved to his will, or to perish.

In a future era which may or may not come to pass, Ahab was the creator of a process by which captured mutants were turned into Hounds, slaves to their master's will, and used to hunt down their fellow mutants. Ahab's body was rebuilt cybernetically after he was critically injured during the escape of his best Hound, Rachel Summers, into the past. Once rebuilt, he pursued her back to the present, where he became a foe of the assorted X-Men family of teams. TB

Ajak

**FIRST APPEARANCE** The Eternals Vol. 1 #3 (August 1976)
**REAL NAME** Ajak
**OCCUPATION** Adventurer
**BASE** The City of the Space Gods, Andes Mountains
**HEIGHT** 6 ft 1 in
**WEIGHT** 220 lbs
**EYES** Grey
**HAIR** Black

*A special powers/abilities* Superhuman strength, virtual immunity, and invulnerability; could psychically levitate, rearrange the molecular structure of objects, and project cosmic energy.

One of the Polar Eternals, Ajak was the spokesman for the Third and the Fourth Host of the Celestials on Earth. Ajak befriended archaeologist Dr. Daniel Damian, who was the daughter of Margo was killed, the venereal Damian used Celestial technology to turn Ajak into a monstrous monster. Ajak disintegrated himself and Damian out of guilt. Ajak is survived by his brother, Arox. PS

Alliance of Evil

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Factor #5 (June 1986)
**BASE** Mobile

*A members and powers* Frenzy: Superhuman strength and endurance; steel-hard skin.

*power* Tower: Alters size, strength, resilience, and durability.

Timesthrow: Slips in and out of dimensional sync to travel at superspeed and create phase-forn duplicates of himself.

Stinger: Fire electricity through her fingers.

One of the last impressive Super Villain teams to threaten Earth, the Alliance of Evil was recruited by Apocalypse. Seeking to further his diabolical plot to change reality, Apocalypse commanded them to capture Michael Nowlan, a mutant with the ability to magnify their powers. Forced to do battle with X-Factor, the Alliance's initial victory was quickly turned on its head, much to Apocalypse's disgust. Abandoned by their master, the Alliance is thought to have disbanded. AD

Air-Walker

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Gabriel Lan
**OCCUPATION** Herald of Galactus
**BASE** Various

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 1 in
**WEIGHT** 210 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** White

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four #120 (March 1972)

Command of the Power Cosmic, the fundamental force of the universe, enables a variety of powers, including force blasts, interstellar flight, and the ability to walk on air.

Chosen by the planet-devouring Galactus to become his latest Herald after the betrayal of the Silver Surfer, Xandarian starship captain Gabriel Lan was similarly endowed with the Power Cosmic, becoming Gabriel, the Air Walker. As the Air Walker, Gabriel served his newfound master faithfully for several years, seeking out worlds teeming with life energies that Galactus needed to consume to survive. But when their interstellar travels led them to the home system of the mysterious Ovoids, Gabriel fell into a trap intended to slay Galactus, and was struck down.

Sensing a spark of life still remaining within his fallen Herald, Galactus transferred the Air Walker's essence into a robotic copy of his original form. However, a vital element was lost in the transference, and the Air Walker thereafter was as emotionless as the machine into which his consciousness had been transplanted—and was soon replaced as Galactus' herald. TB

All-Winners Squad

**FIRST APPEARANCE** All-Winners Comics #19 (Fall 1946)

*A members and powers*

Captain America: Superior strength, speed, agility, and endurance.

Human Torch: Can control fire and can fly.

Narcor: Increased strength, can fly, can breathe in air or water.

Whizzer: Can run at super speed.

Miss America: Superhuman strength, can fly.

Following World War II, the heroes of the All-Winners Squad decided to stay together to fight crime in the US rather than foreign enemies. They battled and stopped Adam-2, an android who designed a robot army. Later they faced Future Man, a time traveler from the year 1,000,000 who hoped to destroy humanity in order to allow his race to inhabit the Earth. The Squad also battled the Shi-Hulks who had traveled back in time to help some gangsters acquire an atomic bomb. MT
Conceived as the Canadian government's answer to the recent spate of superhuman activity within the United States, Alpha Flight was the brainchild of James MacDonald Hudson, soon to be known first as Vindicator, then as Guardian. Inspired by the Fantastic Four, Hudson and his wife Heather convinced the Canadian government to found Department H, which would be tasked with assembling a team of superhumans indigenous to the Great White North.

**ESSENTIAL STORYLINES**

- Uncanny X-Men #120–121
  Alpha Flight ambushed the X-Men in an attempt to recover the AWOL Wolverine for the Canadian government.

- Alpha Flight #12
  Guardian is seemingly killed during Alpha's battle with Omega Flight.

- Alpha Flight Vol. 3 #1
  With the real Alpha Flight missing, Sasquatch assembling a new team of off-beat heroes.

**WANTED: A LEADER**

The project was implemented using a three-tiered training system: new recruits or those whose powers proved unstable would be assigned to Gamma Flight. Those whose command of their abilities required further training formed the basis of Beta Flight. The front line, the active members whose job it would be to rout any superhuman threats to the nation, were Alpha Flight.

Hudson intended that the man known as Logan (or Wolverine) or Weapon X, whom he and his wife had nursed back to sanity after years living in the Canadian wilderness, would lead Alpha Flight. However, that task fell to Hudson himself when Logan was recruited by Professor X to become a member of his X-Men team.

Alpha Flight endured a rocky relationship with the Canadian government, being cast aside, then drafted back into military service. And while the Beta and Gamma Flight units produced some heroes who went on to serve with Alpha Flight, such as Puck, the programs were perverted for evil purposes, forming the nucleus of the sinister Omega Flight, Alpha's opposite number. Still, the members of Alpha Flight soldiered on, through deaths and resurrections, strange transformations and sudden reversals—loyal to their mission of protecting their homeland.

When the rest of Alpha Flight had been abducted by the alien Plodex, Sasquatch assembled a new, oddball squad. This team included the 97-year-old Centennial, Major Mapleleaf, the son of a World War II-era hero, the deadly Nemesis, Puck II (Puck's daughter), and the mysterious Yukon Jack. Whether these heroes will stay in Alpha Flight remains to be seen.
Marlene was in the Sudan with her father, archaeologist Dr. Peter Agraune, Sr., when he was murdered by mercenary Raoul Bushman. Another mercenary, Marc Spector, saved Marlene's life, but Bushman left him to die in the desert. Dr. Agraune's workers brought Spector's inert body to the tomb of Pharaoh Seti III. Spector miraculously revived, and he and Marlene returned to the US, where he became the crimefighter Moon Knight. Marlene is his confidante, girlfriend, and ally.

While leading a protest against the mining of a mountain sacred to the Navajo tribe, Jason Strongbow and his brother, Ward, encountered Klaw inside the mine. The ensuing confrontation led to Klaw releasing a sonic blast that reacted with uranium in the rock and mutagenically enhanced both brothers. Adopting the mantle American Eagle, Jason tracked Klaw to the Savage Land where he defeated the villain with the aid of the Thing, K kaoz, and Wyatt Wingfoot, but at the cost of Ward's life. Jason returned to his tribe, and has since fought evil alongside the Fantastic Four.

Formed Steelworker Blanche Sitzski underwent bioengineering changes at the mutagens lab of a now defunct Roxson subsidiary called the Brand Corporation, and became Anaconda. She used her new snake-like powers as a member of the Serpent Squad, retrieving the Serpent Crown, an ancient power object. After a spell as a freelance mercenary, Anaconda joined Sidewinder in a new criminal organization called the Serpent Society.
**Ancient One**

Five centuries ago, the master sorcerer called the Ancient One was a young farmer in the Himalayan village of Kamar-Taj. He studied sorcery with another villager, Kalu. When Kalu sought to use his powers for conquest, the youth thwarted him, and henceforth dedicated his life to opposing evil sorcerers. He eventually became Sorcerer Supreme of Earth’s dimension.

Though magic greatly extended his life, the Ancient One knew that his death was inevitable and sought to train a successor. He accepted Baron Mordo as a pupil, although he was aware of Mordo’s potential for evil. Then the American surgeon Stephen Strange arrived, hoping that the Ancient One could cure his injured hands. Instead Strange found a new vocation and asked to become the Ancient One’s pupil. Under the Ancient One’s tutelage, Doctor Strange ultimately became the new sorcerer supreme of the Earth dimension.

Later, to prevent the demon Shuma-Gorath from entering the Earth dimension through his mind, the Ancient One persuaded Strange to shut down the elderly sorcerer’s brain. Thus the Ancient One died in mortal form, but his astral form became “one with the universe.”

---

**Andromeda**

**First Appearance:** Defenders #143 (May 1985)

**Real Name:** Andromeda

**Occupation:** Warrior

**Base:** Atlantis

**Height:** 6 ft 6 in

**Weight:** 180 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Auburn

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Her physiology is suited to survival beneath the ocean; unusually strong for an Atlantean woman; highly skilled combatant, expert with a trident; or land, special serum allows her to breathe unaided for 12 hours.

---

**Ani-Mator**

**First Appearance:** New Mutants #59 (January 1988)

**Real Name:** Dr. Frederick Animus

**Occupation:** Geneticist

**Base:** Formerly “Paradise,” island in North Atlantic

**Height:** 5’10”

**Weight:** 121 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Has a vast knowledge of genetics, beyond that of most scientists. Creates new species of life with humanoid characteristics by the genetic manipulation of animals.

---

Disillusioned social activist David Angr volunteered for an experiment that would give him superpowers. Exposed to technology brought to Earth by the priestess Moondragon, Angr developed a hallucination-inducing scream. Engaged by Moondragon’s malevolent partner, Kerwin J Broderick, to kill Daredevil and Black Widow, only Daredevil’s persuasive skills stayed Angr’s voice. Becoming a criminal for hire, Angr spent time in prison and lost his powers. Mastor Khan, who wanted Angr to brainwash prisoners to perform terrorist acts, later reinstated them. Angr was eventually gunned down by police during a robbery.

---

Brilliant geneticist Fredrick Animus was obsessed with the genetics of mutation. He was contacted by Cameron Hodge, commander of the antimutant group known as The Right. Hodge set Animus up on an island and supplied him with animals to use as test subjects.

There, Animus created “Ani-Mates” by splicing together animal and human genes, and began calling himself the Ani-Mator. Even though some of his Ani-Mates had human levels of intelligence, Ani-Mator treated them cruelly. When one, Bird-Brain, escaped and returned with members of the New Mutants, they freed the Ani-Mates and Magic exiled Ani-Mator to the dimension called Limbo.
**Annihilus**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four Annual #6 (1966)

**REAL NAME** Annihilus

**OCCUPATION** Conqueror, destroyer

**BASE** Sector 17A of the Negative Zone

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 11 in  **WEIGHT** 200 lbs  **EYES** Green  **HAIR** None

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Exoskeleton can withstand vast external pressure (up to 1,500 psi). He can breathe in the vacuum of space. His wings enable him to fly at up to 150 mph.

In the Negative Zone, spores were released on the barren planet Arthros by the dying crew of a Yianian ship which crashed on the planet. One of those spores grew into an insect-like being called Annihilus. Wielding the Cosmic Control Rod, which gives him great power and cunning, he became master of the life forms that grew from the other spores released on Arthros. He set out to conquer the other worlds of the Negative Zone, and his later attempt to conquer Earth put him in conflict with the Fantastic Four.

**Ant-Man II**

**REAL NAME** Scott Edward Lang

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer, former burglar, electronics technician

**BASE** Avengers Mansion

**HEIGHT** 6 ft  **WEIGHT** 190 lbs  **EYES** Blue  **HAIR** Blond

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Avengers Vol. 1 #191 (March 1979)

As Ant-Man, Scott was just ½ in tall and weighed little more than 1 lb.

Possesses ability to shrink himself and other objects and people, usually to ant size, but also to microscopic levels. Cybernetic helmet allows him telepathic control of ants. Helmet amplifies his voice so that he can be heard by normal-sized humans.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Anya Corazon

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer, student

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 2 in  **WEIGHT** 105 lbs  **EYES** Brown  **HAIR** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Anya can stick to walls, climb up buildings, shoot webs, and has a "Spider" sense that warns her of impending danger.

Quick-tempered high-school student Anya Corazon lived with her father in Brooklyn, New York. Her father was an investigative reporter and also the landlord of their apartment building. Caught in the crossfire between two warring mystical clans, the Spider Society and the Sisterhood of the Wasp, Anya was mortally wounded. Miguel, an agent of the Spider Society, performed an ancient ritual upon her and gave her a spider-shaped tattoo, thereby unlocking her spider-like powers, and Anya learned that she was the last in a 900-year-old line of Hunters, charged with saving the world. Confused and unsure about her new abilities—which are similar to the powers that Spider-Man possesses—Anya took the name Araña (which means "spider" in Spanish) and set about her quest.

When his ex-wife learned that he was the new Ant-Man, she sued and won custody of Cassie. Scott was later killed in action when the Scarlet Witch disassembled the Avengers.
Apalla is the corporeal manifestation of the Sun. Although thought to walk upon the Earth, sightings of her are few. When the league of sorcerers, the Creators, wished to take over the stars and transform them into humans, Apalla helped Doctor Strange oppose them. A further encounter involved Captain Mar-Vell. Due to a radioactive overdose, Mar-Vell was draining her energies each time he used his powers. The pair rectified the situation before lasting damage could be done.

When Wundarr's father thought their homeworld of Dikkam was about to explode, he sent his young son into space. Wundarr landed on Earth, where the Sun's energy endowed him with superhuman powers. An encounter with a Cosmic Cube augmented these powers and gave him great knowledge and a sense of purpose. Restyling himself Aquarian, he is now a self-professed prophet.

Having uncovered the tomb of his ancestor, who had been a hero to his people, Abdul Qamar acquired his three mystic weapons, and set out to carry on his tradition as the modern Arabian Knight. He fought for justice for many years, but eventually perished when his life force was randomly and remotely sucked away from him by the life-draining Humus Sapient—leaving him a casualty of a conflict which had nothing to do with him directly.

**Apocalypse**

Born nearly 5,000 years ago in ancient Egypt, Apocalypse is one of the earliest known mutant humans. Left to die, the infant was found by outlaw leader Baal, who named him "En Sabah Nur," or "The First One." Baal taught Nur his philosophy of the survival of the fittest and told him he was fated to be a conqueror. Nur traveled the world for thousands of years, instigating wars to test which nations were "fitter," and was worshipped as a god by ancient civilizations. In the 20th century Nur, now called Apocalypse, decided that the emerging superhuman mutants were destined to supplant "inferior" ordinary humans. Hence he often battled the original X-Factor and the X-Men, who were dedicated to peaceful coexistence between mutants and other humans. Though extraordinarily long-lived, Apocalypse's physical body eventually wore out, but he survives by projecting his consciousness into host bodies. In an alternate timeline, the "Age of Apocalypse," Apocalypse conquered North America and enslaved humanity; he was killed by Magneto.

Powers:

- Can alter the atomic structure of his body to change shape.
- Can increase his size by absorbing additional mass. Possesses superhuman strength, stamina and durability.

Apocalypse's original team of Horsemen, his warrior servants, included Fantomex, War, Pestilence (from left to right) and Archangel as Death (not shown).
**Arcade**

An engineering genius and a ruthless hitman, Arcade came by his fortune after allegedly murdering his billionaire father. He is obsessed with traps and games, and executes his victims in secret, amusement-park-style complexes he designs himself and dubbs "Murderworlds." He charges $1 million per hit, but the money barely covers his expenses; he kills for sheer enjoyment.

Arcade is assisted by two henchmen, Miss Locke and Mr. Chambers. His victims include business tycoons and Super Heroes such as the X-Men, Spider-Man, and Captain Britain, whom he kidnaps and then releases inside Murderworld. He studies victims' weaknesses, chooses an appropriate killing method, and then looks on gleefully as they fight for their lives against his killing machines, which are often modeled on arcade games. Super Villains pay to use Murderworld as a training ground, or purchase Arcade's robots, which are virtually indistinguishable from real people. DW

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**Aranna**

A former medium who spent years developing her natural affinity for magic, Aranna was encouraged to use her mystic powers in the service of mankind by her husband, Arcanna joined the ranks of the Squadron Supreme, the foremost costumed champions of her home reality, and became one of its staunchest members—eventually using her magic powers to hollow out the enormous crater in which they built their upgraded headquarters, Squadron City. TB

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**Arkon**

Arkon is a great leader and warrior on the planet Polemachus. The culture of Polemachus glorifies war and Arkon became his world's greatest warrior. As Imperator of the largest country on Polemachus, Arkon attempted to conquer the other nations of his world. But when Polemachus was faced with planet-wide annihilation, Arkon came to Earth believing that its destruction could save his homeland. On Earth, Iron Man teamed with Thor in a plan which saved Polemachus and stopped Arkon's aggression. MT

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**Armadillo**

When his wife became mortally ill, Antonio Rodriguez turned to Dr. Karl Malus, who promised to try to cure her if Antonio worked for him and submitted to his experiments. Malus combined genes from an armadillo with Rodriguez's genes, transforming him into a super-powerful being resembling a humanoid armadillo. Malus assigned the Armadillo to invade the West Coast Avengers Compound. There Captain America defeated the Armadillo but realized he was not a criminal at heart. Though the Armadillo has sometimes run foul of the law, he prefers to earn his living in wrestling matches against super-strong opponents. PS
Warren Worthington was born into a wealthy family. At private school, during his late teens, Warren noticed wings budding from his shoulder blades. Fearful of attracting attention, he strapped them to his body but secretly began experimenting with flying. When a fire started in his school, Warren flew to the rescue of his schoolmates disguised in a nightshirt and blond wig. He was mistaken for an angel and so, when he headed to New York City to become a costumed crime fighter, he took the moniker Avenging Angel.

**ITINERANT X-MAN**
Warren soon came to the attention of Professor X and joined the Professor's fledgling band of X-Men. At first, Warren disguised his face with a mask, but he later discarded it, believing that his handsome, telegenic features would help gain the team public support. Such vanity, combined with a certain flightiness, has been a hallmark of Warren's life as a mutant. With his vast, inherited wealth it was perhaps inevitable that he would become a media playboy. Similarly, although he remained loyal to Professor X's broad ideals, he drifted between various superpowered teams, using his fortune to provide backing to the Champions of Los Angeles, the Defenders and later X-Factor. While with X-Factor Warren's wings were damaged battling the Marauders. The wings became infected and had to be amputated. The loss of his wings so depressed Warren that he attempted suicide. Saved by the mutant warlord Apocalypse, Warren was offered the chance to grow new wings of steel if he became one of Apocalypse's Horsemen—Death. Confused and still depressed, Warren agreed, but this Faustian pact brought him into direct conflict with his X-Men friends. Only the apparent death of his old friend Iceman brought Warren to his senses. Following this epiphany, Warren's metal wings molted to reveal feathers beneath. He rededicated himself to the X-Men's cause and rejoined the group. To mark this new beginning Warren rechristened himself Archangel. AD
Aries
Born under the sign of the Ram

Aries was a member of the criminal organization known as Zodiac. Founded by Cornelius van Lunt, it comprised 12 human criminals, of which Marcus Lasiter (Aries) was one. Each member of the organization was based in a particular city in the US and took their codename from the astrological sign under which he or she was born.

THE ZODIAC KEY
The original human Aries, Marcus Lasiter, took possession of the powerful interdimensional Zodiac Key. He then led a small army and succeeded in capturing Manhattan Island and sealing it off from the rest of the world with a force field. He tried to hold the island for ransom, but this plan was stopped by the Avengers and Daredevil. The first Aries died in an explosion. The Zodiac Key was apparently destroyed (though this turned out to be untrue).

HORNED VILLAINS
The second human Aries, Grover Raymond, physically merged with the alien Luchorr and died as a result. The third human Aries, whose real name is unknown, battled Iron Man II (James Rhodes) and was killed by a member of the android Zodiac organization.

A second criminal group called Zodiac, led by Jacob Fury, was made up of android versions of the original human Zodiac members. The first android Aries (Aries IV) possessed superhuman strength. The second android Aries (Aries V) could shoot fire from his horn, although this might have simply been a power of his costume, not of the android himself.
**Armageddon**

Leader of the long-lived, intergalactic race known as the Trojan, the ten who would one day be known as Aramageddon almost singlehandedly reversed the fortunes of his race's declining empire. Under his leadership, the Trojan expanded their galactic power base, and became a force to be reckoned with. Aramageddon's attentions first turned to Earth after his son Trauma abducted Atalanta of the Pantheon in order to make her his mate. Trauma was subsequently killed in battle with the incredible Hulk. Vowing revenge, Aramageddon used a resurrection device created by the gamma-enhanced genius known as the Leader to reincarnate the then-deceased Thunderbolt Ross, in order to lure the Hulk into his clutches. Once the Hulk had been captured, Aramageddon intended to use his life-force to restore Trauma to life. But the Hulk's energy proved too powerful, and it incinerated the remains of the deceased Trojan warrior—leaving Aramageddon with an even greater desire for revenge! 

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**Armbruster, Col. John**

Colonel Armbruster led a force to rescue General Ross from the Russians. Although Ross' son-in-law, Major Talbot, was lost during the mission, it was deemed successful and Armbruster was given control of Project Greenskin, an attempt to study the effects of gamma-radiation on the human body. Armbruster's main objective was to capture the Hulk, which he succeeded in doing. When Talbot eventually returned, apparently having escaped from the Russians, Armbruster suspected foul play; when he shook hands with Talbot, his watch stopped. Armbruster discovered that there was a bomb in Talbot's body and dragged the Major into a pit. The bomb exploded, killing them both, but preventing the assassination of the US President. 

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**Aron, the Rogue Watcher**

A young Watcher, as such temporal matters as age are measured by that intergalactic race, Aron espoused his people's pledge of non-interference in all things, choosing instead to use his great cosmic abilities for his evil enjoyment. He toyed with the lives of the Fantastic Four, replacing them with corrupt duplicates, and later engineered a civil war within his own Watcher race. As Aron was about to destroy the Fantastic Four, Uatu the Watcher, who was responsible for our section of the cosmos, reluctantly killed him.

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**Atalanta**

Named after the huntress of Greek mythology, Atalanta is a member of the Pantheon, a covert organization of superhumans which intervenes in world affairs to prevent disasters. A deadly shot with her flaming bow, Atalanta's skin, body tissue and skeleton are denser than that of a human's, affording her greater resistance to injury. She also possesses a fast healing factor and an extended lifespan. A psychic power enables her to mentally perceive her target even if she is unable to see it. Virtually nothing is known about the origin of Atalanta, except that she is related to other members of the Pantheon. She has been the lover of fellow Pantheon member Achilles.
Atlanteans
Undersea warrior race

Atlantis was once a small continent in the Atlantic Ocean. The cradle of an advanced civilization, Atlantis was torn apart by earthquakes and sank into the sea some 20,000 years ago. About 10,000 years ago, a genetic offshoot of Man, Homo Meramanus evolved the ability to live underwater. These mermen discovered the ruins left by the ancient Atlanteans and settled in them.

**FIRST CONTACT**
The new undersea kingdom of Atlantis often fell prey to natural disasters and attacks from barbarians. About 150 years ago, to protect his people, Emperor Thakorr moved the capital near to Antarctica. The Atlanteans remained undisturbed until an American research ship commanded by Captain Leonard McKenzie set off explosive charges to break up some icebergs, sending shockwaves down into Atlantis. Fearing his city was under attack, Thakorr sent his daughter to investigate. Princess Fen fell in love with Captain McKenzie and married him. When she failed to return, her father sent a war party to rescue her and McKenzie fell in the attack. Fen returned to Atlantis and gave birth to Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner.

**Life Under Water**
The Atlanteans' skin is usually light blue and their eyes tend to be blue or grey. They live on a diet of raw fish and seaweed and dwell in caves and coral reefs. Atlanteans communicate by high-pitched vocal sounds and elaborate gestures. Their government is a coalition of tribes, ruled by an emperor. A Council of Elders advises the emperor and serves as lawmakers, statesmen, and judges. Most Atlanteans worship Neptune, the Greek god of the sea. They live in a rigid warlike society and each citizen joins a guild to become a hunter, farmer, tradesman, craftsman, entertainer, or warrior. No one knows how many Atlanteans exist, but their population is believed to be fewer than 10,000. TD
**Atlas**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Thunderbolts #1 (April 1997)

**REAL NAME** Erik Josten

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer; former criminal

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT** 6 ft

**WEIGHT** 225 lbs

**EYES** None; replaced by containment spheres for unknown energy

**HAIR** Red

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Atlas can grow in size from 6 ft to 60 ft; superhumanly strong and durable.

**Attuma**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four #33 (December 1964)

**REAL NAME** Attuma

**OCCUPATION** Barbarian chieftain; former ruler of Atlantis

**BASE** Atlantic Ocean

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 4 in

**WEIGHT** 196 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Superhuman strength and stamina; can breathe underwater and see clearly in the depths; expert hand-to-hand combatant and with most Atlantean weapons.

Born to the blue-skinned race of underwater dwellers Homo Mermanus, Attuma belongs to a tribe of nomadic barbarians and trained to be a warrior. He has repeatedly fought Namor the Sub-Mariner, but has never defeated him, and often allies himself with renegade Atlanteans or human scientists. Despite the human race, Attuma has attacked the surface world, but been thwarted by the Avengers and by the Fantastic Four. Attuma briefly seized control of Atlantis after Namor abdicated, but was overthrown.

**Avalanche**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Men #114 (January 1981)

**REAL NAME** Dominic Sordard Janos Petros

**OCCUPATION** Member of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 4 in

**WEIGHT** 195 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Vibrations generated from his hands can bring down buildings and cause earthquakes.

**Aurora**

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Jeanne-Marie Beaubier

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer, special operative of the Canadian government

**BASE** Canada

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 125 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Black

**FIRST APPEARANCE** The Uncanny X-Men #120 (April 1979)

Orphans Jeanne-Marie Beaubier and her twin brother Jean-Paul were separated, and Jeanne-Marie was raised in a strict religious school for girls. Jeanne-Marie was so unhappy she threw herself off a roof—and found herself flying. This was the first manifestation of her mutant powers, but Jeanne-Marie thought a miracle had taken place. She told the headmistress, but was punished for blasphemy. Jeanne-Marie developed a personality disorder; her everyday self was introverted, but her repressed side was uninhibited. Five years later, Jeanne-Marie became a teacher at the school. One night, Wolverine saw her use superspeed to defend herself from a mugger. Wolverine introduced her to James MacDonald Hudson, who reunited Jeanne-Marie with her brother. Taking the code names Aurora and Northstar, Jeanne-Marie and Jean-Paul joined Hudson’s team of Canadian heroes, Alpha Flight. Since then, Aurora’s psyche has continued to change, even manifesting a third personality.

Dominic Petros was a Greek immigrant to the US with mutant powers. Calling himself Avalanche, he was recruited into the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants by the shape-shifting mutant Mystique and participated in the Brotherhood’s first attempted assassination of Senator Robert Kelly. Although Avalanche left the Brotherhood for a time to blackmail California with the threat of an earthquake, he had returned to the group when it turned itself over to the US government and began working as a military strike force. Avalanche’s whereabouts are presently unknown—he was battling with the Brotherhood once again when they were sucked into the black hole inside the head of the mutant, Xorn.
The Avengers are dedicated to safeguarding the planet from super-menaces too powerful for a single hero or the armed forces of any one country to combat. Formed shortly after the first public appearance of the Fantastic Four, the Avengers immediately won government approval from the National Security Council of the United States and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Unlike the FF, the Avengers’ roster is always changing. Members join, leave and return—a precedent set by the Hulk, who left the team weeks after it was first formed.

**HERO TEAM**

The Avengers were formed by accident. Loki, Asgardian God of Evil, wanted revenge on his half-brother Thor. After searching for a menace powerful enough to challenge Thor, he selected the Hulk and tricked him into causing a train wreck. When the Hulk’s former partner, Rick Jones, heard this news, he attempted to alert the Fantastic Four, but Loki diverted his radio signal and sent it to Thor. But the thunder god wasn’t the only one to answer the call. The astonishing Ant-Man (see Pym, Dr. Henry), the Wasp and Iron Man also responded. While the other heroes battled the Hulk, Thor tracked down Loki and captured him. After learning that the Hulk was innocent, Ant-Man suggested that the heroes form a team. The Wasp suggested they call themselves “something colorful and dramatic, like … the Avengers.”

**Avengers Mansion**

Tony Stark donated his three-story townhouse to the team who renamed it Avengers Mansion and later significantly modified it to fit their needs. Stark also funded the new team and provided them with most of their high-tech.
equipment, weaponry, security countermeasures and computer systems. He also used his
government contacts to lobby for A-1 or
Avengers Priority security clearance to aid the
team's operations.

The Avengers began to establish themselves by
fighting foes like the SPICE PHANTOM, the LAVA
MEN, the MOLE MAN, BARON ZEMO, his MASTERS
OF EVIL and KANG. The team also met Wonder
Man who later sacrificed himself to save them.
All of the founding members eventually left the
team, leaving CAPTAIN AMERICA in charge with a
band that first consisted of HAWKEYE, the
SCARLET WITCH and QUICKSILVER. The WASP and
Hank Pym, who had exchanged his Ant-Man
to become the first GIANT, returned to the team.
The Olympian demigod HERCULES also became a
member. Serving as an agent for the MANDARIN,
the first SWORDSMAN even attempted to join.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH

Accidentally created by Hank Pym, the robot
ULTRON tried to kill the Avengers. He even
built the android VISION, who betrayed him and
served as an Avenger for many years. Haunted
by guilt, Pym's marriage to the Wasp
deteriorated and he left the team.

The Avengers fought alongside the alien
CAPTAIN MARVEL in a cosmic battle that
came to be known as the Kree-Skrull War.
The membership continued to change as the
BLACK WIDOW, the BEAST, the now-reformed
SWORDSMAN, MANTIS, and HELLCAT all became
members. A romance developed between the
VISION and the Scarlet Witch and they married.

The National Security Council began to take an active
interest in the team and appointed Henry Peter Gyrich
liaison officer. He tried to control team membership by
recruiting FALCON and Ms. Marvel (see WARRIOR).
In recent years, JUSTICE, FIRESTAR, TRIATHLON,
SILVERCLAW, JACK OF HEARTS, ANT-MAN and a new
female CAPTAIN BRITAIN served as members.

DISASSEMBLED/REASSEMBLED

A victim of her own reality-altering powers, the
Scarlet Witch had a nervous breakdown and
brought about the deaths of JACK OF HEARTS,
Ant-Man and her former husband the Vision,
and also caused the destruction of Avengers
Mansion. After she was defeated, her former
teammates were so traumatized that they
disbanded the team. However, the mass jailbreak
of 87 of the most dangerous criminals on
Earth convinced Captain America to reform
the Avengers. Before long, the new Avengers
found themselves battling major threats
to global security once more.

THE ULTIMATES

On a parallel Earth, government scientists created a super-
soldier formula, but lost it when Captain America disappeared
during World War II. Many years later, Dr. Bruce Banner
was hired to recreate it. Working out of a rundown research
facility in Pittsburgh, he engaged in secret superhuman
trials on civilians and even tested the formula on himself,
transforming himself into the rampaging Hulk. General Nick
Fury took custody of Banner and ordered him to complete
his research in order to create a new super-team called the
ULTIMATES. This team included Dr. Hank Pym, a cybernetics
expert and a world authority on super-genetics.

1 Giant-Man 2 Iron Man 3 Hawkeye 4 Wasp 5 Captain America
6 Black Widow 7 Thor

When Kang the Conqueror and his son Marcus waged
civil war against the Earth, the Avengers led the planet's
defensive effort. Although Kang temporarily succeeded
in subduing the entire world, the Avengers led a resistance
movement that eventually overthrew his new dynasty.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Avengers #4: The Avengers rescue Captain America
  from an icy tomb and invite him to join the team.
- The Greatest Battles of the Avengers (Ipb) The
  Avengers fight many of their most deadly foes.
- Avengers: The Korvac Saga (Ipb) The Guardians of
  the Galaxy help the Avengers battle Michael Korvac.
- Avengers: Under Siege (Ipb) The new Baron Zemo and
  his Masters of Evil launch an assault on Avengers
  Mansion.
- Avengers: Disassembled: The Scarlet Witch
  attacks her former teammates.

THE AVENGERS (2008)
1 Iron Man 2 Captain America 3 Spider-Man
4 Wolverine 5 Captain America 6 Spider-Woman
7 Cage
While chairman of the **Avengers**, the **Vision** decided to expand the team and sent **Hawkeye** and his new wife **Mockingbird** to Los Angeles to establish a second headquarters on the West Coast. Hawkeye purchased a 15-acre estate on the Pacific coast. It consisted of a main building, surrounded by several guest cottages that housed various Avengers over the years. The mountainside beneath the main building accommodated the high-security Avengers Assembly Room, a hospital, laboratories and a hanger for Avengers' Quinjets.

**GROWING PAINS**

The team faced its first crisis when Mockingbird and Hawkeye argued over whether the Avengers had the right to use lethal force. Hawkeye later resigned when the government assigned the US Agent to the team and he temporarily joined the **Great Lakes Avengers**. The **Wasp** moved to the West Coast to join her former husband Dr. Pym and the team aided their East Coast counterparts in the Kree-Shi'ar war known as **Operation: Galactic Storm**. After falling under the control of **Magneto** and **Immortus**, the **Scarlet Witch** used her reality-altering powers against the West Coast Avengers.

Hawkeye and Mockingbird eventually reconciled and rejoined the team, and the **Scarlet Witch** (now cured) became the team's chairperson. During an attack by the **demon Mephisto** and the **Lethal Legion**, Mockingbird was killed and the Compound severely damaged. Hawkeye resigned to mourn his wife's death and **Captain America** and the **Black Widow** decided to close the West Coast branch.
Awesome Android

Trapped by the X-Men and the Fantastic Four, the Mad Thinker and the Puppet Master turn the Awesome Android loose in a last attempt to escape justice.

The Awesome Android was the creation of the evil Mad Thinker, constructed using research notes that once belonged to scientist Reed Richards (aka Mister Fantastic). The Mad Thinker intended to use the Awesome Android as a weapon to destroy the Fantastic Four. However, as time went by, the android developed a personality of its own and freed itself from the Thinker's villainous thrall.

"Awesome Andy" now works peacefully as an aide in the legal offices of Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg & Hollway, TB.

Ayesha (Her)

FIRST APPEARANCE: Fantastic Four #16 (June 1966)
REAL NAME: Paragon
OCCUPATION: None
BASE: None
HEIGHT: 6 ft 6 in
WEIGHT: 1421 lbs
EYES: None
HAIR: None
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Possessed the ability to duplicate any special powers directed against it.

As a group of scientists called themselves the Enclave, hoping to create a perfect life form, they created a being called Him. But Him (later known as Adam Warlock) refused to be controlled. They then tried to create a perfect female they called Paragon, but she also rebelled, destroying the Enclave's base. After meditating in a cocoon, she emerged as Her, able to tap into pure cosmic energy. She hoped to mate with Warlock but, following his death, set off to find a suitable companion.

Azazel

FIRST APPEARANCE: Uncanny X-Men #42 (October 2003)
REAL NAME: Azazel
OCCUPATION: Conqueror
BASE: La Isla de Democrazia, off the coast of Florida; the Brimstone
HEIGHT: 6 ft 11 in
WEIGHT: Unknown
EYES: Black
HAIR: Gray
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: The full extent of his powers is unknown; can teleport himself, take on human form, and mentally influence his offspring.

Azazel is the leader of the Neyaphem, a race of mutants who resemble demons. In ancient times Azazel was thought to be the devil. Azazel claims that he once ruled the Earth until he and the Neyaphem were banished to another dimension by the Cheyantum, a race of mutants who resembled angels. As part of his plan to reconquer Earth, Azazel started with various women; fathering mutants with telepathic powers. Among the women he seduced was the mutant Mystique, who gave birth to their son Kurt Wagner, alias Nightcrawler. When Nightcrawler learned that Azazel was his father, he not only rejected him, but helped defeat him.

Azazel and His Crew

1. Azazel
2. Blink
3. Marica of Azazel
4. Vokazi
5. Julian
Banner, Betty
The Hulk's beloved

The only daughter of renowned military general Thaddeus “Thunderbolt” Ross, Betty spent her formative years firmly under her father’s thumb. Thunderbolt Ross had wanted a son, and had no use for his unfortunate daughter; after her mother died during Betty's teenage years, she was sent away to boarding school. After graduating, she returned to her father's side, a repressed wallflower. Thunderbolt Ross was then in charge of a top-secret project to create a new type of weapon, employing the limitless power of gamma radiation. The head scientist on the project was the quiet, bookish Bruce Banner, and an attraction between Betty and Banner soon developed.

TRAGIC LOVE
Their relationship was forever changed when, during the gamma-bomb test, Banner was struck by the full force of the detonation, and its radiations transformed him into the Hulk whenever he grew angry. Banner tried to keep his condition secret from Betty, which only served to alienate them. Betty was then ardently pursued by Major Glenn Talbot (see Talbot, Col. Glenn), the new aide attached to her father's Hulkbuster task force. Eventually, the secret of Banner's dual identity became public knowledge, and his transformations and rampages created a rift between Betty and himself. With no one else to turn to, Betty married Major Talbot. Their union soon ended in divorce, however, and Talbot died attempting to destroy the Hulk.

Harpy Horror
Betty continued to find herself entangled in the lives of Bruce Banner and the Hulk. At one point she was transformed by the villainous M.O.D.O.K. into a gamma-empowered flying menace known as the Harpy. But even these trials could not destroy her love for hapless Bruce Banner, and eventually, despite her father's objections, she married him.

However lasting happiness was not to be theirs. After spending years living as fugitives, Betty was poisoned by the Hulk's long-time enemy the Abomination, who used his own gamma-radiated blood to do the deed hoping to incriminate Banner. Placed in cryonic suspension, Betty was thereafter revived by the Leader, and for a time aided her fugitive husband as his shadowy contact, Mr. Blue. Her present whereabouts are unknown, but it is a virtual certainty that she will re-enter the life of the Hulk before too long. TB
**Balder the Brave**

Prophesy has it that the death of Norse God Balder will result in Ragnarok—the destruction of Asgard, the home of the Norse Gods (see Gods of Asgard). For this reason Odin commanded his wife Frigga to make Balder (his son) invulnerable to physical injury and so she cast spells that protected him from everything except mistletoe. The God of mischief, Loki, Thor’s adopted brother, learned of this and tricked the blind God Hodur to fire an arrow, tipped with mistletoe wood, at Balder. Only Odin’s intervention saved him, but before his recovery, Balder’s soul was to travel through the underworld where it encountered the spirits of those he had killed.

Balder’s return to the land of the living was not without difficulties: he fell into a deep depression after Nanna, his beloved, sacrificed herself to save him from marrying the Norn sorceress Kamilla. Roving the desert, determined to kill himself, Balder gained hope from a vision of the future. Since then, he has come to love Kamilla, with whom he fought against Surtur and the legions of the Muspelheim. He also ruled Asgard when Odin was believed dead, but following the God-ruler’s return Balder went back to his new love, Kamilla.

**Banner, Betty**

Married to his childhood sweetheart, Rebecca, Dr. Banner worked as an atomic physicist for the US government and helped develop the country’s first atomic weapons. The more he studied atomic radiation, the more he feared it. Suspecting that he had been exposed to trace amounts of radiation, Banner was horrified when he learned that his young wife was pregnant. When she began to suffer complications, he became convinced that the child would be mutant and grow up to become a monster. His paranoia increased when his son Bruce showed signs of great intelligence.

Banner began to drink heavily and often exploded in fits of temper. After striking and accidentally killing his wife, he was convicted of manslaughter and confined to a mental institution. His son Bruce (see Hulk) would be profoundly affected by this family trauma.

**Banshee**

After his wife’s death, Irish Interpol agent and mutant Sean Cassidy was forced to join Factor Three, a organization of evil mutants, by the evil Changeling. The group gave him the name Banshee and controlled him by frightening him with an explosive headband. Professor X, leader of the X-Men, used his telepathic powers to remove the headband and Banshee then defeated Factor Three. Later, Banshee joined the X-Men and became co-head—with Emma Frost—of Xavier’s Academy, where he taught the young mutants of Generation X. Following the tragic death of his beloved, Dr. Moira MacTaggart, Banshee suffered a breakdown. He then formed X-Corps, which came into conflict with his former X-Men colleagues.
**Baron Blood**

**First Appearance:** The Invaders Vol. 1 #7 (June 1978)

**Real Name:** Lord John Falworth

**Occupation:** Former German assassin  
**Base:** London

**Height:** 5 ft 10 in  
**Weight:** 180 lbs  
**Eyes:** Red  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Vampiric powers, including superhuman strength, hypnotic abilities, and invulnerability to conventional weaponry. Could fly without transforming into a bat.

The younger son of a British aristocrat, John Falworth was killed and vampirized by Dracula. As Baron Blood, Falworth served German intelligence during World War I and II. During World War II, Baron Blood battled Union Jack (who was secretly his brother, Montgomery) and the Invaders. Decades later, Blood was beheaded by Captain America. Two later vampires took the name Baron Blood: Doctor Strange’s brother Victor and Montgomery’s grandson Kenneth Crichton.

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**Baron Mordo**

**As a child,** Karl Mordo gained an interest in the occult from his grandfather, Viscount Crowler. As an adult, Mordo sought out a mystic master known as the Ancient One in Tibet. The Ancient One recognized that Mordo had great potential as a sorcerer, but also saw that Mordo was motivated only by a desire to gain power for his own ends.

Mordo plotted to destroy the Ancient One by sending his spirit image to hypnotize the Ancient One’s servant into poisoning his food. Mordo threatened to let the Ancient One die if he did not reveal all his knowledge of black magic. In the nick of time, Mordo’s plot was discovered by Dr. Stephen Strange, another of the Ancient One’s pupils. Strange sent his spirit image to Tibet and the two spirit images fought, as the old man lay in a coma. Strange managed to use his amulet to revive the old man.

**Sworn Enemies:**

Mordo swore revenge on his former master and Strange and allied himself with a being with vast power, the dread entity Dormammu, in several failed attempts to destroy Strange. Evenly-matched adversaries, Baron Mordo and Dr. Strange remain bitter enemies.

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**Baron Von Strucker**

**First Appearance:** Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #5 (January 1964)  
**Real Name:** Baron Wolfgang Von Strucker

**Occupation:** Terrorist leader  
**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 2 in  
**Weight:** 225 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can release the insidious Death-Spore Virus from within his body at will. He wears the Iron Glove, capable of discharging electrical shocks, upon his right hand.

Baron Von Strucker fought for the Nazis during World War II as the leader of the Blitzkrieg Squad, Germany’s answer to the Howling Commandos led by Sgt. Nick Fury. After the war, Strucker took control of a Japanese secret society and evolved it into the worldwide terror group Hydra. Kept alive and vigorous by the Death Spore virus within his body, Von Strucker’s goal is total world domination.
Baron Zemo

Like father, like son

Helmut Zemo is the son of Baron Heinrich Zemo, a Nazi scientist during World War II who designed super-weapons. Heinrich Zemo was working on a glue, "Adhesive X," that could never be dissolved, hoping it could be used to immobilize Allied troops. Captain America broke into his lab and, in the fight, Cap's shield shattered the vat containing the adhesive and Zemo's mask was glued to his head.

MASTER OF EVIL

Zemo later went to London to steal an experimental drone plane. Captain America and his teenage partner Bucky Barnes attempted to stop him, but Bucky was killed and Captain America was flung into the ocean, where he fell into a state of suspended animation. When the Nazis lost the war, Zemo fled to the jungles of South America where he conquered a small kingdom.

Decades later, he came out of hiding after learning that Captain America had been revived by the Avengers. Zemo formed the first Masters of Evil and later transformed Simon Williams into Wonder Man, but failed in all his attempts to destroy the Avengers. He was accidentally crushed by a landslide during a battle with Captain America.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES

- Avengers #16: During a battle with Captain America, the original Baron Zemo is killed.
- Captain America #357-358: "The Bloodstone Hunt"—Helmut Zemo tries to resuscitate his father.
- The Avengers: Under Siege, tpbr—Helmut's new Masters of Evil invade the Avengers' Mansion and take Edwin Javits hostage.
- Thunderbolts: Justice Like Lightning, tpbr—Helmut Zemo repossesses the Masters of Evil into seeming heroes.

FROM VILLAIN TO HERO

The Baron's son Helmut vowed to get revenge on Cap. Calling himself Phoenix, he attempted to drown Cap and his partner Falcon in a boiling vat of Adhesive X. The scalding liquid splashed Helmut, horribly scarring his face and giving it the appearance of melted wax. Zemo then sent a army of mutates after Cap and attempted to locate the five fragments of the Bloodstone希望 to restore his father to life. Zemo also organized a new Masters of Evil and invaded Avengers Mansion.

When the Avengers temporarily disappeared from this reality, Zemo gathered his Masters of Evil. They became the Thunderbolts, super villains masquerading as heroes. Helmut assumed the identity of Citizen V, a British costumed hero murdered by the original Baron Zemo. However, like most of the Thunderbolts team, Zemo seemed to grow into the role of being a real hero and now claims that he just wants to protect the Earth. TD

FACTFILE

REAL NAME
Helmut Zemo

OCCUPATION
Criminal entrepreneur

BASE
Mobile

HEIGHT 5'11" in

WEIGHT 183 lbs

EYES Blue

HAIR Blue

FIRST APPEARANCE
Captain America #168

(June 1971)

Zemo's hatred of Captain America ultimately led to the rockfall that killed him.

Masters of Evil

1. Assisting Man 2. Baron Zemo
6. The Fixer 7. Power Man

Helmut Zemo claims that he wants to avenge his past misdeeds.
**Barnes, Bucky**

Orphan James Buchanan “Bucky” Barnes was a mascot for the soldiers at Camp Lehigh, Virginia, where Steve Rogers was stationed. After learning that Steve was Captain America, Barnes began helping him on his missions, and eventually became his official partner. Captain America and Bucky were in London when they discovered that their old enemy Baron Zemo was attempting to steal a bomb-filled drone plane. As the plane took off, Bucky leaped aboard and was apparently killed trying to defuse it. Captain America was hurled into the English Channel. Decades later Cap was revived by the Avengers. He has learned that Bucky might have also survived and is a super-agent known as the Winter Soldier.

**Basilisk**

When burglar Basil Elks tried to steal a gem from a museum, a guard fired his gun, striking the gem. The “gem” was the Alpha-Stone of the Kruber, which exploded, giving Elks superhuman powers. Elks dubbed himself Basilisk after the mythological serpent. Basilisk tried to destroy civilization, only to be thwarted by Spider-Man and the Thing. Elks was assassinated by Scourge.

The second Basilisk was a mutant who could shoot a paralysis beam from his single eye. He was killed by Kuan-Yin Xorn, who impersonated Magneto and led a new mutant Brotherhood.

**Bastion**

Bastion is a human/Sentinel hybrid, possessed of elements of the Sentinel robot known as Master Mold. He was created as a Sentinel prototype from the future called Nimrod. Adopted by a human woman named Rose Giliberti, the human-looking Bastion at first had no memory of his origin. Later, the Sentinel-influenced Master Mold and Nimrod parts of his being were reactivated, and he set about assembling the international anti-mutant strike force known as Operation Zero Tolerance. Using Prime Sentinels, Bastion captured Cyclops, Wolverine, Storm, Phoenix, and Cannonball and took over the Xavier Institute. Bastion was eventually stopped by SHIELD.
Batroc the Leaper

Describing himself as the world's greatest mercenary and master of Savate, Marseilles-born Georges Batroc trained himself in this Gallic martial art while serving in the French Foreign Legion. Since embarking on a life of crime, Batroc has fought some of the world's greatest Super Heroes, including Captain America and the Punisher. Sadly, he has rarely survived these confrontations with more than the smallest degree of dignity.

Batroc is the enigmatic leader of Batroc's Brigade, a motley collection of martial artists, assassins, and mercenaries whose membership is fluid. In the Brigade's early days, Batroc hired mercenaries for specific jobs, but most of the missions were unsuccessful. Employed to obtain the "sasmo-bomb" from a foreign power, Batroc teamed with the Swordsman and the Living Laser, but they did not succeed. Later, the Red Skull hired him to attack Captain America. Although banded with Percopine and Whirlwind, the mission failed.

Wrestler Lemar Hoskins was given treatments by the Power Broker which gave him superhuman strength. He joined the Bold Urban Commandos or Backies, a group who supported Captain America's rival John Walker, the Super-Patriot (see US Agent). 
The Commission on Superhuman Activities asked Walker to replace Steve Rogers as Captain America, and Hoskins teamed up with him, adopting the name Bucky. He later set out on his own as Battlestar. MT

Beak

First Appearance: New X-Men #117 (October 2001)

Status: Hero

Real Name: Barnell Bolan's body underwent gruesome transformations during puberty. At the Xavier Institute for Higher Learning (see X-Men), Beak was drawn to Beast, who had also undergone mutation. When Xorn corrupted his class for his own ends, Beak stood against him. Beak had six children with fellow mutant Angel Salvadore, but was later forced to join the Exiles. After various adventures, he lost his mutant powers and is now living as an ordinary human being. AD
The original members of X-Factor rejoined the X-Men, and McCoy succeeded in creating a cure for the Legacy Virus, drawing on research by Dr. Moira MacTaggart. The Beast thereafter briefly served in the spinoff team, the X-Treme X-Men. After the Beast was nearly killed in combat, fellow member Tessa saved his life by using her powers to mutate him even further. The Beast remains an active combatant, the X-Men's resident scientist, and a teacher at the Xavier Institute. 

Nuclear-power-plant worker Norton McCoy was exposed to intense radiation, and his son Henry was born a mutant, with unusually large hands and feet. Henry's schoolmates called him "Beast," but his mutant physique enabled him to become a star football player. When a criminal called the Conquistador abducted Henry's parents to force Henry to work for him, the X-Men came to the rescue. The team's founder, Professor X, recruited Henry and, codenamed the Beast, he thus became one of the X-Men's original members.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Henry P. "Hank" McCoy

**OCCUPATION**
Adventurer, biochemist

**BASE**
The Xavier Institute, Salem Center, New York

**HEIGHT** 5'11 in

**WEIGHT** 142 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Brown (originally); blue-black (currently)

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
X-Men Vol. 1 #1 (September 1963)

The Beast possesses superhuman strength, agility, durability, and enhanced senses, including catlike night vision. He is able to recover with superhuman swiftness from minor wounds. He also possesses genius-level IQ, with extraordinary expertise in genetics, biochemistry and other subjects.

**UNCHAINED**

Under Xavier's tutelage, McCoy earned his Ph.D. and went on to become a genetic researcher at the Brand Corporation. There he developed a serum that further mutated him: he grew fur all over his body, as well as fangs and pointed ears.

Initially McCoy attempted to masquerade as a normal human by using a latex mask and gloves. However, the Beast abandoned this disguise, joined the Avengers, and publicly revealed his true identity. Later, the Beast reorganized another team, the Defenders. After this incarnation of the Defenders collapsed, the Beast rejoined Xavier's other four original X-Men in a new mutant team, X-Factor. Soon afterwards, the Beast was captured by former Brand scientist Dr. Carl Maddicks, who used a serum to cause the Beast to revert to his previous, more human appearance. Still later, the mutant Infectia's powers returned the Beast to his fur-covered form.

**THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE**

The extraordinary origin of the Beast explained for the first time. It is a map of high-intellect, sharp wit, and great kindness.

**ESSENTIAL STORYLINES**

- X-Men Vol. 1 #9-53
  The extraordinary origin of the Beast explained for the first time.
- Amazing Adventures Vol. 2 #1-16
  The Beast mutates into his furry, animal-like form and combats the Secret Empire.
- X-Treme X-Men #3
  The Beast mutates into his leonine form.
**Belladonna**

**First Appearance:** Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 1 #43 (June 1990)

**Real Name:** Narda Ravanna

**Occupation:** Criminal

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5 ft 5 in  
**Weight:** 120 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue-grey  
**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Extensive knowledge of chemistry enables development of sinister chemical weapons.

With her sister, Desiic Vaughan-Pope, Narda Ravanna was the founder of Vaughan-Pope Cosmetics and responsible for product development. When they refused to sell the company to Roderick Kingsley (see HOBGOBLIN), he used the media to smear their products, driving them out of business. Hungry for revenge, Narda returned to the US, her home country. As Belladonna, Narda developed weapons from stolen neo-atropine and attacked Kingsley with the help of several allies. When SPIDER-MAN intervened, she attempted to kill the web-slinger but he thwarted her efforts and handed her over to the police.

**Bereet**

**First Appearance:** Rampaging Hulk #1 (January 1977)

**Real Name:** Bereet

**Occupation:** Krystalian Techno-Artist

**Base:** The planet Krystal

**Height/Weight:** Unrevealed  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** Unrevealed

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Created the tools of her trade with her in a special distortion pouch. Accompanied by a hovering device called Sturky that could convert matter.

A renowned Techno-Artist from the planet Krystal, Bereet first came to prominence among her race when she created a series of adventure films depicting the earliest version of the Hulk combating a fictitious invasion of Earth by the Krystolians.

After several attempts to duplicate this early success, she journeyed to Earth intending to document the ongoing exploits of the true Hulk, and became embroiled in a number of his adventures. She remained on Earth and became a movie director in Hollywood.

**Berengetti, Michael**

**First Appearance:** Incredible Hulk Vol. 2 #447 (Sept. 1998)

**Real Name:** Michael Berengetti

**Occupation:** Casino owner

**Base:** Las Vegas

**Height:** 6 ft 3 in  
**Weight:** 170 lbs  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Highly skilled businessman, with a deep knowledge of underworld politics. Skilled with firearms, and had a talent for mathematics relating to games of chance.

Michael Berengetti owned Las Vegas's Coliseum casino, and hired the Hulk as a bodyguard and leg-breaker during the period when the Hulk sported gray skin and a cunning intellect. Berengetti, who called the Hulk "Joe Fixit," ensured that the Hulk had steady access to tailored suits and Las Vegas's more sensual pleasures. After the Hulk left Vegas, the android Frost (employed by the gangster Sam Striker) killed Berengetti.

**Beta Ray Thor**

Beta Ray Bill was a guardian-warrior of an extraterrestrial race whose galaxy was destroyed by the ancient demon Surtur. He was created when scientists transfused his life force into a bioengineered carnivorous beast, with increased strength, speed and agility. While traveling in suspended animation, Beta Ray Bill's starship entered the Milky Way Galaxy, where Thor was sent to investigate.

They battled and Thor was separated from his enchanted hammer, Mjolnir, which changed back into Donald Blake's cane. When Beta Ray Bill struck the cane on a wall he suddenly possessed Thor's power and a variation of the Thunder God's costume.

After a battle on Asgard in which Beta Ray Thor spared Thor's life, Odin (see Gods of Asgard) commissioned the creation of a new enchanted hammer, called Storm Breaker, possessing the same powers as Mjolnir. Thor's hammer.

Odin gave Storm Breaker to Beta Ray Thor. Since then he has used his great powers to protect both his race's fleet and the Asgardians.

**Beta Ray Thor and Hercules battle fire demons from the Asgardian world of Muspellheim.**

**Factfile**

**Real Name:** Beta Ray Bill

**Occupation:** Warrior

**Base:** Mobius; his alien race's space fleet, his own warship Skuttalcout

**Height:** 6 ft 7 in  
**Weight:** 400 lbs  
**Eyes:** None visible  
**Hair:** None

**First Appearance:** Thor #337 (November 1965)

Beta Ray Thor has the same powers as Thor himself. He has superhuman strength, and is immune to all disease and injury. His Asgardian metabolism gives him far greater endurance at all physical activities than humans.
**Beyonder**

Observer of worlds

**FACTFILE**

REAL NAME
Beyonder

OCCUPATION
Cerebro/hero

BASE
Kyle prison

HEIGHT 6 ft 2 in (variable)
WEIGHT 243 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Black

FIRST APPEARANCE
Secret Wars #1 (May 1984)

The infinite energies of a Cosmic Cube experimented on by scientist Owen Reece transformed Reece into Molecule Man and also formed the Beyonder. At first the Beyonder was a non-corporeal entity. As he acquired consciousness he began observing the activities of humans. Intrigued by what he saw, he created a planet, combining elements from various worlds including a small part of Detroit. He christened it Battleworld and gathered together a clutch of Super Heroes and Villains, in order to watch them fight. However, the Beyonder grew tired of just looking on...

**ENDLESS QUEST**

The Beyonder arrived on Earth, and took the appearance of Molecule Man, Captain America, and finally a square-jawed alpha male with bad dress sense. He traveled the world learning about humanity. He was taught by Spider-Man, learned about money from a homeless woman, and had a fling with the musician Dazzler.

The Beyonder still felt unfulfilled and became increasingly unstable—a threat to the entire multiverse. He decided that he needed to be fully human and tried to transplant himself into the body of a baby, which was gestating in a machine he had built. Before the child could be born, Molecule Man destroyed the birth tank to save the multiverse, channeling the resulting explosive energies into a new and empty universe.

**ESSENTIAL STORYLINES**

- Secret Wars #1–12: The Beyonder creates Battleworld and gets Earth's Super Heroes to fight there.
- Secret Wars Vol. 2 #1-9: The Beyonder arrives on Earth and learns about humanity.
- Fantastic Four Annual #23: The Beyonder and Molecule Man merge to form a new entity named Kosmos.

**Kosmic Union**

The Beyonder was rediscovered by the Fantastic Four who were led to this new universe by Dr. Doom. In time, the Beyonder and Molecule Man fused to become a new Cosmic Cube. Then this Cube expelled the Molecule Man and became the female entity Kosmos (above) who now exists in mortal form as a being called the Maker. AD
**Factfile**

**Real Name:** Bi-Beast  
**Occupation:** Guardian of the Avian race  
**Base:** Sky Island of the Avian race  
**Height:** 7 ft 8 in. (variable)  
**Weight:** 300 lbs (variable)  
**Eyes:** Black  
**Hair:** None  
**First Appearance:** Incredible Hulk #169 (November 1973)

Bi-Beast is a large, muscular humanoid with a golden body and a long tail. He has a powerful build and can transform into a massive creature with wings. His abilities include flight, super strength, and durability. He is often seen protecting the Avian race and their home, Sky Island.

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**Big Hero 6**

**First Appearance:** Sunfire and Big Hero 6 #1 (Sept. 1998)

**Members and Powers:**
- **Sunfire**: Projects heat and flame and can fly.
- **Silver Samurai**: Projects energy through his sword.
- **Gogo Tomago**: Turns into an explosive ball of energy.
- **Honey Lemon**: Obtains almost any object from her "Power Purse".
- **Hiro Takachiho**: 13-year-old scientific genius.
- **Baymax**: "Synthform" robot that can change into a dragon.

Big Hero 6 is Japan's official team of superhuman agents. They are a group of young heroes who use their abilities to protect their city and fight against various threats.

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**Big Man**

**First Appearance:** Amazing Spider-Man #15 (March 1964)

**Real Name:** Frederick Foswell  
**Occupation:** Reporter, criminal

**Base:** New York City  
**Height:** 5 ft 10 in. (Big Man) 6 ft 1 in

**Weight:** 195 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Gray

**Special Powers/Abilities:**
- Brilliant criminal mind, master of disguise and trickery.
- Padded costume to appear more robust and taller; wears mask and uses a device that deepens voice.

Daily Bugle reporter Foswell tried to organize New York's gangs under his leadership as the Big Man, employing the Enforcers as his henchmen. After clashing with Spider-Man, the police arrested the Big Man's identity and arrested Foswell. He served his time in prison and, thanks to the generosity of publisher J. Jonah Jameson, returned to the Bugle. Foswell adopted the identity of Patch to spy on the underworld and aided in the capture of the Crime-Master. Foswell later returned to crime and worked for the Kingpin.

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**Bird-Brain**

**First Appearance:** New Mutants #26 (October 1987)

**Real Name:** Bird-Brain  
**Occupation:** None

**Base:** Paradise Island, in the North Atlantic  
**Height:** 6 ft

**Weight:** 126 lbs  
**Eyes:** Red  
**Hair:** Varicolored feathers

**Special Powers/Abilities:**
- Wings enable flight; entire body is hollowed out, like a bird's able to breathe at high altitudes; eyes are specially adapted to withstand high winds during flight.

Bird-Brain is a half-human, half-animal creature known as an Ani-Mate. He was created through genetic engineering by Dr. Frederick Animus, the Ani-Mator. Although Bird-Brain and his fellow Ani-Mates possessed human-level intelligence, the Ani-Mator treated them like slaves.

After being subjected to a number of cruel tests, Bird-Brain used his wings to fly away from the Ani-Mator's Paradise Island. He was placed in quarantine by the US authorities in preparation for being sent to a research laboratory for further testing. When he escaped, Bird-Brain was then recruited by the New Mutants, who returned with him to Paradise Island in order to help free his fellow Ani-Mates from the Ani-Mator's cruel thrall.
Bishop

Bishop comes from an alternate future in which the robot SENTINELS had taken control of North America and most of the X-Men had been killed. Born in a "mutant relocation camp," Bishop was branded with an "M" to identify him as a member of that race. In time, mutants and humans joined in the Summers Rebellion that overthrew the Sentinels. Bishop and his sister Shard were taught by their grandmother about the X-Men and PROFESSOR X's vision of peaceful coexistence between mutants and people. Bishop later joined Xavier's Security Enforcers (XSE), a mutant police force combating criminal mutants. Bishop pursued one such mutant criminal, Trevor Fitzroy, to the time period of his heroics, the X-Men, and was invited to join the team. Subsequently, Bishop became the partner of NYPD cop Isabel Ortega, fighting crime in "District X," Manhattan's mutant ghetto.

Black Bolt

Black Bolt was born in Attilan, secret refuge of the INHUMANS. He was the son of Agon, head of the ruling Council of Genetics. His infant cries created massive destruction, forcing his parents to place him in a sound-proof chamber. An energy-harnessing suit was designed for him and he was taught to use his powers. After he was released, aged 19, Black Bolt learned that his younger brother Maximus was about to betray the Inhumans to the alien Kree race. Black Bolt shouted, creating a shockwave that blasted the Kree ship out of the sky. It crashed into the parliament building, killing his parents. Black Bolt became the ruler of the Inhumans; however, the two brothers have often battled for the throne. Black Bolt is married to Medusa.

Black Cat

The daughter of a famous cat burglar, Felicia Hardy was determined to follow in her father's footsteps. And so she devised the costumed identity of the Black Cat, setting up prearranged "accidents" so as to make it appear as though she possessed the ability to cause bad luck to befoul others. But the Cat herself was a victim of bad luck when she ran afoul of the amazing SPIDER-MAN.

Becoming smitten with the Wall-Crawler, the Black Cat pursued him amorously and for a time became one of his closest confidantes, one of the very few people who knew he was really Peter Parker. After she was savagely beaten by the mutant SABRETOOTH, the Cat obtained mystical bad luck powers through the machinations of the Kingpin. These abilities faded away, as did her romance with Spider-Man, who couldn't reconcile spending the rest of his life with a compulsive thief who wasn't interested in him as Peter Parker. But though Peter eventually married Mary Jane Watson (see PARKER, Mary Jane), the Black Cat remains one of his closest friends and allies—despite the fact that she works the shady side of the street more often than not.
The first Black Knight, Sir Percy of Scandia, was born in the 6th Century and became one of the bravest knights at the court of King Arthur Pendragon at Camelot. Here he led a double life, posing as a mild-mannered fop while secretly fighting evil as the Black Knight, armed with the Ebony Blade, a sword fashioned by Merlin the Magician from the Starstone meteorite. Centuries later, Sir Percy’s spirit returned to converse with his ancestors, Professor Nathan Garrett and Dane Whitman, each of whom would take up his mantle.

Villainous Knight

Nathan Garrett met the spirit of Sir Percy during a visit to the family home of Garrett Castle, and was offered the chance to become a latter-day Black Knight. However, Garrett failed to draw the Ebony Blade from its scabbard thereby proving himself unworthy. Determined to become the Black Knight by other means, Garrett developed a lance that fired energy bolts, and embarked on a criminal career mounted upon a genetically engineered winged horse. Garrett battled the Avengers with the Masters of Evil, dying in a fight with Iron Man. Before passing away, Garrett confessed his crimes to his nephew, Dane Whitman, and begged him to restore his honor.

The Good Knight

Adopting his uncle’s Black Knight persona, Dane Whitman vowed to fight for the forces of good. Although initially mistaken as the previous Black Knight and attacked by the Avengers, Whitman gradually won their trust and became one of their number. Blessed with a noble spirit, Whitman was able to draw the Ebony Blade once wielded by his ancestor Sir Percy. Unfortunately, the sword had been cursed with the blood of those killed by Sir Percy, all those years before. This curse dogged Whitman throughout the many battles that he was to fight until, that is, Dr. Strange finally recognized what it was. In order to cleanse it, Whitman was instructed to plunge the sword into the Brazier of Truth, located in Garrett Castle. Whitman’s effort shattered the Brazier. Since it was this mystical object that held Sir Percy’s spirit in this world, its destruction finally allowed him to rest.

Essential Storylines

- *The Black Knight #1-3* Sir Percy begins his adventures as the Black Knight.
- *Avengers Vol.1 #71* Dane Whitman helps the Avengers beat King and becomes a member.
- *Dr. Strange Vol. 2 #98* Whitman cleanses the Ebony Blade of evil and frees Sir Percy’s ghost.
**Black Panther**

The "Black Panther" is an honorary title bestowed on the reigning monarch of the jungle kingdom of Wakanda. T'Challa was only a child when he succeeded his father, who had been murdered by Klaw, the master of sound. Before T'Challa assumed the Wakandan throne, he was educated in the finest schools in Europe and America. He then embarked on a series of grueling tests to prove that he was worthy of donning the mantle of the Black Panther, the sacred totem of his people. After passing each test, he gained possession of a special heart-shaped herb found only in Wakanda, which enhanced his five senses and physical prowess to the peak of human perfection.

Although Black Panther has often allied himself with the FANTASTIC FOUR and the AVENGERS, the Black Panther is still the king of Wakanda and his people are always his highest priority. Realizing that the time had come for him to have an heir, he asked Otoro Munroe, Storm of the X-MEN, to marry him. TD

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**Black Mamba**

A former call girl, Tanya Sealy was one of a group of people who were surgically altered by the Roxxon Oil Company in order to become a covert special agent. A surgical implant allowed Sealy to tap into her brain's energy in a way that gave her control of the Darkforce, an inky cloud of energy, and also some hypnotic powers. Joining the ruthless Serpent Squad, Black Mamba and her fellow operatives set out to find an ancient power object known as the Serpent Crown. Later, Black Mamba joined with Anaconda and Sidewinder as a freelance mercenary in a new team called the SERPENT SOCIETY. MT

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**Black Talon**

Black Talon is a Creole with true voodoo powers. This man, whose real name is unknown, is actually the second to wear the Black Talon costume. The first was a fake voodoo priest who was killed by his own cult when they found out he was a fraud. The true houngan Black Talon formed his own cult and was then contacted by the Grim Reaper, who wanted his dead brother Wonder Man brought back to life as a zombie. When Black Talon did this, the Reaper's brother attacked the Avengers, who subdued him and then defeated Black Talon himself. MT

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**Black Tom**

Like his brother Sean Cassidy, the Banshee, Black Tom Cassidy is an Irish-born mutant. Losing both the Cassidy fortune and the woman he loved, Maeve Rourke, to Sean, Black Tom turned to crime. Partnered by the Juggernaut, Black Tom has fought the X-Men and other Super Heroes. After he was shot, doctors grafted a wood-like material onto his wounds, transforming Tom into a sentient humanoid plant who can control other plants.
Black Widow
Uncompromising and deadly

Shortly after Russia’s World War II victory at Stalingrad, a lady, trapped in a burning building, threw her baby to a stranger below—a soldier named Ivan Petrovich. He raised the baby, named Natasha, who turned out to be a superb student, athlete, and ballerina. She married test pilot Alexei Shostakov, but their happiness was cut short. Faking Shostakov’s death and leaving Natasha to grieve, the KGB trained him to become the RED GUARDIAN—a Russian super-soldier. The KGB then manipulated Natasha into becoming a spy codenamed Black Widow.

While they don’t always see eye-to-eye, Black Widow remains loyal to her old lover, Daredevil.

HARD TIME
Two espionage missions against Stark Industries brought her into contact with the adventurer Hawkeye, and it was ultimately he that inspired Natasha to claim her freedom and join SHIELD. A romance between the pair proved short-lived.

Encountering the Red Guardian on a mission, she had only just learned his true identity when he was shot and killed, the double shock causing Natasha to withdraw from her relationship with Hawkeye.

In the years that followed, Natasha became romantically involved with Daredevil and founded the Champions team of Super Heroes. She also led the Avengers during one of its most testing periods, when several members lost their lives. More recently, Natasha became the implacable opponent of a rival Black Widow, Yelena Belova.

Natasha also learned that she was just one of many Black Widows and that her memories of her early life were implanted. Although these revelations were deeply unsettling, Natasha Romanoff remains the same woman—morally uncompromising and a deadly combatant.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Daredevil #67-68: Black Widow and Daredevil move to San Francisco; Black Widow’s history is explained.
- Pale Little Spider #1-3: The origins of Yelena Belova are explained for the first time.
- Black Widow Vol. I #1-3: The two Black Widows, Natasha Romanova and Yelena Belova, go head-to-head and their bitter enmity begins.

Yelena Belova

Like Natasha, Yelena Belova was trained at the KGB’s notorious Red Room. The two Black Widows soon clashed; however, Natasha's experience gave her the edge. Antipathy between the pair continues to fester.
BLADE
Born a half-vampire (dhampir) when his mother was fatally bitten by vampire Deacon Frost while giving birth, Blade was brought up by vampire hunter Jamal Afari. Dracula later transformed Afari, and Blade was forced to kill his foster father. Now nursing two grudges, Blade set out for revenge against both Dracula and Deacon Frost. During his quest he allied with Quincy Harker, Rachel Van Helsing, and Frank Drake against Dracula, while "vampire detective" Hannibal King assisted him against Frost.

Blade, King, Drake, and Doctor Strange helped unleash the Montesi Formula, a mystical incantation that temporarily destroyed all the vampires on Earth. Blade opened a detective agency with King, named Borderline Inc., and battled occult threats with King and Drake under the name Nightstalkers.

BLACKLASH
First Appearance: Tales of Suspense #97 (January 1968)
Real Name: Mark Scarlett (aka Mark Scott)
Occupation: Assassin-for-hire
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 1 in
Weight: 196 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blood
Special Abilities: Expert with whip and nunchaku. Possesses two cybernetically-controlled whips, anti-gravity boots and a necro-lash releasing electrical energy generated by a gauntlet.

A talented engineer, Scarlett joined the MAGGI crime organization. He developed super-weapons, such as a steel-fiber whip that cut through metal. First calling himself Whiplash, he made his name by battling Iron Man to a draw. As Mark Scott, he worked undercover as head of research at Stark International's Cincinnati factory and became a costume operative for Justin Hammer. Scarlett upgraded his arsenal and changed his name to Blacklash. He now works as a mercenary and contract assassin.

BLACKOUT
First Appearance: Nova #19 (May 1978)
Real Name: Marcus Daniels
Occupation: Criminal
Base: New York City
Height: 5 ft 9 in
Weight: 180 lbs
Eyes: Grey
Hair: Brown
Special Abilities: Projects and manipulates semi-solid black energy known as the Darkforce, has the strength and agility of a normal human being.

Exposed to "black star" rays by the physicist Dr. Abner Croft, Daniels gained the ability to control this cosmic radiation. He adopted the moniker "Blackout" and embarked on a series of robberies. Over time, exposure to this dark energy led to creeping insanity. Although his ally Moonstone helped him to direct and extend his powers, she also sought to control his mind, as did their joint master, Baron Zemo. During an attack on the Avenger's Mansion, Blackout endeavoured to resist Zemo's mental commands, but these efforts led to a brain hemorrhage and Blackout's death.

BLINK
First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men #137 (October 1984)
Real Name: Clarice Ferguson
Occupation: Adventurer
Base: Mobile
Height: 5 ft 5 in
Weight: 125 lbs
Eyes: Green
Hair: Magenta
Special Abilities: Blink is a mutant with the ability to create teleportational warps; carries a dagger and a set of jewels.

Having been brought up in the brutal Age of Apocalypse by her world's version of Sabertooth, Blink eventually became "unstuck in time"—exiled from her home reality. Recruited by the Timebroker and entrusted with the Tiltus, a wrist-worn device that provides mission info, she and a team of fellow Exiles were charged with repairing the broken links in the chain of realities across the multiverse. Since that time, she has traveled from Earth to Earth, doing what must be done to put the multiverse back on the proper path.
**Blizzard**

The story of Blizzard begins and ends with the name Stark. Employed by Stark Industries, Dr. Gregor Shapankka became obsessed with his own mortality and attempted to steal and sell Stark transistor technology in order to fund research into longevity. After being sacked for his misdeavors, Shapankka developed a suit capable of generating immense cold. Using it to perform acts of villainy, he came to be known as Jack Frost or Blizzard and became a nemesis of Iron Man, battling him time and again. Shapankka’s life came to an end when he was killed by Anto Stark, an Iron Man from the year 2020 who had travelled back in time to retrieve Shapankka’s retina patterns to disarm a bomb.

Shapankka’s successor as Blizzard was Donny Gill, an employee of Justin Hammer. Having employed the original Blizzard to undertake various questionable schemes in the past it is likely that it was Hammer who provided Gill with his Blizzard suit. His work for Hammer was to lead to his imprisonment, but when released Iron Man persuaded Gill to leave Hammer’s employ and Tony Stark took him under his wing.

**Factfile**

- **Real Name**: Dr. Gregor Shapankka
- **Occupation**: Former scientist/criminal
- **Base**: New York City
- **Height**: 5 ft 6 in
- **Weight**: 165 lbs
- **Eyes**: Brown
- **Hair**: Brown

**First Appearance**: Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #46 (September 1963)

- Gloves on Blizzard’s balaclava could protect intense cold, generate freezing mist, mini-blizzards of snow, sleet, and darts of ice that could pierce metal; he could freeze people by covering them in frost: escaped capture by creating an ice slide. He has no superhuman powers.

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**Blob**

Once a lowly carnival freak in a traveling circus, his life changed for Fred J. Dukes when he was visited by the uncanny X-Men, who revealed to him that, like themselves, he was a mutant. Rather than accept their offer of membership in their school, Dukes became drunk on his newfound status, and attempted to destroy them as the Blob. Recalled therefrom by Magneto to become a member of his Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, the Blob entered into a life of crime, coming into conflict not only with the X-Men, but the Avengers and the Defenders as well. For a time, the Blob worked with the government-sponsored incarnation of the brotherhood known as Freedom Force, but more recently he has renewed his lawless career as a genetic terrorist, albeit more muscle than brains.

**Factfile**

- **Real Name**: Fred J. Dukas
- **Occupation**: Criminal, former circus performer
- **Base**: Mobile
- **Height**: 6 ft
- **Weight**: 976 lbs
- **Eyes**: Brown
- **Hair**: Brown

**First Appearance**: Uncanny X-Men #5 (January 1964)

- Superhuman strength and durability. Fiery body can absorb bullets, even artillery shells, and is impervious to injury; however, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and so the like are not as injury-resistant. When he plants himself firmly, the Blob becomes as solid as the ground beneath him and cannot be moved.
Bloodhawk

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Avengers #179 (January 1979)

**REAL NAME** Bloodhawk

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer

**BASE** Muara, an island in the Atlantic Ocean

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 3 in

**WEIGHT** 150 lbs

**EYES** Black

**FEATHERS** Reddish-brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Superhuman strength and stamina; able to fly and communicate with birds; possesses razor-sharp claws.

Bloodhawk is the only son of a geneticist who experimented on his own wife. The poor woman died giving birth to a mutant of hawklike appearance and characteristics. Unable to accept the horror he had created, Bloodhawk's father turned his son over to his best friend, who removed the child from civilization. Plagued by bouts of insanity, Bloodhawk grew to adulthood in the South Seas. When a powerful totem was stolen from his island home, he journeyed to the US and battled the Avengers to recover it. Bloodhawk later gave his life to save Thor.

Bloodstone, Ulysses

**REAL NAME** Unknown, took the name Ulysses

**OCCUPATION** Soldier of fortune

**BASE** Bloodstone Island

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 2 in

**WEIGHT** 255 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Blond

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Marvel Presents #1 (October 1975)

Bloodstone, originally known as Ulysses, was born in the Hyborian Age over 10,000 years ago. The man now known as Ulysses Bloodstone originally belonged to a Scandinavian tribe of hunter-gatherers, from which he was lured away by Ulluxyl, the warlord known as the Syn. This alien being was the guardian of a crystal entity called the Helix. The Helix, a being that was seeking to dominate the Earth, to fulfill its goal, the Helix needed a human servant, so it endowed the tribe's foremost hunter with superhuman powers. However, when it went on to kill his tribe members, the hunter grabbed it, causing the Helix crystal to shatter into hundreds of pieces, one of which embedded itself in his chest. The crystal fragment saved his life and made him immortal, but the rest of his tribe were wiped out. The reddish crystal and his wandering existence led him to adopt the name Ulysses Bloodstone.

The other pieces of the Helix were scattered all over the world.

Bloodscream

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Wolverine Vol. 2 #4 (February 1989)

**REAL NAME** Unknown

**OCCUPATION** Enforcer

**BASE** Madagascar, Southeast Asia

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 5 in

**WEIGHT** Unknown

**EYES** Unknown

**HAIR** Gray

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Although not a true vampire, has many vampire powers: superhuman strength, agility, accelerated healing, hypnotic ability, can also kill or cause bleeding by touch.

Bloodscream was once a 16th-century sailor, whom a necromancer turned into a pseudo-vampire—a condition that could only be cured by drinking an immortal's blood. Centuries later, Bloodscream, now a Nazi soldier, encountered Wolverine. Meeting Wolverine decades later, Bloodscream saw the mutant hadn't aged. Assuming Wolverine was immortal, Bloodscream has hounded him ever since.

Island Base

Vowing vengeance on Ulluxyl, Ulysses spent the rest of his life searching for the alien, while Ulluxyl devoted his existence to piecing the Helix back together.

During his quest, Ulysses earned a fortune through mercenary work and shrewd investments, establishing six headquarters across the world and a base on what became known as Bloodstone Island.

Inhaling her father's fortune and powers, 16-year-old Elsa battles evil across the world. Dracula and the Egyptian necromancer Ra'kass are just some of her foes.

Inevitably, Ulysses' fate was bound up with that of the Helix. In one final, climactic confrontation, a dying Ulysses managed to destroy the crystal altogether. He achieved vengeance for his tribe, Ulysses left behind his ex-wife and his daughter, Elsa. Wearing a bloodstone choker that endowed her with superhuman powers, she vowed to continue her father's fight against evil.
**Bloodstorm**

**First Appearance:** Mutant X #1 (October 1999)

**Real Name:** Oroko Munroe

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** Earth of Mutant X Universe

**Height:** 5 ft 11 in

**Weight:** 195 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** White

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Possesses vampiric powers, including hypnotic abilities and the power to transform into mist, a bat, or a wolf; can control the weather over limited areas.

Years ago, Dracula bit Storm of the X-Men, who began transforming into a vampire. In the main Marvel Universe, Storm was cured. But on the alternate Earth where the "Mutant X" series was set, Storm completed her metamorphosis, becoming the vampiress known as Bloodstorm. She nevertheless refused to turn villainous, and fed only on the blood of that reality's Forger, with his consent. Bloodstorm joined The Six, a team mostly comprised of former members of that reality's X-Men. For aiding the people of yet another alternate Earth, Earth X, Bloodstorm was rewarded by receiving a blood transfusion which cured her vampirism. PS

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**Blue Shield**

**First Appearance:** Dazzler #5 (July 1981)

**Real Name:** Joseph Carcelli

**Occupation:** Security Director

**Base:** Midtown High School, New York

**Height:** 6 ft

**Weight:** 180 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Formerly wore a microtactility-lined belt which increased strength and generated force field around body; new, owing to prolonged exposure, no longer needs belt.

Even as a boy, Joseph Carcelli seemed destined for a jail cell. He was always cutting school, running errands for local gangsters, or committing petty crimes. A boyhood friend of his was an inventor who borrowed money from loan sharks to build a personal force field. When this friend was murdered by the Barrigers for failing to repay the debt, Carcelli decided to use the force field to help get his revenge. He went undercover, joining the Barrigers' gang with the intention of destroying it from within. After accomplishing this goal, Carcelli tried to join the Avengers as the Blue Shield. He later replaced Quasar as the Security Director for Pegasus. T

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**Boomerang**

**First Appearance:** Tales to Astonish #81 (July 1969)

**Real Name:** Frederick Myers

**Occupation:** Assassin for hire

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 5 ft 11 in

**Weight:** 175 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Brilliant baseball pitcher; famed for customized boomerangs, such as explosive "shatterangs," poisonous "gasarangs," diamond sharp "razorangs."

Australian Fred Myers moved to the US as a child and became a major league baseball player renowned for his amazing accuracy. Suspended for taking bribes, a bitter Myers turned to crime full-time. The criminal organization known as the Secret Empire gave him the codename Boomerang and, mindful of his throwing skills, equipped him with a range of specialized projectile weaponry. Boomerang later obtained financial backing from Justin Hammer and became an assassin, working for Hammerhead and alongside the Sinister Syndicate.

Boomerang has battled SHIELD, Daredevil and Spider-Man and, although these heroes have been victorious, they know that they can't relax—after all, boomerangs nearly always come back. AD
Roger Bochs’ life was pitted by sadness. It is unclear why he had no legs, but for much of his early life he defined himself by his paraplegic status. Eventually, he stepped beyond these limitations, building a giant humanoid robot—Box—in which he could travel, gaining the freedom that so many others took for granted.

**JOINING ALPHA FLIGHT**

With his robotic chariot, Roger came to the attention of James McDonald Hudson who was recruiting for **ALPHA FLIGHT**. Hudson recruited Roger into Alpha Flight’s training programme and he was progressing well when the Canadian government withdrew funding. Out of a job, Roger returned to his native Saskatchewan.

Hudson kept the team going but Roger’s return to it was a long time coming. Hired by Jerome Jaxon to join the notorious Omega Flight, Roger was expected to help them destroy Alpha Flight. He opposed this but was helpless when Jaxon took control of Box and sent it into battle. By the end of the struggle, both Jaxon and Hudson were dead and Box was seriously mangled.

Roger was invited to rejoin the exhausted Alpha Flight, but first he needed to rebuild his robot. With the help of fellow team member, Madison Jeffries, Roger constructed a superior Box model, but when he became unlucky in love, his life began a downward spiral. Manipulated into merging his being with Madison’s unbalanced brother, Roger became part of a new entity—Omega. His endeavors to limit Omega’s sinister activities led to him being effectively lobotomized and when Omega was defeated and died, Roger passed away, too.

**MADISON JEFFRIES**

When Roger Bochs died, his friend Madison Jeffries became the next man to wear the Box armor. A mutant capable of manipulating metal, Madison used his abilities to augment the machine.

Madison’s life had been defined by his experiences in Vietnam, where he served with his brother, Lionel. The pair suffered deep emotional scarring when an explosion wiped out their squad: Lionel was driven insane by this event while Madison was left feeling alienated from the world. His work as a machine for Alpha Flight helped give some meaning to his life and the Box armor allowed him to make a more significant contribution to the team. AD
**Braddock, Jamie**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Captain Britain Weekly #9 (December 1976)

**REAL NAME:** James Braddock

**OCCUPATION:** Ex-racing driver, slave-trader

**BASE:** London

**HEIGHT:** 6 ft 1 in

**WEIGHT:** 151 lbs

**EYES:** Blue

**HAIR:** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Possesses the ability to warp reality, which he perceives as made of strings; he can thus twist objects, such as people's bodies, into grotesque, agonizing shapes.

The brother of Captain Britain and the X-Man called Psylocke, slazy playboy Jamie Braddock was captured by the insane criminal mastermind known as Doctor Crocodile. Tortured by Crocodile, Jamie's latent mutant ability to reshape reality around him manifested itself at the same moment that he lost his grip on sanity. Now, he has become one of the most dangerous beings in the universe—capable of turning the world upside down, and thoroughly out of his mind. **TB**

**Brand, Lucas**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Tomb of Dracula #9 (June 1973)

**REAL NAME:** Lucas Brand

**OCCUPATION:** Gang leader, assassin

**BASE:** London

**HEIGHT:** 6 ft 4 in

**WEIGHT:** 210 lbs

**EYES:** Red

**HAIR:** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Standard vampiric powers, including superhuman strength and invulnerability to most weapons. Strong willpower enabled him to resist Dracula's mental control.

Lucas Brand and the members of the British motorcycle gang he led came across a weakened Dracula, beat him up and attempted to drown him. In retaliation, Dracula bit and killed Brand, who thereby became a vampire himself. Later Brand was recruited by Doctor Sun, a criminal mastermind who existed as a bodiless, living brain. On Sun's behalf, Brand overcame Dracula, but when Brand then turned against Doctor Sun, Sun destroyed the would-be rebel. **PS**

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**Brood**

The Brood are a race of alien insectoids that spread across the universe like a cancer by injecting their eggs into other living beings. As the eggs hatch, the host is physically consumed and transformed into a member of the Brood. The Insectoids use a race of sentient space whales called the Acords as living ships. Native to the Shi'ar Galaxy, the Brood often aided Decimorda in her attempts to overthrow her sister Lilandra Neramani as the Shi'ar Majestrix.

The Brood infected the X-Men and planted the egg of a Bloodqueen into Professor X, but the team was saved by Wolverine who was able to resist the transformation process. Although their home planet Broodworld has been destroyed, many of the Brood have survived and have begun to rebuild their race. **TD**

**FACTFILE**

**OCCUPATION:** Extraterrestrial mercenaries

**BASE:** Shi'ar Galaxy

**HEIGHT:** 8 ft

**WEIGHT:** 925 lbs

**EYES:** Red

**HAIR:** None

**SCALES:** Green

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Uncanny X-Men #133 (March 1982)

Individuals possess six legs, transparent wings, razor-sharp teeth, armor-plated scales and long tails that are divided into two deadly stingers. The Brood are extremely durable, very hard to destroy, and vicious fighters, determined that their malignant race will survive.

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**Brother Voodoo**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Strange Tales #169 (September 1973)

**REAL NAME:** Jericho Drumm

**OCCUPATION:** Hougan (voodoo priest)

**BASE:** Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**HEIGHT:** 6 ft

**WEIGHT:** 200 lbs

**EYES:** Brown

**HAIR:** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Summoning brother's spirit from within own body doubles his strength; can send this spirit forth to possess other people; can create fire and smoke; hypnotic control over animals.

After years practicing as a psychologist in the US, Jericho Drumm returned to his native Haiti. There, his brother Daniel, the local hougan (voodoo priest) was dying following a battle with a sorcerer possessed by the spirit of the serpent-god Damballah. Drumm studied the voodoo arts and proved a powerful hougan, made even stronger when he merged with the spirit of his dead brother. As Brother Voodoo, he vanquished Damballah and his evil cult. **MT**
Founded by Magneto, the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants has remained, through its various incarnations, the opposite number of the X-Men; while the X-Men’s mission has always been to promote tolerance and coexistence between mutants and normal humans, the Brotherhood’s goal has been nothing less than total domination over mankind, and quite possibly the eradication of normal humans entirely.

**MUTANT MENACE**
Originally, Magneto formed the Brotherhood as a strike force, helping him to oppose Professor X’s X-Men, who had foiled his takeover of the Cape Citadel rocket base. This initial assemblage included the high-leaping Toad, Mastermind, creator of perfect illusions, the super-swift Quicksilver, and his sister, the hex-casting Scarlet Witch. Time and again they struck against their X-Men foes and against humanity, never scoring a true victory. And eventually, with the defeat of Magneto, this incarnation of the Brotherhood was no more—and the misguided Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch went on to become members of the Avengers.

Some years later, the mysterious, shape-shifting mutant terrorist Mystique formed a new Brotherhood of Evil Mutants under her command. This grouping was comprised of the immovable Blob, the earthshaking Avalanche, the flame-wielding Pyro, and the future-predicting Destiny. This incarnation of the Brotherhood eventually transformed into Freedom Force when it was offered amnesty by the US Government in exchange for becoming government operatives. But Freedom Force was at its heart corrupt, and after assorted clashes with the X-Men and other hero groups such as the Avengers, the program was quietly disbanded.

**BAD BROTHERS**
Since then, a number of other individuals have attempted to form their own permutations of the team. The Toad created his own Brotherhood in an attempt to destroy the mutant soldier from the future known as Cable. Havoq of the X-Men assembled a Brotherhood of his own as a combat unit against humanity at a point when his faith in Professor X’s dream was at a low. And the mysterious mutant operative known only as X created a many-celled version of the Brotherhood in his ongoing terror campaign against the human race. It remains to be seen what form this ever-changing assembly will take in the future.
Brutacus was born the son of warlock Nicholas Scratch in the supernatural village of New Salem, along with six siblings. When Scratch ordered his mother, Agatha Harkness, to stand trial for abandoning New Salem for a life in the outside world of ordinary folk, he transformed Brutacus and his other children into inhuman creatures so the FANTASTIC FOUR could not interfere. Calling themselves Salem's Seven, the group engaged in countless acts of wickedness. In a final battle with the Vision and the Scarlet Witch, an explosion of magical energy killed Brutacus and wiped out the entire population of New Salem. 

A special agent for Interpol, Sam Buchanan was a level-headed, no nonsense sort of chap who didn't believe in magic. Following the release of Lith, the demon-queen, from imprisonment, there was a steady increase in demonic activity and Sam was assigned to protect human-demon hybrid, Victoria Montes. For a long time, while continuing to protect Victoria, he insisted that the mystical events he witnessed had a rational explanation; eventually he was persuaded to believe what he was seeing. When this assignment finally ended, Sam Buchanan joined the Paranormal Law Enforcement Team, where it is thought he still works.

Bushmaster's serpentine tail both supports his body and is a formidable weapon, being strong enough to crush a 6-inch-thick steel pipe.

Quincy McIver's limbs were amputated by a ship's propeller and he was rebuilt as a cyborg with a snake-like tail by the Brand Corporation. Shortly after this transformation, Bushmaster accepted Sidewinder's invitation to join the SNAKE SOCIETY. While battling M.O.D.O.K., Bushmaster's mechanical arms were severed, but they were later reattached. As well as his powerful tail, Bushmaster has six-inch fangs on the back of his hands that deliver a fast-acting poison created from snake venom.

Bullseye's origins remain mysterious. A notorious assassin, he first clashed with his archenemy, DAREDEVIL, while trying to extort money from the rich. The New York crime lord the Kingpin then hired him to be his chief assassin. But while Bullseye was imprisoned, the Kingpin replaced him with the ninja Elektra. To reclaim his position, Bullseye killed Elektra. She and Daredevil had once been lovers, and Daredevil came after Bullseye. In the battle, Bullseye fell from a great height, leaving him paralyzed.

The Japanese scientist Lord Dark Wind repaired Bullseye's broken bones with adamantium, and Bullseye resumed his criminal career and his war with Daredevil. He also murdered Karen Page, whom Daredevil had loved for many years.

Bullseye has also had other costumed adversaries, including the PUNISHER, DEADPOOL and GAMBIT.
MARVEL IN THE 1960s

Although it had published characters like Captain America, the Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner in the 1930s, 40s and 50s, the company that would become Marvel Comics had given up on Super Heroes when the 1960s began, and was only publishing monster comics, westerns and teenage romances. According to comic book legend, publisher Martin Goodman heard that the competition had launched a team of Super Heroes that was selling well. He asked his editor, Stan Lee, to come up with a new super-team. Stan developed the Fantastic Four and hired Jack Kirby as illustrator.

Launched as a bimonthly in 1961, Fantastic Four #1 was followed by The Incredible Hulk #1 in 1962. The same year saw the first appearances of Spider-Man in Amazing Fantasy #15, and Thor in Journey Into Mystery #83. Spider-Man received his own title in 1963, the year that also premiered Avengers #1, X-Men #1, Sgt. Fury And His Howling Commandos #1 and Iron Man in Tales of Suspense #39. Daredevil #1 appeared in 1964. With the launch of Nick Fury, Agent of SHIELD in 1968, Nick became the first character to simultaneously star in two series set during different time periods: World War II and the modern era!

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #13 (1964)

In a story set during World War II, Captain America and Bucky join Sgt. Nick Fury to foil a typically Nelson Nazi plot.

Fantastic Four #1 (1961)
The Marvel Universe, a born with a bimonthly title that introduces Mr. Fantastic, the Thing, the invisible Girl and the Human Torch to the world.

Tales To Astonish #44 (1963)
The Ant-Man gains a partner and meets his future wife when Janet Van Dyne becomes the Wasp and joins his series.

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #13 (1964)

In a story set during World War II, Captain America and Bucky join Sgt. Nick Fury to foil a typically Nelson Nazi plot.

Fantastic Four Annual #3 (1965)

Almost every Super Hero and Villain in the then Marvel Universe appears on the scene to celebrate the wedding of Reed Richards and Sue Storm. The guest list even includes a brief appearance by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.
Amazing Fantasy #15 (1962)
Marvel's most popular Super Hero—the always amazing Spider-Man—makes his first appearance in the last issue of a suspense comic. Peter Parker, Aunt May, Uncle Ben, and Flash Thompson all make their first appearances as Spider-Man learns that, with great power, there must also come great responsibility.

Avengers #4 (1964)
Stan Lee and Jack Kirby re-present the original Captain America from the 1940s and introduce him to the modern age of comics.

Amazing Spider-Man #22 (1964)
The Webhead meets the Circus of Crime for the second time and battles the Ringmaster, the Cowl, and Princess Python.

Amazing Spider-Man #39 (1966)
John Romita takes over the Wally-Kreller's art chores when Peter Parker is unmasked and captured by his greatest enemy: Norman Osborn, the original Green Goblin!

Marvel Tales #3 (1966)
As Marvel Comics becomes more popular, the company begins to publish reprints of their earlier work so that readers could catch up on the histories of their favorite characters.

The Mighty Thor #145 (1967)
As punishment for disobeying his father, Thor is stripped of his immortality and powers and abandoned on Earth. He lands a job working for the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime.

"Abandoned on Earth!"
Cabe, Bethany

**First Appearance:** Iron Man #117 (December 1978)

**Real Name:** Bethany Cabe

**Occupation:** Bodyguard

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 5'7"

**Weight:** 125 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Red

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Bethany Cabe is a trained investigator, an expert marksman, and extensively trained in self-defense techniques.

After the apparent death of her ex-husband, a West German diplomat whose life was ruined by drugs, Bethany Cabe swore she would never be dependent on anyone again. She trained extensively, and became a highly respected bodyguard. Bethany's path soon crossed that of Anthony Stark, the millionaire industrialist who is also Iron Man, and they became romantically involved. When Stark's alcoholism threatened to destroy him, Bethany convinced him to get help. The romance ended, however, when Cabe's ex-husband turned out to be still alive, though in a comatose state. Bethany felt honor-bound to nurse him back to health.

Cable

**First Appearance:** X-Men #148 (August 1991)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6'5"

**Weight:** 275 lbs

**Eyes:** Black

**Hair:** None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Psionic ability to detect presence of other mutants; psionically intensifies others' fear; creates a psychoactive virus that attacks the mind; superhuman strength.

In another world, Alyssande Stuart was descended from a long line of ancient Scottish warrior champions. Her warrior name was Caledonia, and she also served as Captain Britain. Freed from captivity in her world, Caledonia arrived in New York City. She worked as a nanny to Franklin Richards, son of Reed Richards and Sue Storm (Mr. Fantastic and Invisible Woman), and thus came under the protection of the Fantastic Four.

Caledonia was eventually killed by the insane, murderous Jamie Braddock.

Cable

**First Appearance:** Uncanny X-Men #148 (August 1991)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6'5"

**Weight:** 275 lbs

**Eyes:** Black

**Hair:** None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Psionic ability to detect presence of other mutants; psionically intensifies others' fear; creates a psychoactive virus that attacks the mind; superhuman strength.

Named after the character in Shakespeare's The Tempest, Cable used his mental powers to detect mutants to help Caliban assemble the underground society of mutant outcasts called the Morlocks. The X-Factor team saved Cable from death when the Marauders massacred most of the Morlocks. The childlike Cable agreed to serve Apocalypse in exchange for enhanced powers to take his revenge.

Caliban

**First Appearance:** Uncanny X-Men #148 (August 1991)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6'5"

**Weight:** 275 lbs

**Eyes:** Black

**Hair:** None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Psionic ability to detect presence of other mutants; psionically intensifies others' fear; creates a psychoactive virus that attacks the mind; superhuman strength.

Named after the character in Shakespeare's The Tempest, Cable used his mental powers to detect mutants to help Caliban assemble the underground society of mutant outcasts called the Morlocks. The X-Factor team saved Cable from death when the Marauders massacred most of the Morlocks. The childlike Cable agreed to serve Apocalypse in exchange for enhanced powers to take his revenge.

Luke Cage

**First Appearance:** Luke Cage, Hero for Hire #1 (July 1972)

**Real Name:** Carl Lucas

**Occupation:** Bodyguard; Investigator

**Base:** Stark Tower, New York

**Height:** 5'9"

**Weight:** 425 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Superhuman strength, very dense muscle and bone tissue and steel-hard skin. He recovers three times faster than a normal person and is an experienced and skilled street fighter.

Luke Cage grew up on the streets of Harlem. While he often committed petty crimes as a youth, Luke realized the error of his ways as he grew older. A rivalry over a woman turned bitter and the other man, a criminal named Willis Stryker, framed him for possessing heroin. After being sent to prison, he volunteered to be a test subject for an experimental chemical in order to obtain an early parole. An angry guard tried to kill him by giving him an overdose. Instead of killing him, the drug reacted with his unique body chemistry and gave him superhuman strength. He escaped prison, faked his death and adopted the name Luke Cage. He made a name for himself as a solo hero for hire sometimes using the name Power Man. He then formed a partnership with Danny Rand (Iron Fist). He joined the New Avengers and began a relationship with a woman named Jessica Jones. Luke and Jessica had a daughter and have since married.
**CABLE**
*A living link between present and future*

The warrior from the future known as Nathan Dayspring Askani'son, alias Cable, was actually born in modern times as Nathan Christopher Summers. He is the son of Scott Summers, Cyclops of the X-Men, and his first wife Madelyne Pryor, a clone of Jean Grey, alias Phoenix.

**LIFE-SAVER**
Apocalypse infected Nathan with a "techno-organic" virus, which would have killed him by turning his body to organic metal. A woman from the Clan Askani brought the child to her own time, an alternate 40th-century future. There Mother Askani, a version of Rachel Summers, halted the virus' spread. She also had Nathan cloned. Apocalypse, who ruled this era, abducted the clone, who grew to become Cable's evil twin, Stryfe. Mother Askani transported the souls of Scott Summers and Jean Grey into the future and, as "Slym" and "Redd", they raised young Nathan. After the boy had destroyed Apocalypse, Scott and Jean returned to their own time.

Nathan became the Clan Askani's foremost freedom fighter against the New Guardians, led by Stryfe. Nathan married a fellow warrior, Alia; and they had a son, Tyler, but she was murdered by Stryfe. When Stryfe traveled back to the 20th century, Cable pursued him. There Cable founded the mercenary team S.W.A.T., which included his lover Domino. Later, Cable took command of the New Mutants, and reorganized them into X-Force. Eventually Cable seemingly destroyed the modern day Apocalypse; he then traveled the world as the mercenary Soldier X.

In time, Cable came to believe that his powers were killing him. Deadpool and the Fixer removed part of his brain and replaced the techno-organic matter in Cable's body, saving his life, but greatly reducing his powers. **PS**
Callisto

FIRST APPEARANCE: Uncanny X-Men #109 (May 1983)
REAL NAME: Unrevealed
OCCUPATION: Former leader of the Morlocks, former model, former bodyguard
BASE: Formerly the Alley (buried beneath Manhattan); Mobile
HEIGHT: 5'7" in
WEIGHT: 130 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Superhumanly keen senses, including night vision.

Cannonball

Sam Guthrie's mutant abilities first revealed themselves while he was trapped in a coal mine with a group of co-workers. The stress triggered his powers of propulsion, which helped free Guthrie and his partners. Later, Donald Pierce, a renegade member of the Hellfire Club, found Guthrie using a device he had built from stolen plans for Professor X's mutant-locating device, Cerebro. Pierce recruited Guthrie to help him battle Professor X and his New Mutants. Pierce ordered Guthrie to kill the New Mutants, but he refused. Pierce tried to kill Guthrie, but Professor X saved Guthrie's life and defeated Pierce. Xavier invited Guthrie to join the New Mutants as Cannonball. He became one of the team's leaders, later a member of the X-Men.

Factfile

REAL NAME: Samuel Guthrie
OCCUPATION: Adventurer, student, ex-coal miner
BASE: Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, Salem Center, New York
HEIGHT: 6 ft
WEIGHT: 150 lbs
EYES: Blue-grey
HAIR: Blond

FIRST APPEARANCE: Marvel Graphic Novel #4 (1980)

Powers:
Possesses the mutant power to create thermo-chemical energy and release it from his body in a powerful burst. Force field surrounding body gives superhuman durability.

Calyx

FIRST APPEARANCE: New Mutants Vol. 1 #18 (June 1984)
STATUS: Villain (deceased)
REAL NAME: Calypso Billi
OCCUPATION: Witch, troublemaker
BASE: New York City
HEIGHT: 5'8" in
WEIGHT: 120 lbs
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Skilled in Voodoo magic; combines potions and spells to confuse enemies; controls enemies with Yoruba spirit drums; can revive dead and resuscitate herself.

Calyx was born and raised in Haiti. Calyx was initiated into the arts of Voodoo. Meeting Kraven the Hunter shortly after his first defeat by Spider-Man, Calyx formed a love-hate attachment to him. She enjoyed seeing Kraven enraged and tricked him into attacking the Wallcrawler again. After Kraven's death, Calyx became unhinged, killing her sister to obtain her supernatural powers. Although killed by the Lizard, Calyx resurrected herself and clashed with Daredevil, before dying once more, at the hands of Alysha Kravinoff.

The Equal and opposite reaction to the thermo-chemical energy Cannonball generates propels his body into the air like a human rocket.
CAPTAIN BRITAIN

Chosen to become the champion of the nation of Great Britain by Merlin and his daughter Roma, Brian Braddock was gifted with the title and powers of Captain Britain. Both alone and as a member of Excalibur, Captain Britain strove to be worthy of his new role. Eventually, he discovered that he was one of an almost infinite number of Captains created by Merlin and Roma and positioned throughout the multiverse to safeguard existence, and that his father had once been a denizen of the Otherworld, where they resided. When Roma and the Otherworld were threatened by Mastermind, the sentient computer created by James Braddock, Captain Britain, wielding the sword Excalibur, defeated his foe. He later succeeded Roma as ruler of the Otherworld and commander of the Captain Britain Corps.

CAPTAIN BRITAIN CORPS

The Captain Britain Corps is an alliance of interdimensional champions, all empowered by Merlin and his daughter Roma, and charged with protecting their home realities from dimensional incursions. Based out of the central nexus realm known as Otherworld, which has connection points to all of the other realms of the multiverse, the many members of the Captain Britain Corps—each an analogue of the mainstream Captain Britain—are stationed so as to be able to detect threats to all of existence, and intercept them—as well as protecting their members' Earths from home-grown menaces. With Merlin having perished, and Roma no longer ruler of Otherworld, the Captain Britain Corps is now led by the Captain Britain of Earth-616, the mainstream reality of the Marvel Universe.

CAPTAIN FATE

In 1795, Jebediah Fate was the first mate to the pirate queen Maura Hawke when they encountered the satyr Khordes, who desired a mate. The traitorous Fate and his men turned Hawke over to Khordes in exchange for treasure, Hawke cursed Fate and his accomplices to sail the seas for eternity, and Khordes' magic made her curse come true. Centuries later, Fate again encountered Khordes and Hawke, now reincarnated as oceanographer Maura Spinner, as well as the monstrous Man-Thing. Though Fate was killed by gunfire, the demon Thog resurrected him, and Fate clashed with the Man-Thing, Maura and Khordes yet again.
In the late 1930s, with the threat of world war looming in Europe, the American high command embarked upon a program to create the perfect soldier. Project: Rebirth, spearheaded by Dr. Abraham Erskine, was intended to create a battalion of supreme fighting men, stronger and more resilient than normal soldiers, expertly trained and equipped—a bulwark against Nazi aggression. The first test subject for Erskine's revolutionary Super-Soldier Serum was a young, would-be artist named Steve Rogers, who had attempted to enlist, but had been turned away, classified 4-F, because of his physical frailty.

**THE SUPER SOLDIER**

Subjected to Erskine's process, Rogers' body virtually doubled in size, as millions of healthy cells were created almost instantaneously. His physique was accelerated to the pinnacle of human perfection, all weakness and deficiency drained out of it.

However, the secret test area had been infiltrated by Nazi sympathizers, who slew Dr. Erskine, the only person who knew how the process worked. Although Rogers quickly captured the saboteurs, it was clear that there would be no battalion of super-soldiers now—Steve Rogers would be the only one.

Captain America burst into action battling Hitler in his first issue. Cap's shield changed its shape to circulate in forthcoming issues because of objections from the creators of another hero called the Shield.

Equipped with a virtually unbreakable red, white, and blue shield, the product of a metallurgical accident, and trained in combat, tactics, espionage, and the fighting arts, Rogers was rechristened Captain America. Clad in a striking star-spangled uniform, he became a symbol for the US fighting forces and a dread nemesis of the Axis powers.

In his many battles against Nazi aggression, Captain America was joined by a sidekick, the worldly James "Bucky" Barnes, who had discovered the secret of Rogers' true identity.

The shield of a metallurgical accident, Captain America's shield is the most durable object known to man.
Together, Cap and Bucky tore a swath through the ranks of the enemy forces, vanquishing such Nazi menaces as the Red Skull, Agent Axis, and the Iron Cross. The duo were often joined by their allies in the Invaders team, including the original Human Torch and Namor, the Sub-Mariner.

In 1945, Cap and Bucky were on a mission to apprehend the German scientist Baron Zemo, who planned to steal an experimental long-range Drone Plane developed by the British. As the plane took off, Cap and Bucky made desperate leaps to catch it. Cap couldn’t maintain his hold, and plummeted earthward... seconds later the plane self-destructed, ending the life of Bucky Barnes. Cap’s body plunged into the icy waters below, where he was frozen into a state of suspended animation, a condition he would remain in for decades to come.

To safeguard morale, the Allied high command kept the deaths of Cap and Bucky secret and recruited other heroes to play the role of Captain America. Meanwhile, the true Captain America slumbered within the ice.

**THE RETURN**

Eventually, while searching for their foe Namor (the same person who had fought alongside Steve Rogers in the Invaders), the Avengers came across Captain America’s body floating in the icy waters, and revived him. Now Captain America was a man out of time, a soldier whose war was long over. Attempting to find a place for himself in this strange new society, Cap accepted an offer of Avengers membership, and swiftly became the binding glue that held the team together.

Cap also offered his services to his old war buddy Nick Fury, now head of the worldwide peacekeeping organization S.H.I.E.L.D. It was while operating as a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent that Cap first encountered Sharon Carter, S.H.I.E.L.D.’s Agent 13, who would become his paramour.

Today, hailed as the most trusted costumed champion of them all, Captain America fights on, striving to uphold freedom and democracy, both alone and with the Avengers.
Captain Mar-Vell was a member of the Kree, an alien humanoid race who built an empire known as the Greater Magellanic Cloud. Captain Mar-Vell was a “White Kree,” who have the same skin color as Caucasian Earth humans and similar physiology. (Most members of the Kree race have blue skin.) As captain of a Kree space fleet, Mar-Vell distinguished himself in battles against the shape-changing Skrulls, the Krees’ age-old foes.

The Intelligence used the psionic link with Jones to nullify the Skrull space fleet. The effort almost cost Jones his life, and Mar-Vell used his own life force to bring Jones from the brink of death. Mar-Vell then defeated the death-worshipping would-be conqueror Thanos who wished to destroy all life in the universe. Around this time, Mar-Vell also met with the mysterious, ancient alien being Eon, who gave him “cosmic awareness,” persuaded him to renounce the Kree’s war-mongering ways, and designated him “Protector of the Universe.”

**ESSENTIAL STORYLINES**
- The Life of Captain Mar-Vell
- The Avengers
- Captain Mar-Vell
- The Death of Captain Mar-Vell
- Captain Mar-Vell battles Thanos and performs other feats of cosmic heroism.
CAPTAIN MARVEL

Following the tragic death from cancer of the Kree warrior Captain Mar-Vell, his lover Elysia, an Eternal of Titan, used cell samples taken from his body to conceive a son she named Genis-Vell. To help keep the child safe from harm, Titanian science accelerated Genis-Vell’s aging so that he rapidly reached physical maturity. As soon as he discovered his heroic lineage, Genis-Vell donned his father’s ne ga-bands and became an adventurer, fittingly called Legacy. Genis-Vell later adopted his father’s name, “Captain Marvel.”

In mental contact with each other, Jones acted as Genis-Vell’s advisor.

THE BROKEN BOND

Genis-Vell subsequently went insane and helped the conceptual beings Entropy and Epiphany to destroy the universe. However, Genis then triggered a new “Big Bang,” recreating the cosmos. Once more insane, Genis became a menace to the universe. Elysia and another Titan, Eros, successfully returned Genis to sanity. The bonding between Jones and Genis was undone, allowing them to exist on Earth separately.

After Atlas beat Genis nearly to death, Baron Zemo utilized moonstones to help Genis heal his body. Genis took the name Photon and joined the Thunderbolts. Zemo learned that the moonstones’ effect on Genis would cause the universe’s destruction. Zemo therefore killed Genis and scattered his body through the Darkforce Dimension.

The name “Captain Marvel” was briefly used by Phyla-Vell, Genis’s sister, who had been similarly created by Elysia.

CAPTAIN ULTRA

Captain Ultra began his superhuman career as a would-be super-villain, who hoped to join the Frightful Four. The Four were impressed by his strength, but not by his vulnerability—he passed out in the presence of any open flame. His bid rejected, Captain Ultra went into therapy with Doc Samson, the psychiatrist, who helped him to overcome his aversion to fire. This didn’t improve Captain Ultra’s fortunes as a hero, but it did give him the confidence to move into a new line of work—as a stand-up comedian.
Cardiac

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
(Dr. Wirtham) Amazing Spider-Man #342
(December 1966), (Cardiac) Amazing Spider-Man #343 (January 1991)

**REAL NAME** Dr. Elias "El" Wirtham

**OCCUPATION** Surgeon, researcher, vigilante

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 6 in

**WEIGHT** 300 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**
Superhuman strength, speed and stamina, bulletproof skin, can project beta particle-force blasts.

Elias Wirtham's brother Joshua died of a rare disease after insurance companies refused to pay for unproven cures. Dr. Wirtham devoted his life to medical research, secretly battling those who profit from suffering. He had his heart replaced with a beta particle reactor, and his skin with vibrumium mesh that transmits the particles to his muscles, giving him amazing strength. As Cardiac, he has clashed with Spider-Man.

Carrion

The first Carrion was a clone of Miles Warren who was Spider-Man's enemy, the Jackal. Before his death, Warren left a clone of himself in a capsule, but something went wrong and the creature that emerged was like a living corpse. Carrion died in a fire following a battle with Spider-Man. Many years later, a fellow research student of Peter Parker's named Malcolm McBride discovered a test tube containing a genetic creation of Warren's, the "Carrion virus." The virus consumed McBride and turned him into a second incarnation of Carrion. When Miles Warren's body was examined by Dr. William Allen, he was infected by the virus, and became the third and most powerful incarnation of Carrion.

Carnage

Imprisoned for multiple murders, Cletus Kasady was sharing a cell with Eddie Brock, parasitical Venom's host, when that symbiote arrived to attempt a jailbreak. Venom left behind its spawn, which bonded with Kasady resulting in a new symbiote, the creature known as Carnage. The bond between Carnage and Kasady is more profound than that between Brock and Venom—the fact that they refer to themselves as "I" rather than "we" is testament to this. Carnage is also far more powerful, violent and deadly than its parent—following his first encounter with the creature, Spider-Man was forced to enlist the help of the Human Torch and even Venom to defeat it. It has fought alongside Demogoblin, Doppelganger, Surfer, and Carnage, and has bonded with Ben Reilly, the Silver Surfer and John Jameson. Once, Carnage was even reabsorbed into Venom but Kasady bonded with a version of the creature that had previously inhabited the negative Zone. Carnage is incarcerated at present but with its record of frequent escapes from Ravencroft Institute, it still poses a very real danger.

FACTFILE
**REAL NAME** "Miles Warren" (actually a clone of the original Miles Warren)

**OCCUPATION** None

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 175 lbs

**EYES** Yellow

**HAIR** None

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Spectacular Spider-Man #25 (December 1979)

Carnage could repel living matter, levitate, destroy living matter with his touch, reduce the density of his body to become almost intangible, and Regain.

FACTFILE
**REAL NAME** Cletus Kasady

**OCCUPATION** Spreader of Chaos

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 1 in

**WEIGHT** 190 lbs

**EYES** Green

**HAIR** Red

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man #244 (February 1991)

Carnage has superhuman strength, can generate swing lines and black web weapons, able to neutralise Spider-Man's spider-sense.
Sharon Carter grew up inspired by her relative Peggy Carter's tales of heroism from World War II. During the war, Peggy had been Captain America's lover and a member of the French Resistance. Her stories of bravery inspired Sharon to take part in international espionage and law enforcement. Sharon decided to become a SHIELD operative. She worked under the codename Agent 13 and was also a member of SHIELD's "Femme Force." Captain America reawakened in the modern era and Carter formed her own relationship with him. They worked together on many missions and became both allies and lovers. She was believed to have been killed while under the mind-control of Doctor Faustus; however, Carter returned to SHIELD for a brief stint as its executive director. She currently serves as Captain America's SHIELD liaison officer.

The Cat People were brought into existence thousands of years ago when a kindly human sorcerer named Ebrok enchanted two ordinary cats called Flatus and Helene into humanoid form. He then instructed these first two Cat People in the magical arts.

In time, the numbers of the Cat People grew to the displeasure of Ebrok's fellows in the Sorcerer's Guild. The Cat people were subsequently exiled to the limbilok realm they call the Land Within, whose properties caused them and their descendents to become demons. The Sorcerer's Guild also decreed that a member of the Cat People, given the title the Balkatar, must always answer if summoned. The current Balkatar is named Grigir.

The legendary heroine of the Cat People is known as Tigra, a human woman who was transformed into a catlike warrior by the Cat People's sorcery. Today, Greer Nelson has similarly been transformed into the heroine Tigra by a combination of the Cat People's magic and human science, and she serves as their emissary to the outside world and as a member of the mighty Avengers.

Daring cat burglar Cat was recruited into a gang run by a criminal known as the Crooked Man. He met Mouse, a singer and small-time crook. They became close friends and joined the Shroud's crusade to help take down their former employer. Deciding to join the Shroud's crusade to destroy crime from within, they opened and began performing at the Cat's Jazz Club, which became the Shroud's unofficial base. Before the Club was destroyed, Cat & Mouse played host to such adventurers as Spider-Man, Tattletale, Dazzler, and the West Coast Avengers. They later aided the Shroud against the Scorpion and various other criminals.

The abilities of most mutants are only manifested at puberty. Not so with Sharon Smith—her capacity to change into a cat was revealed when she was very young. Abandoned by her parents, Sharon was raised fetal by a stray cat. She was a teenager before she came to the attention of Emma Frost, the White Queen. Under her guidance the highly intelligent Sharon received an accelerated education; within a year she gained high-school literacy and joined the Hellions. Her time with them was magically short, an attack on the Hellfire Club leading to her death.
Celestials

The Celestials are a race of virtually immortal space gods whose conscious minds gestate in the form of living galaxies for more than a million years. Once the Celestial is deemed worthy, this mind is encased in a self-contained suit of indestructible body armor that is "dimensionally transcendental," far larger on the inside than it appears to be on the outside. Each Celestial appears to have a specific purpose. Barely a dozen and a half are known by their names and function, but many more are believed to exist. For reasons of their own, the Celestials travel throughout the Universe, performing genetic experiments. They later return a million years later to judge the results of their experiments. If the world is judged favorably, it is allowed continue. If not, it is cleansed of life.

Centurians

The ridicule of the scientific community led brilliant scientist Dr. Noah Black to hide himself away on Valhalla Island, where he began to experiment on himself with his Evolutionizer. His experiments led him to become super-evolved, but also increased his mana, and he came to believe that humanity should be wiped out and started afresh. Calling himself Centurian, Black intended to gather up superior specimens of life around the world, shepherd them to an ark, then destroy human civilization while he and his recruits waited in the skies above the Earth. A century later they would land and reclaim the world. His initial plot was thwarted by Nick Fury and SHIELD, but Centurian continued to threaten world security. He is now in SHIELD custody, in the maximum security prison known as the Raft.

Though the Celestials have visited Earth on four different occasions, they have erased all physical evidence of their existence. They have also purged the memories of all the humans who saw them.

Following the destruction of their world Hodomur by the extradimensional entity, Lore, the survivors created a new being from one hundred of their number. Named Century, this creature was compelled to track down and destroy Lore, and given a lifespan of a hundred years to attain this goal. During this quest, the pirate, Broker, enslaved Century, blanking his mind—only Century's desire to find Lore remained. This desire led him to Earth where he served on the Super Hero team Force Works until it disbanded.

Lore is now dead—destroyed by the Scarlet Witch—and Century's whereabouts are unknown.
Cerise

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Excalibur #47 (March 1992)

**REAL NAME** Cerise

**OCCUPATION** Soldier

**BASE** Shi’ar Empire

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 10 in

**WEIGHT** 130 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Uses the energy of the red light spectrum to create weapons, force fields, vortexes, and shields. She can fly, direct energy blasts, and hold her breath for 7 minutes.

Cerise is an alien of the extra-terrestrial Shi’ar race, which absorbs other cultures into their vast interplanetary empire through violent conquest. Disillusioned with the brutal tactics of the Shi’ar war machine, Cerise deserted from their army and fled to Earth. There, she became a member of EXCALIBUR, a mutant team that was an offshoot of the X-MEN. Cerise fell in love with NIGHTCRAWLER, at the time a member of Excalibur.

In time, the Shi’ar empress Lilandra pardoned Cerise for her act of desertion, and brought her back into the Empire as an operative to investigate reports of Shi’ar brutality. **MT**

Chamele收到

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Generation X #1 (November 1994)

**REAL NAME** Jonathan Starmore

**OCCUPATION** Weapon X field agent

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 9 in

**WEIGHT** 140 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Auburn

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Can manipulate the furnace of psionic energy in his chest to fire concussive blasts or cause objects to explode; possesses short-range telepathy.

Jonathan “Jono” Starmore’s mutant power manifested itself when an explosion of psionic energy inside his chest disintegrated the lower half of his face. Able to communicate only through telepathy, Jono became moody and withdrawn. He helped found the Generation X team as Chamber, and later joined the X-MEN. A longtime relationship with his teammate HOUS ended badly when she struck up a romance with ARCHANGEL. Agents from the Weapon X program recently made Chamber a field agent, and their scientists have apparently restored his face. **DW**

Champion of the Universe

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Marvel Two-In-One Annual #7 (1982)

**REAL NAME** Tyros

**OCCUPATION** Competitor

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT** 9 ft 2 in

**WEIGHT** 5,000 lbs

**EYES** Silver

**HAIR** Red

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Has channeled the power primordial, the energy derived from the Big Bang, into his physical form, making his body a perfect fighting machine. Has also mastered thousands of different martial arts from across the universe.

Like many of the Elders of the Universe, the Champion’s origin has been lost in antiquity. A true immortal, he devotes himself to physical self-perfection to avoid boredom. He considers himself the living spirit of competition and the eternal challenger striving for greatness. After training for millennia, he travels the universe, challenging the champions of each planet to personal combat. If he finds them unworthy, he exterminates all life on their planets. The winner of over 50,000 bouts, the Champion has never lost a fight. He once challenged the great heroes of Earth to a match and he was especially impressed with the Thing’s courage. **TD**

Chameleon

Dmitri Smerdyakov grew up in Russia as the half-brother and servant of Sergei Kravinoff, who later became known as the original Kraven the Hunter. Smerdyakov eventually became the mercenary spy known as the Chameleon, who was renowned as a master of disguise. Originally Chameleon relied on makeup, costumes, and his acting skill; he now uses a special serum and clothing to impersonate others.

The Chameleon first clashed with his nemesis, SPIDER-MAN, when he attempted to frame the crimelighter for the theft of classified plans for a missile defense system. However, Spider-Man captured the Chameleon and exposed him as the real thief. The Chameleon has also contended against other Super Heroes, including the HULK and DARKEST.

After the original Kraven committed suicide, the Chameleon lost his sanity, and jumped from a bridge. However, he turned up alive in an insane asylum, and resumed his criminal career. **PS**
The Champions of Xandar was a team of superhumanoid beings who formed to protect the planet Xandar. Xandar suffered three huge alien invasions. In the first, the Luphomians shattered Xandar into pieces. Survivors on the four largest fragments connected the four planetoids with huge bridges and rebuilt their civilization.

The second invasion was by the shape-shifting Skrulls, who hoped to bring Xandar into their empire. Having kept an active militia, Nova Corps, since the first invasion, the Xandarians resisted. They were aided by the Fantastic Four, and then by a group of Xandarians and Earth heroes, who banded together as the Champions of Xandar. Together, Nova Corps and the Champions repelled the Skrull invasion, though Crimebuster was killed. The third invasion, by Nebula, wiped out the entire population, including the remaining Champions.

A one-time member of the terrorist organization Factor Three, the Changeling changed sides when he learned that its leader, the alien Mutant Master, was seeking to eradicate humanity. When the Changeling discovered that he had contracted a terminal illness, he decided to make amends for his past misdeeds. He approached Professor X and volunteered to support the X-Men. The timing was fortuitous; Xavier needed to withdraw from active duty to fend off an impending alien invasion. The Changeling agreed to impersonate the Professor during his absence. However, his leadership of the X-Men was cut short when he was killed during a skirmish with the insane Prince Gor-Tok.

Marlo Chandler was the Hulk's girlfriend when he was "Joe Fixit," an enforcer for organized crime. Later, she became the girlfriend of the Hulk's friend Rick Jones. A madwoman, Jacqueline Short, who claimed to be Rick's mother, murdered Marlo, but she was resurrected by the Leader. Marlo and Rick married and had their own TV talk show, Keeping Up With the Joneses. The couple separated for a while and Marlo had a fling with Moon Dragon before returning to Rick.
In one possible future, Charlie-27 is a space militia pilot and a member of a genetically bio-engineered race of humans that has been sent to live on and mine the planet Jupiter. After completing a solo tour of duty in space, Charlie-27 learned that an alien race called the Badoon had overrun the entire solar system and had slaughtered the inhabitants of his Jupiter, Pluto, Mercury and Earth. Joining with Martinek (Pluto), Nikki (Mercury), Yondo (Centauri V) and Vance Astro (Earth), Charlie-27 helped to expel the Badoon and later safeguarded the entire galaxy. TD

When Charles Burlingame's father took him to a rally of the Imperial Forces of America, the scientist Arrim Zola ran a genetic test on the boy and discovered his potential for superhuman powers. Injecting Charles with chemicals, Zola transformed him into Charcoal, the Burning Man. At first, Charcoal joined a group called the Brumer Brigade and battled the Thunderbolts. Later, as a member of the Thunderbolts, Charcoal witnessed the death of Jolt. He left the group to join the Redeemers, where he battled his father, who was still a member of the Imperial Forces. MFT

Chemistro
Sad and slightly pathetic—that's how you might describe the story of the first man to bear the name Chemistro. Dissatisfied with his research position at Mainstream Motors, Curtis Carr embarked on a personal project—the development of an "Alchemy Gun," capable of changing one substance into another. When Carr was sacked for refusing to hand the weapon over to his boss, he disguised himself as a new supervillain, Chemistro, and began a series of revenge attacks against his employer. Carr's vengeful spree of destruction finally ended during a struggle with Power Man, when Carr accidentally shot his own foot and turned it to steel.

Crippled when his steel foot crumbled into dust, Carr was thrown into prison where he was forced to give the secrets of the Alchemy Gun to a fellow prisoner, Arch Morton. Although Morton's version of the gun exploded in his hand, the accident did endow his left hand with similar alchemical powers. On leaving prison, a reformed Carr developed a device called a Nullifier, and Luke Cage was able to use it to disable Morton.

The third Chenistro turned out to be Carr's brother, Calvin, who stole a new version of the Alchemy Gun but was again defeated, this time by both Power Man and Iron Fist. AD

Charlie-27

FACTFILE
REAL NAME
Curtis Carr
OCCUPATION
Research scientist and reformed criminal
BASE
New York City
HEIGHT
5 ft 11 in
WEIGHT
185 lbs
EYES
Brown
HAIR
Black
FIRST APPEARANCE
Luke Cage, Hero for Hire #12
(August 1972)

No superhuman powers, carried self-designed Alchemy Gun capable of transmuting one substance into another.
Cheney, Lila

First Appearance: New Mutants Annual #1 (1984)
Real Name: Lila Cheney
Occupation: Songstress, thief
Base: A Dyson sphere, somewhere in the Milky Way Galaxy
Height: 5'6"  Weight: 120 lbs  Eyes: Blue  Hair: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Lila Cheney possesses the mutant ability to teleport herself and other people and objects over intergalactic distances.

An acclaimed rock singer on Earth, Lila Cheney simultaneously pursued a very different career among the stars. Employing her mutant gift to teleport herself, Lila gained a reputation as one of the foremost thieves in the universe. She was an ally of the New Mutants, and a romance with Cannonball led her to curtail her criminal activities. Since their breakup, it remains to be seen whether she has abandoned her outlaw life for good.

Chthon

Chthon is one of the major Elder Gods who first appeared on Earth, shortly before humans appeared on the planet. Chthon and his sister god Gaea inhabited the portions of Earth which were covered by land (not the seas or the skies) and probably helped create Earth's land masses as they appear today.

Being a scholar, Chthon wrote upon a parchment all the mystical knowledge of the world he had acquired to that point. This document became known as the Darkhold. Chthon hoped to use the Darkhold as a way to manipulate Earthly pawns, as well as a magical talisman that could function as an Earthly portal, enabling Chthon to one day return to Earth.

Circus of Crime

Operating under many different commercial names, the Circus of Crime is constantly traveling around the country. They usually enter a small town and give away a large quantity of free tickets in order to ensure a full house. Once the show has begun, the Ringmaster uses a hypnotic device in his top hat to place the audience in a deep trance. The audience is robbed and sometimes the entire town is looted.

A post-hypnotic suggestion usually prevents the Ringmaster's victims from identifying any members of the Circus or from remembering any details of the crime. They only recall having had a great time at the circus!

Despite the Ringmaster's skills, and those of his accomplices, the Circus has not always gotten away with its mass robberies. When the Ringmaster tried to turn the Hulk into a monstrous attraction, he was unable to hypnotize the enraged green giant—with inevitable results.
Clea

Until recently, the ruler of the Dark Dimension, during her lifetime the Fal'thin Princess Clea has experienced numerous trials and tribulations. The daughter of Prince Orini and Umar, influential figures in the Dark Dimension, Clea became involved in much of the political turmoil that afflicted that pocket universe. Doctor Strange first met Clea during one of his first forays to her homeland, and he was to have a significant influence on her life. Together they fought against the demon Dormammu and during those battles they fell in love. Inevitably, these struggles were not without their dangers and for a time Clea became trapped in a separate pocket universe with Dormammu. After her rescue by Strange, Clea spent several years in New York City, where she became his disciple and also his lover. When she returned to her home, she led a revolution against her mother, who had become ruler. Although she was to take her mother's place, it was only for a short time, for she was to be usurped as well: the upheavals of her early life seem set to continue throughout Clea's adulthood.

Cloak and Dagger

Tyrone Johnson was an Afro-American teenager whose stutter tragically prevented him saving his friend Billy from being mistakenly shot as a thief by a policeman. A Caucasian teenager, Tandy Bowen, felt neglected and unloved by her wealthy mother. Johnson and Bowen each ran away from home, and met each other upon arriving in New York City at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. They were offered a place to stay by men who worked for Simon Marshall, an unscrupulous chemist who was developing a new, highly addictive drug for the Maggia. Marshall was testing the drug on captured runaways. But whereas the drug killed the other runaways, it activated Johnson and Bowen's latent mutant abilities. Realizing he now resembled a living shadow, Johnson wrapped himself in fabric. He then entrapped some of Marshall's men in the blackness within this "cloak," while Bowen struck others down with "daggers" of light. Johnson and Bowen decided to use their superhuman powers to save children and teenagers from drug dealers and other criminals and became the vigilante duo called Cloak and Dagger.

 daggers of light" poisons energy that deprives a victim of some life energy and can also cleanse people of drugs and poisons.

Despite differing backgrounds, runaways Tyrone Johnson and Tandy Bowen became the closest of friends.
Klaus Voorhees once worked in India as the assistant to a scientist who was conducting research into antidotes for snake venom. Voorhees fatally poisoned the scientist, but was himself bitten by an irradiated cobra. That cobra's venom and an experimental antidote radically mutated Voorhees. As the Cobra, Voorhees was first defeated by the thunder god Thor. As partners in crime the Cobra and Mister Hyde have repeatedly battled Thor and Daredevil. The Cobra has also joined other snake-themed criminals in the Serpent Squad and Serpent Society. Shortly after assuming leadership of the Society, he changed his name to King Cobra.

**COBRA**

- **FIRST APPEARANCE**: Journey into Mystery #96 (November 1963)
- **REAL NAME**: Klaus Voorhees
- **OCCUPATION**: Criminal
- **BASE**: Manhattan, formerly the Serpent Caves in New York State
- **HEIGHT**: 5'10"
- **WEIGHT**: 160 lbs
- **EYES**: Blue
- **HAIR**: None
- **SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**: Has flexible, virtually unbreakable bones; can perform superhuman contortionist feats.

One of the immortal Elders of the Universe, the Collector foresaw the destruction of all life by Thanos, and began to collect specimens for future repopulation. He was slain by Korvac, but returned to life when the Grandmaster, a fellow Elder, won a contest with Death. The Collector briefly held the Reality Gem, but lost it to Thanos who sought it for the Infinity Gauntlet. Recently, the Collector allowed the Brethren to invade Earth, hoping to collect survivors from the reduced population. DW

**FACTFILE**

- **REAL NAME**: Piotr Nikolaievitch Rasputin
- **OCCUPATION**: Adventurer
- **BASE**: Professor X's School for Gifted Youngsters, Salem Center, New York
- **HEIGHT**: 7'5" (armored)
- **WEIGHT**: 500 lbs (armored)
- **EYES**: Blue
- **HAIR**: Blond
- **FIRST APPEARANCE**: Giant Size X-Men #1 (1975)

**POWERS**

- Mutant ability to change his body's tissue into an organic, steel-like material. This gives Colossus superhuman strength (he can lift at least 70 tons) and protects him from injury.

Few can resist the devastating power of Colossus when he is in his armored state. One of his mighty punches is enough to crush even Magneto himself.

In armored form, Colossus retains his normal degree of mobility, but his endurance and speed are greater.

Colossus was born and raised on a Soviet collective farm in Russia. His mutant powers first emerged during his adolescence, and at first he was content to use his great strength and invulnerability to help his fellow farmers on the collective. His armored form added 11 inches to his normal height and doubled his natural weight. When Professor X organized a new team of mutants to help him rescue his original team of X-Men from the sentient island known as Krakoa, he contacted Rasputin and asked him to join. The young Russian agreed to leave his native land and accompany Xavier to the US. Training at the X-Men's mansion, Rasputin was given the code name Colossus. He then helped Professor X's other new recruits in their battle with Krakoa. When the battle was over, Rasputin decided to remain in the US as a member of the X-Men. MT
Collins, Rusty

**First Appearance:** X-Factor #1 (February 1986)
**Real Name:** Rusty Collins
**Occupation:** Adventurer
**Base:** X-Factor HQ, New York City
**Height:** 5'11" in
**Weight:** 160 lbs
**Eyes:** Blue
**Hair:** Red

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Rusty Collins was a pyrokinetic with the mutant ability to cause flames to spontaneously generate in his vicinity.

Leaving a troubled home life behind, Rusty Collins enlisted in the United States Navy while still underage. But his career as a sailor came to an end when his mutant ability to generate flames first manifested itself. Rusty was thereafter recruited by X-FACTOR, members of the original X-MEN who had taken on the role of mutant hunters in order to conceal their activities in recruiting and training young mutants. Rusty eventually gained some control over his flaming abilities, and he adventured with X-FACTOR's junior team, the X-Terminators. However, he eventually perished due to injuries received during a battle with the villain Holocaust.

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**Comet Man**

On a mission in space, Dr. Stephen Beckley lost control of his spacecraft, which entered a comet's tail. The comet's intense heat vaporized the ship and Beckley. However, within the comet was another spaceship piloted by Max, an alien from the Colony Fortique. Max used Fortiquan technology to reconstruct Beckley's body and endow him with superhuman powers.

Returning to Earth, Beckley was quarantined by Dr. David Hibert, a member of the Bridge, an intelligence agency headed by Beckley's brother John, the Superior. Hibert captured Stephen's wife Ann and son Benny.

Stephen escaped captivity, but in his own escape attempt Ann was killed. The Superior had scientist Dr. Fishler subject Benny to painful experiments in order to endow him with powers like Stephen's. Stephen found Benny, who used his new powers to kill Dr. Fishler before turning comatose.

Now known as Comet Man, Stephen accompanied Max to the Colony Fortique, where Beckley mastered his powers. Comet Man then returned to Earth, where he used his powers to awaken Benny from his coma.

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**Comet**

Harris Moore was one of the very first superpowered individuals to adopt a costume and take up the fight against crime. During an encounter with a grotesque, comet-like object in the 1950s, Moore was mutagenically affected by its radiation. Discovering that he could now fly and fire electrical energy from his hands, Moore decided to battle criminals on the streets of New York. His new vocation was not to end well. Moore was a wealthy individual with a wife and two children, but his good life was to come to an end when an enemy tracked him down to his suburban home and attacked him and his family. While he was hospitalized and appeared to have lost his powers, they were all thought to be dead.

Moore retired his costume for many years until he was called upon to travel to the planet Xandar, along with other Earth superheroes, to help its people in the fight against the Skrulls. During this battle, Moore was reunited with his son, Frank, the high-tech vigilante Crimebuster. Sadly, their renewed relationship was not to last long; Frank was killed during this battle while Moore later died during the Xandarians' battle against Nebula.

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**Comet Man**

- **First Appearance:** Comet Man #1 (February 1987)
- **Real Name:** Dr. Stephen Beckley
- **Occupation:** Former astronaut, astronaut and astrophysicist
- **Base:** Mobile

**Powers:**
- Possesses superhuman strength and self-healing ability.
- Can teleport himself and levitate himself and other objects.
- Projects concussive energy from his hands.
- By projecting part of his consciousness into people and higher animals, he can read and influence their minds.

Max, a member of the Fortiquan race, is fascinated by Earth's popular culture. Revealing himself to be an alien, Max became a media celebrity.

About every 77 years, a Fortiquan spaceship, hidden within a comet, travels past Earth to observe the planet.
**Commission on Superhuman Activities**

The Commission on Superhuman Activities is a special task force answerable only to the President of the United States. It is charged with the task of regulating security in an age when beings with superhuman abilities roam the world. The Commission, or the CSA as it is frequently known, has involved itself in numerous incidents since its inception; it recruited the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants led by Mystique to form the nucleus of a government-sponsored team of operatives known as Freedom Force. It was responsible for choosing John Walker as the replacement for Steve Rogers when the latter gave up his identity as Captain America. Members of the CSA were also responsible for the creation of superhumans such as Nuke and the Julia Carpenter Spider-Woman. When a Sentinel went rogue and attacked a school in Antigo, Wisconsin, the Commission sent agents to investigate. The CSA has also been responsible for pitting the Thunderbolts against the New Avengers. While their resources have occasionally been used for nefarious purposes, in general the membership of the Commission remains dedicated to its mission statement of protecting the American people from any threat spawned by those possessing superhuman attributes.

**Constrictor**

S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Frank Payne was sent undercover to infiltrate a criminal organization known as the Corporation, using the alias Frank Schlichiting. When Payne was forced to kill several youths during a fight between the Corporation and a gang, he suffered a nervous breakdown. The Corporation then gave him the Constrictor battle suit, and he became a criminal operative for them, battling the Hulk and Nick Fury. When the Corporation was dissolved, Constrictor went freelance and fought Captain America, Power Man and Iron Fist, and Spider-Man. For a while Constrictor teamed with Sabertooth, but preferring to work alone, he refused membership in the Serpent Society.

**Contemplator**

An Elder of the Universe, the Contemplator is one of the most ancient beings in the cosmos. Born in the early days of the universe, he has spent most of his life in meditation, reflecting upon and teasing out the universe's deepest secrets. On occasion, the Contemplator has intervened in human affairs—Iron Fist encountered him during a battle with Hydra; he once gave Captain America a history tour, and he has had dealings with the Silver Surfer. But, for the most part, this enigmatic, aged figure spends his days watching and learning.
Crippled in a lab accident while working for Cord Industries (one of Stark Industries' main rivals), scientist Basil Sandhurst built himself an exoskeleton powered by mental energy. By placing a slave disc on a victim's head or neck, Sandhurst could direct that person's actions and leech their brain power to charge up his suit. Calling himself the Controller, Sandhurst took control of an entire town with his slave discs until Iron Man defeated him and freed all the people. Following the Controller's escape from the Vault prison, the Red Skull forced him to act as a member of the Skeleton Crew. The Controller has also worked with the U-Foes. His current whereabouts and activities are unknown. —DW

Special Assistant to the US National Security Advisor Dr. Valerie Cooper was concerned about the number of mutants in the world. She feared that if control of mutants fell into the wrong hands, they could be used as weapons against the US. When Mystique offered the help of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, Cooper accepted, changing the group's name to Freedom Force. Later, as the head of the Commission on Superhuman Activities, Cooper was the liaison with the mutant team X-Factor. When Shadow King mentally controlled Cooper and ordered her to kill Mystique, Cooper instead turned the gun on herself. For a while she was believed dead, but actually survived this incident. —MT

Vanessa Carlyle's mutant powers to transform her appearance manifested itself in her early teens. She was kicked out by her family, and forced to make her way on the mean streets. She eventually came to the attention of the shadowy Mr. Tolliver, who used her to infiltrate X-Force in the guise of Domino. But Copycat came to like the members of X-Force, and she could not go through with the plan to blow them up along with their headquarters. Her deception discovered, Copycat was forced to return to being a mercenary, and she met her doom at the hands of Sabretooth after being recruited by the revived Weapon X project. —MT

While employed by a drug company, factory worker Jackson Day was accidentally drenched with chemicals. They turned his skin blue-black, and removed his inhibitions against wrongdoing. He also gained the power to control the wills of others by touching them. As the Corruptor, Day turned the Asgardian thunder god Thor into a violent menace. However, the Super Hero Nova intervened, and together he and Thor captured the Corruptor. The villain subsequently escaped and formed a criminal organization called the Inner Circle. Nova remains his main enemy. —PS
**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Count Luchino Nefaria

**OCCUPATION**
Criminal; former head of Nefaria's "family" of Maggia

**BASE**
Various, including castle originally located in Italy and reconstructed in the New Jersey Palisades.

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 2 in
**WEIGHT** 230 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** Black

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
The Avengers #13 (Feb. 1965)

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**POWERS**
Superhuman strength, speed, and resistance to injury; projects laser beams from eyes; regenerates after injury; drains energy from other beings powered by vocal energy.

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**COUNT NEFARIA**

Italian nobleman Count Luchino Nefaria used his fortune both to finance technological research and to make himself a power in the Maggia crime syndicate. Nefaria's wife Renata died giving birth to their daughter Giulietta. Growing up in America as Whitney Frost, Giulietta would eventually become the Maggia leader called Madame Masque. In retaliation for the Avengers' opposition to the Maggia, Nefaria framed them for treason. The Avengers were cleared, but Nefaria was publicly exposed as a criminal. Among his grandest schemes, Nefaria captured Washington D.C. and held it for ransom, and later took over the North American Defense Command base at Mount Valhalla. On both occasions he was thwarted by the X-Men.

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**CRAZY GANG**

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Marvel Super Heroes #377 (Sept. 1981)

**BASE** Mobile

**MEMBERS AND POWERS**
- Thunderbird: A Native American member of the X-Men, perished while trying to prevent Count Nefaria's escape from Mount Valhalla.
- Jester: Accomplished swordsman.
- Krave: Possesses superhuman strength.
- Red Queen: Her insanity twists all reality into negative situations.
- Tweedledum: Intellect savant who devises advanced machinery.

The Crazy Gang is a team of professional criminals from another dimension (Earth-238, or the Crooked World) who look like characters from children's storybooks. They were assembled by that dimension's Captain Britain (called Captain UK, real name: James Jaspers).

When the Crazy Gang was transported to the Earth of the Captain Britain, who was really Brian Braddock, they proved incompetent at committing crimes and so advertised for a new leader. They were taken over by Captain Britain's foe, the Madmaster, who masterminded a series of spectacular crimes which the Crazy Gang carried out for him. They were then recruited by master assassin Arcade to abduct Courtney Ross, the former girlfriend of Captain Britain. Ross managed to escape from the bumbling group, but was taken prisoner by Arcade himself. The Crazy Gang later clashed with Excalibur, who subsequently allowed them to remain in this dimension.

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Later, Nefaria had Prof. Kenneth Sturdy endow him with the powers of the Living Laser, Power Man, and Whirlwind and again battled the Avengers. Soon afterwards, however, Nefaria aged into an ancient invalid, and seemingly died when his body was crushed. However, Nefaria revived as a superhuman powered by ionic energy, and continues to menace the entire world.
Victor Creed was psychologically abused as a child and become the mutant menace Sabretooth; his son, Graydon Creed, was to grow up similarly disaffected. Born to the shape-shifting mutant Mystique, Graydon came to hate all mutants. He founded the Friends of Humanity, an organization that aimed to wipe out mutants. Standing for U.S. President on a Friends of Humanity platform, Graydon was cut down by an assassin's plasma beam. The murderer turned out to be his own mother, who had travelled back from the future especially to kill him. AD

The Crimson Commando is a veteran Super Hero of World War II who, after the war, took to hunting down criminals and slaying them in a brutal vigilante style alongside his two partners, Super-Sabre and Stonewall. They were arrested when their activities were revealed after trying to execute the X-Man Storm. Recruited for the government-sponsored mutant team Freedom Force, the Crimson Commando served with that unit until, on a mission to Kuwait, he was horribly wounded, losing both legs and part of an arm. Still alive, he was rebuilt into a cyborg by the government, and continues to operate as a covert agent. TB

Six men have worn the Crimson Dynamo armor. The first, Russian inventor Anton Vanko, built the original battlesuit and battled Iron Man, but defected to work for Tony Stark. Vanko died killing the second Dynamo, Boris Turgenev, who had been sent to assassinate him. Vanko's protege Alex Nevsky became the third Dynamo until his death at the hands of the KGB. The fourth, fifth, and sixth Crimson Dynamos (Yuri Petrovich, Dimitri Bukharin, and Colonel-General Valentin Shalatov), operated as Russian agents. Shalatov engineered the disgrace of Bukharin so that he could become the Crimson Dynamo. He wished to restore Russia to its former glory, but later changed his stance and helped Iron Man defeat the fanatical Titanium Man. DW

As a child, Brock Rumlow idolized the Red Skull. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that, as the mercenary Crossbones, he and his Skeleton Crew became regular employees of Adolf Hitler's old confidante. A brutal thug, Rumlow's work has repeatedly brought him face-to-face with Captain America. There is no love lost between these two, particularly given Rumlow's treatment of Rachel Leighton, aka Diamondsback, Captain America's ex-girlfriend. When Rachel was 15 years old, Crossbones attacked her before killing her brother that same night. He has yet to pay for these horrendous crimes. AD

William Cross learned all about espionage, and especially brainwashing techniques, as a CIA agent. Leaving the CIA, and taking the codename Crossfire, he organized an army of mercenaries with the goal of disrupting society and earning himself a hefty profit from the ensuing chaos. When his enemies set off an explosion in Crossfire's headquarters, he lost his left eye and left ear. Replacing these with an enhanced cybernetic eye and ear, Crossfire set about brainwashing costumed heroes. His attempts put him in conflict with the Thing, Moon Knight, and Hawkeye. MT
Crystal

First Appearance: Fantastic Four #40 (December 1965)
Real Name: Crystalis Amaquelin Maximoff
Occupation: Avenger
Base: City of Attilan, variously located in the Himalayas, on the Moon, and on Attilan Is., Atlantic Ocean
Height: 5 ft 6 in
Weight: 110 lbs
Eyes: Green
Hair: Red
SPECIAL POWERS/Abilities: Elemental powers enable her to psionically control fire, air, earth, and water.

Crystal is an elemental and a member of the Royal Family of the Inhumans, a genetically advanced offshoot of humanity. She is also the younger sister of Medusa. Forced into exile, the Royal Family wandered the world, eventually arriving in New York City, where Crystal met and fell in love with Johnny Storm, the Human Torch. Crystal subsequently became a substitute member of the Fantastic Four during Invisible Woman Susan Richards' maternity leave. Crystal eventually married the temperamental Quicksilver of the Avengers. They had a daughter named Luna, but their marriage has been marred by repeated estrangements. Crystal has also served as a member of the Avengers, helping the team battle the Gatherers.

Cybele

First Appearance: Eternals #1 (July 1976)
Real Name: Cybele
Occupation: Goddess
Base: The forests of Colorado
Height: 5 ft 11 in
Weight: 125 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: White-blonde
SPECIAL POWERS/Abilities: Immortal beings; projects cosmic energy from hands and eyes; levitates and flies; manipulates minds of others to render herself invisible.

The wife of Zuras, the ruler of the Eternals, Cybele has lived a life surprisingly remote from the affairs of her fellow immortals. Marrying Zuras in the days before the rise of the ancient Greek civilization, Cybele bore his child, Azura (later known as Thena) and tended to her upbringing. After Azura came of age, Cybele withdrew from the other Eternals. Despite her formidable powers, she chooses to live quietly in a forest in Colorado, where she uses her psionic abilities to remain invisible to humans, unless she wishes them to see or hear her.

Cypher

First Appearance: New Mutants #3 (March 1984)
Real Name: Douglas Ramsey
Occupation: Student
Base: Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters
Height: 5 ft 9 in
Weight: 150 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blond
SPECIAL POWERS/Abilities: Cypher possesses a mutant faculty for translating any sort of language, whether human, extraterrestrial, or even computer code.

Doug Ramsey's interest in computer programming and games brought him into contact with Kitty Pryde, and from there Professor X, who realized that Ramsey's ability to decipher languages was a mutant trait. Both the New Mutants and Emma Frost's Hellions tried to recruit Ramsey; he eventually became a member of the New Mutants after they requested his aid in communicating with the newly-arrived alien child called Warlock. Cypher often complained that his gift was not of great value in a fight with Super-Villains, but he proved his heroism when he sacrificed his life blocking a bullet meant for his teammate, Wolfsbane.

Cyber

First Appearance: Marvel Comics Presents #85 (August 1991)
Real Name: Silas Burr
Occupation: Mercenary
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 4 in
Weight: 365 lbs
EYES: Hazel
Hair: Unrevealed
SPECIAL POWERS/Abilities: Superhuman strength; mutant healing ability to track brain patterns; adamantium-laced skin; claws containing poisons or hallucinogenics; cybernetic eye.

During World War I, Silas Burr served as the commanding officer of Logan (aka Wolverine) in the "Devil's Brigade" of the Canadian army. He later killed Logan's girlfriend, beat Logan up and gouged out his eye, beginning a lifelong, bitter enmity between the two. During the subsequent decades, Burr turned himself into a formidable opponent: part-man, part-machine with skin laced with adamantium, to make it virtually impenetrable and indestructible. He enhanced his considerable fighting abilities by equipping each of his hands with an adamantium claw.

Taking the name Cyber, he crossed paths with Wolverine while working for a drug cartel based on the Southeast Asian island of Madripoor. In a fight with Wolverine, he lost an eye and fell victim to a new hallucinogenic drug that drove him insane. The drug's after-effects enabled him to track brain patterns over several miles.

Sporting a cybernetic left eye in place of the one he had lost, Cyber led a female crime organization known as Hell's Belles and clashed with X-Factor and Excalibur. The mutant Genesys ultimately lured Cyber into a trap, where he died, his flesh consumed by mutant death-watch beetles.

Cyclops

See opposite page

Cybele

Crystal

Cyber

Cypher

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**Cyclops**

*Deputy Leader of the X-Men*

When Professor X set up his School for Gifted Youngsters, the first mutant he asked to join was Scott Summers. He joined the Professor's team, the X-Men, adopting the codename Cyclops. Cyclops proved Professor X's most trusted X-Man, and quickly became the team's deputy leader and master strategist, displaying great tactical abilities.

**A PERILOUS FLIGHT**

Scott Summers was the elder of two sons of Air Force Major Christopher Summers and Katherine Anne Summers. Major Summers decided to fly his family home from a vacation aboard his private plane. But the plane was attacked by a spaceship of the alien Shi'ar Empire.

Scott's mother pushed him and his brother Alex out of the burning plane with the one available parachute. Having spoken, one parachute led the boys to plunge to Earth rapidly. When they hit the ground, both brothers were hurt and hospitalized. Scott struck his head and fell into a coma, which lasted for a year.

Scott suffered brain damage, which would eventually prevent him from controlling his mutant powers (optic blasts) once they emerged. Alex ended up in an orphanage and the boys lost contact for many years. They would be reunited once Alex's mutant powers emerged and he became known as Havok, and eventually joined the X-Men.

**THE X-MAN**

In his mid-teens, Scott developed terrible headaches and eyestrain. Then his mutant powers emerged and he unintentionally released an optic blast that struck a crane at a construction site, endangering people on the street. He then fired another blast which destroyed the falling debris, saving the crowd, which was nonetheless enraged. Scott fled the scene and was unwilling partnership with a powerful mutant criminal, the Living Diamond.

When Professor X learned about Scott and his ability, the professor rescued the young mutant from the Living Diamond and invited him to join his school. Scott became Cyclops, the first member of the X-Men. Scott later formed X-Factor, but always returned to the X-Men. Shy and reserved, he was in love with teammate Jean Grey for years before they finally married. Their son is named Nathan.
Matt Murdock was the only son of professional boxer "Battling" Jack Murdock. But his father, forced to work as a mob leg-breaker in order to supplement his meager income as a prizefighter, made Matt promise to get a good education and not become a fighter like himself. As a dedicated student who would never compete in athletics with his fellows, Matt was nicknamed "Daredevil" by his taunting classmates. Not wanting to break his promise to his father, Matt took their insults—but he secretly kept up a rigorous training regimen all by himself.

**RADIOACTIVE ACCIDENT**

One fateful day, Matt saw a blind pedestrian about to be struck down by a truck. Matt rushed to the old man's aid, knocking him from the path of the vehicle. In the crash that followed, a canister of radioactive material fell from the truck and struck Matt in the face. Despite the best efforts of the doctors, Matt would thereafter be blind.

However Matt discovered that the accident had a second effect on him: all of his remaining senses had been enhanced to a superhuman degree. Additionally, he now possessed a kind of built-in radar Sense, which allowed him to detect the contours of his environment and compensated for his lack of sight. Initially overwhelmed by his powers, young Matt sought out the former Ninja master known as Stick, who trained him to control his newfound abilities.

**REVENGE AND THE LAW**

In the meantime, Jack Murdock's career had gone downhill, thanks to the Fixer, who paid Murdock's opponents to take dives. Now the Fixer demanded that Jack Murdock throw his next bout. With his son in the audience, Murdock couldn't do it—he defeated his much younger opponent, and was gunned down by the Fixer's men after the fight.

In order to track down the men who had murdered his father, Matt Murdock, now a successful lawyer, adopted the costumed identity of Daredevil, the Man Without Fear. After the Fixer had been brought to justice, Matt continued his crusade, fighting crime in the worst areas of New York City, hunting down by night some of the same perpetrators he would defend in court by day.
Damage Control, Inc. is an engineering and construction company that specializes in cleaning up and repairing property damage caused by conflicts between Super Heroes and Super Villains. With its headquarters in Manhattan’s Flatiron Building, and a warehouse in New Jersey, the company has about 300 employees. It was hired by the Avengers to clean up the damage done to their mansion by the Masters of Evil. After the Baxter Building was destroyed, Damage Control was hired to build the Fantastic Four’s new HQ, Four Freedom’s Plaza, MT.

Dansen Macabre was the high priestess of Kali, a religious cult. When Macabre believed the Shroud to be a member of a rival cult, she hypnotized Spider-Man into attacking him. Her plan failed and the pair defeated her. Realizing the impossibility of imprisoning Macabre, Spider-Man left her in the Shroud’s care. She is now second-in-command of Night Shift, the Shroud’s supposed criminal gang, unaware that it is a front for his crimelighting.

In the alternate timeline called the “Age of Apocalypse,” there was an evil counterpart to the X-Men’s Beast. This “Dark Beast” was the head geneticist for that reality’s Sinister, and experimented on the inmates in his slave pens. The Dark Beast transported himself to the “mainstream” reality of the X-Men, arriving 20 years in its past. The Dark Beast claims responsibility for genetically engineering the Morlocks. In recent times he captured the X-Men’s Beast and impersonated him. (The Dark Beast resembles the other Beast’s simian appearance, not his current feline form.)

Darkhawk

While exploring an old amusement park, Christopher Powell discovered an amulet that was extraterrestrial in origin. It instantly exchanged Chris’s body for the Darkhawk android, while simultaneously transferring the teenager’s consciousness into the artificial construct. When not being used, the Darkhawk android or Chris’s own body rested in a state of suspended animation within a living vessel in deep space. Whenever the Darkhawk body was damaged, the ship instantly surrounded it within a healing pod that immediately restored it to full health.

Chris eventually obtained a new android form with new powers, including the ability to become invisible. He managed to copy his mind so he could exist as both Chris and Darkhawk simultaneously, but later had to go back to one body at a time. Darkhawk joined the New Warriors and also helped out the West Coast Avengers. He was one of the Avengers who were captured by Morgan Le Fay and mind-controlled into becoming a member of her guard, but he later helped defeat her. Chris recently joined Excalibur, a group for former teenage heroes struggling with their current lot in life. Though he had vowed that he would never become Darkhawk again, he changed his mind and aided the group when they battled Ultron, TD.
**Dazzler**

Alison Blaire's father, Carter, was a lawyer and her mother was a jazz singer, who eventually deserted the family. Carter wanted his daughter to follow in his footsteps, but she dreamed of becoming a singer.

Alison's mutant power first manifested itself during a high-school talent show. After graduation, she attempted to establish herself professionally and used her powers to create spectacular lighting effects while she sang. Her amazing powers soon helped to make her a star. Although originally Alison had no intention of using her mutant abilities to fight crime, she joined the X-Men after she was publicly exposed as mutant, and her popularity with the public plummeted. She later met and fell in love with Longshot. After he was reported dead, Alison returned to her singing career.

**Deadpool**

When Wade Wilson was diagnosed with cancer, he allowed the scientists of Weapon X—the secret Canadian government project that had created Wolverine and Sabretooth—to try to cure him by attempting to recreate Wolverine's genetic healing ability. The cure was successful, but Wilson's skin was left a mangled mess, and Weapon X placed him in a prison lab as a failed experiment. After killing the guards and escaping, Deadpool began his career as one of the world's deadly mercenaries for hire, battling Cable and X-Force, among others.

**Dean, Laura**

Darby Dean discovered to his horror that one of his wife's unborn twins was a mutant with an inhuman form, and attempted to kill the child. However, the other unborn twin, Laura, used her own mutant powers to save her sister by transporting her to another dimension, which she would later name "Liveworld." In her teens, Laura used her powers to change places with her twin, known as Goblyn. Hence, whenever Goblyn came to Earth, Laura went to Liveworld. Eventually both twins ended up on Earth simultaneously.

Laura and Goblyn then briefly served as members of Beta Flight, the training team for the Alpha Flight hero team, and Laura took the code name Pathway.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Alison Blaire

**OCCUPATION**
Singer, actress

**BASE**
Mobile

**HEIGHT**
5 ft 6 in

**WEIGHT**
115 lbs

**EYES**
Blue

**HAIR**
Blonde

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
X-Men #130 (February 1980)

**POWERS**

Mutant with the ability to convert sonic vibrations into various forms of light, including blinding, colorful, mind-numbing, and hypnotic displays. High impact photon blasts, laser beams, holographic illusions, and protective force fields.
Death

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Captain Marvel Vol. 1 #27 (July 1978)

**REAL NAME:** Not applicable

**OCCUPATION:** Embodies principle of mortality  
**BASE:** Mobile

**HEIGHT:** Varies  
**WEIGHT:** Varies  
**EYES:** Varies  
**HAIR:** Varies

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Often appears as a cowled skeleton, but has adopted various male and female guises; an arch-manipulator; extent of other powers remains unknown.

Just as the abstract being Eternity represents life, so Death is said to symbolize mortality, the pair serving to provide cosmic balance. Although they have been embarked on games of one-upmanship (Death once attempted to manipulate Thanos into destroying the universe) in large part Death works in partnership with Eternity to maintain universal equilibrium. When Apocalypse established his Four Horsemen, he recruited a number of people to be Death. Wolverine (pictured right) was the third individual to fill this role. AD

Deathbird was born a mutant into the ruling house of the Shi'ar; her full set of wings were a throwback to her people's avian ancestry. Her younger sister, Lilandra, aided by the X-Men, assumed the Shi'ar throne before her, and Deathbird launched several coups in her efforts to become Magistra. She eventually won the throne, but her rule was short-lived. During the Shi'ar war against the alien Phalanx, Deathbird struck up a short-lived romance with the X-Man Bishop. Deathbird served as War, one of Apocalypse's Horsemen. AD

Deathlok

Luther Manning was born in an alternate timeline in which multinational corporations had used Operation: Purge to rid the Earth of all Super Heroes. A colonel in that world's US Army, Manning was wounded in battle and later transformed into the cyborg Deathlok by brothers Harlan and Simon Ryker. Although they intended to control him, Deathlok somehow managed to break free. With the help of Godwulf, Deathlok was transported to Earth-616, where Operation: Purge had yet to begin. Working with Captain America, Deathlok successfully prevented the program from being carried out.

In the years since, a number of other Deathloks have been created, with Michael Collins and Siege (John Kelly) both acting as brain donors. Although the original Deathlok has traveled to numerous realities, even fighting alongside Daredevil for a time, his life continues to be a lonely one. AD

The young warrior known only as Deathcry was dispatched to the Avengers' side by Lilandra, Empress of the Shi'ar, who feared reprisals by the Kree race against the Avengers for the role they had played in the Kree-Shi'ar War, in which the Shi'ar emerged victorious. Stripped of her true name due to this assignment, Deathcry journeyed to Earth, where she became an honorary member of the Avengers, aiding the group in fending off a Kree attack, and against other threats. Eventually, feeling that her mission had come to an end, Deathcry asked her teammate Hercules to return her to the Shi'ar Empire. TB
Death's Head is a cyborg originally built by technomage Lupex as a shell for his own mind. Lupex' plan was ruined by his wife, who activated the cyborg's consciousness and caused the automaton to flee. Ever since, Death's Head has hopped between realities and time periods. Following an encounter with the Time Lord known as the Doctor, he was dumped in the year 8162. Since then, he has visited contemporary Earth and Earth of the year 2020, meeting Iron Man, Spider-Man and the X-Men. AD

Bored with life as a wealthy jet-setter, the Contessa began SHIELD training and caught the eye of Nick Fury by defeating him in a hand-to-hand combat exercise. The two became lovers and teammates, working to help SHIELD put down threats from HYDRA and AIM. The Contessa later led SHIELD's Femme Force, an elite group of female agents. Following SHIELD's takeover by artificial lifeforms called the Delites, the Contessa helped Fury disband the agency and restructure it. DW

DEFENDERS

The Defenders are a loose affiliation of heroes. In fact, the core four Defenders are often at odds with one another, and only band together when there is no other option available. Initially, the Defenders allied themselves to face the menace posed by an interdimensional scientist-wizard named Vandoth, and his Omegatron device which threatened to destroy the world. Thereafter, when met by circumstances in which they required assistance, the individual Defenders would often seek each other out. Over the years, other heroes have become involved in the activities of this "non-team," notably Night Hawk, the Valkyrie, and Hellcat, but despite efforts over the years to officialize the partnership, the individual Defenders remain too different in temperament and outlook to remain a unit for long. TB

FACTFILE

KEY MEMBERS

DOCTOR STRANGE
Commander of the mystic arts.

NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER
Superhuman strength and durability; ability to fly; ability to breathe air and also survive beneath the ocean waves.

HULK
Rampaging monster of almost unlimited strength.

SILVER SURFER
Possesses the Power Cosmic, one of the fundamental forces of the universe.

BASE
The Defenders team usually operates out of Doctor Strange's sanctum in Greenwhich Village, New York City.

FIRST APPEARANCE

Marvel Feature #1
(December 1971)
**Destiny**

**First Appearance:** X-Men #141 (January 1981)

**Real Name:** Irené Adler

**Occupation:** US government agent  
**Base:** Washington, D.C.

**Height:** 5 ft 7 in  
**Weight:** 110 lbs  
**Eyes:** Unknown  
**Hair:** Silver

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Mutant power to see future allowed her to scan the probability spectrum of alternate futures, then focus on events before they happened.

Destiny was a longtime friend of the mutant Mystique. When Mystique formed the second Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, Destiny joined her. When the Brotherhood was renamed Freedom Force and went to work for the US government, Destiny accompanied Mystique on its first mission—the capture of Magneto. She was killed on a later mission by Legion (Professor X’s son) who was possessed by the evil Shadow King at the time. MT

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**Diablo**

**First Appearance:** Fantastic Four #80 (September 1964)

**Real Name:** Esteban Corazon de Able

**Occupation:** Alchemist  
**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 3 in  
**Weight:** 190 lbs  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Alchemical elixir bestows extended life and vitality. Clothing fried with alchemical potions including a sleeping potion and nerve gas; a master of disguise.

Born into the aristocracy in 9th-century Spain, Diablo became fascinated with the alchemical arts. Realizing that time was against him, Diablo sold his soul to the demon Mephisto in exchange for knowledge. Developing an elixir of life and moving to Transylvania, Diablo spent the next millennia tyrannizing the local villagers, until they rose up, trapping him in a crypt for over a century. Having tricked the Thing into freeing him, Diablo clashed with the Fantastic Four numerous times. Given his persistent vitality he is likely to remain a threat for years to come. AD

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**Digger**

**First Appearance:** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 2 #51 (May 2000)

**Real Name:** None (a combination of 13 mobsters)

**Occupation:** None  
**Base:** New York City sewers

**Height:** 7 ft 1 in  
**Weight:** 275 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Gamma-powered strength, but limited endurance; possesses the combined consciousnesses of the Vegas Thirteen, with their various 1960s predilections.

In 1957, a meeting of 13 mobsters in Las Vegas turned nasty, resulting in the deaths of all of them. The bodies of the gangsters, who became known as the Vegas Thirteen, were secretly buried deep in the Nevada desert—a common resting place for Vegas' gangland casualties.

Many years later, scientists investigating the effects of gamma rays detonated a gamma bomb in the desert near the site of the grave. Somehow, the bomb's gamma radiation fused the 13 dead mobsters into a huge, powerful, green zombie who called himself Digger. Digger followed some old railroad tracks until he reached New York City. He then started on a mission of vengeance against the Forelli mob, who had bumped off the Vegas Thirteen in the first place. Spider-Man, hired by Forelli to investigate, went to Nevada and figured out that Digger was a gamma-mutated version of the Vegas Thirteen. Back in New York, during a long battle with Spider-Man, Digger eventually broke apart and died. MT

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**Devil Dinosaur**

**First Appearance:** Devil Dinosaur #1 (April 1978)

**Real Name:** Inapplicable  
**Occupation:** Carnivore

**Base:** A jungle on the other/mirrored planet, “Dinosaur World,” later the Savage Land

**Height:** 25 ft  
**Weight:** Unknown  
**Eyes:** Yellow

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Has unusually high intelligence for a dinosaur. Possesses superhuman strength and stamina.

On an alien world similar to prehistoric Earth, dinosaurs coexisted with primitive, fur-covered human beings. A tribe called the Killer Folk tried to burn to death a creature that resembled one of Earth’s tyrannosaurs. The reptile was rescued by a furry primitive known as Moonboy, but the fire had burned his hide bright red. Moonboy named him Devil Dinosaur, and they became loyal companions, battling various menaces. Later, they were transported to Earth, and joined the superhuman team called the Fallen Angels. Eventually, they went to live in the primeval Savage Land. PS

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**Diamondback**

**First Appearance:** Captain America #313 (October 1985)

**Real Name:** Rachel Leighton

**Occupation:** Professional mercenary  
**Base:** Serpent Citadel

**Height:** 5 ft 11 in  
**Weight:** 142 lbs  
**Eyes:** Green  
**Hair:** Magenta

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Expert gymnast; wields diamond-shaped throwing spikes filled with explosives, acid, poison, or drugs.

Diamondback was enlisted into the Serpent Society by Sidewinder. On her first mission, to track down and kill Modok, leader of AIM, Diamondback had the opportunity to kill Captain America but chose not to. After leaving the Serpent Society, she became his partner and eventually his lover. Later, Diamondback joined Asp, Black Mamba, and Impala to form a mercenary group called “Bad Girls, Inc.” An android version of Diamondback later teamed up with the Red Skull. MT
**Dire Wraiths**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Rom #1 (December 1979)

**BASE:** Formerly Wraithworld in the Dark Nebula

**HEIGHT:** 5’7” (average)

**WEIGHT:** Unrevealed

**EYES:** No pupils

**HAIR:** Inapplicable

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Shapeshifters who mimic other living beings. Female Wraiths kill their victims and gain their memories; they also have powers of sorcery.

The Dire Wraiths are offshoots of the Skrulls who settled on a planet called Wraithworld. Male Wraiths are white-skinned, vaguely humanoid creatures. Female Wraiths have heavier, red bodies, tentacles, and clawed feet. Centuries ago, the Wraiths attacked the planet Galador, but were defeated by Galadorian cyborgs called the Spaceknights, including Rom. Rom battled Wraiths on Earth and used his neutralizer to cast Wraithworld into the other-dimensional realm called Limbo. As a result, the Wraiths lost their powers, and Rom exiled them into Limbo as well.

**Doctor Bong**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Howard the Duck #15 (August 1977)

**REAL NAME:** Lester Verde

**OCCUPATION:** Genetic engineer

**BASE:** An island in the Atlantic Ocean

**HEIGHT:** 6’8”

**WEIGHT:** 225 lbs

**EYES:** Blue

**HAIR:** Reddish-brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** When struck by the large metal ball he wears on his hand, Doctor Bong’s helmet can produce sonic waves for a variety of effects.

Having adopted the aphorism “The pen is mightier than the sword” as his motto at an early age, bully Lester Verde began to strike back at those who tormented him through his writing. Infatuated with Beverly Switzer, Lester rechristened himself as Doctor Bong, a melodramatic villain whose exploits were puffed by self-penned press releases. Intent on forcing Switzer to marry him, Bong was undone by Beverly’s boyfriend, Howard the Duck. He has since gone on to be a thorn in the side of the She-Hulk.

**Doctor Demonicus**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Godzilla #4 (December 1977)

**REAL NAME:** Douglas Birely

**OCCUPATION:** Geneticist, criminal

**BASE:** Pacific Ocean

**HEIGHT:** 5’11”

**WEIGHT:** 170 lbs

**EYES:** Gray

**HAIR:** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** A brilliant geneticist who used a radioactive meteor to artificially mutate animals, turning them into monsters to do his bidding; no superpowers.

Geneticist Douglas Birely exposed himself to radiation hoping to acquire superpowers. Instead, he ended up with skin cancer. Embittered, he acquired a radioactive meteor he called the Lifestone, and perfected a process to mutate animals into monsters. As Doctor Demonicus, he recruited an army of criminals and battled SHIELD. He was captured by the West Coast Avengers.

**Doc Samson**

A dedicated psychiatrist, Doctor Leonard Samson was fascinated by gamma radiation’s potential to help the mentally ill. When Betty Ross was transformed into a crystalline creature, Samson used a specially developed machine to drain gamma radiation from the Hulk and used it to cure Betty. Later he exposed himself to the remaining stored rays and gained Hulk-like powers.

In the years that followed, Samson has doggedly pursued Bruce Banner, hoping to rid Bruce of the Hulk. Samson’s good intentions have not always been welcomed and he and the Hulk have fought repeatedly. At times the pair have been known to work together, fighting the Leader after his capture of Gamma Base, for example. However, Samson has never lost sight of his primary goal. For the time being it looks like the fates of both Samson and the Hulk are to remain intertwined.

Gammaradium greatly increased Samson’s bodily mass and muscular size; he has the equivalent strength of a “relaxed” Hulk, plus great endurance and injury resistance. The gamma rays also turned his hair green. Unlike the Hulk, Samson’s razor-sharp mind has been unaffected by the changes in his physiology.
Doctor Doom
The Lord of Latveria

Victor Von Doom was born in a gypsy camp in the tiny kingdom of Latveria in the Balkan Mountains of Eastern Europe. Victor's mother, Cynthia, was killed when he was an infant. When Victor was a boy, his father Werner, a gypsy healer, failed to save the wife of a Latverian baron from dying of cancer. With Victor, Werner fled the baron's retaliation, only to perish from exposure. Victor vowed vengeance on the world for his parents' deaths.

Scarred
Victor discovered Cynthia's chest of magical artifacts and realized that she was a witch. He developed immense talents for sorcery and also science, eventually winning a scholarship for State University in the US. It was there he first encountered fellow student Reed Richards.

Determined to contact his mother in the hereafter, Von Doom invented an interdimensional communication device. Richards happened upon Von Doom's notes on the machine and pointed out an error in his calculations. Furious that Richards had invaded his privacy, Von Doom refused to heed his warning. When Von Doom activated his machine, it exploded, scarring his face. (According to one account the explosion left only one thin scar; however, Doom's ego could not tolerate even a single imperfection in his appearance.)

The Metal Mask
Blaming Richards for the accident, Von Doom made his way to Tibet, where an order of monks helped him forge the metal mask and armor that he would wear in his new role as Doctor Doom. Donning the newly cast mask before it had fully cooled, Doom scarred his face for life. Returning to Latveria, Doom overthrew the monarch and made himself king.

Although Doom lives in a castle and Latveria appears unchanged since the 19th century, he has created technological wonders, including a robot army and a time machine. Doom has dedicated himself to world domination. As monarch of Latveria, he has diplomatic immunity that shields him from arrest. However, his plans have often been thwarted by his arch nemesis Reed Richards and the Fantastic Four. Over the years Doom has clashed with many leading costumed crimefighters.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Fantastic Four #5
  Doctor Doom first clashes with the world's greatest team.
- Fantastic Four Annual #2
  The origin of Doctor Doom.
- Fantastic Four #35-40
  Doctor Doom battles the Fantastic Four without their powers.
- Fantastic Four #57-60
  Doom steals the power of the Silver Surfer.
- Fantastic Four #84-87
  Doctor Doom triple the Fantastic Four in Latveria.
**Doctor Druid**

For many years Harvard-educated Dr. Anthony Druid pursued a career as a psychiatrist, while harbouring an interest in all things mystical and occult. Growing older he began to devote more and more time to this area but it was only when called to the side of a dying Tibetan lama that he started to develop his abilities. After Druid survived a number of trials, the lama helped him to realise his latent potential while conferring upon the psychiatrist some of his own powers.

In the years that followed Druid was recruited by NSA agent Jake Curtiss to join his team of Monster Hunters, a team that also included Ulysses Bloodstone and the Eternal Makkari (see Eternals). Following the emergence of Super Heroes like the Fantastic Four, Druid aligned himself with the Avengers, becoming a member and helping to drive the Masters of Evil from Avengers Mansion.

The final years of Druid's life proved far less fulfilling. Twice he was manipulated into betraying his friends—he was held in the thrall of Terminatrix and later corrupted by his manipulative lover, Nekra. She eventually killed him, his promising life finally ending in grief. AD

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**Doctor Spectrum**

On a parallel Earth in another dimension, astronaut Joe Ledger rescued an alien Scree who gave him a power prism. Using the prism's energies to become the heroic Doctor Spectrum, Ledger joined the Squadron Supreme. After the defeat of the villainous Overmind, the Squadron Supreme repaired the damage to their world by becoming virtual dictators. A second group of heroes known as Nighthawk's Redeemers formed a resistance movement. One of their number, the Black Archer (formerly the Golden Archer), shattered Doctor Spectrum’s power prism with an arrow, only to watch as its energies became part of Ledger's own body. Doctor Spectrum no longer needs to rely on an outside source for his powers, and his body has been changed to a monochromatic white. DW

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**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Joseph Ledger

**OCCUPATION**
Squadron Supreme member

**BASE**
Squadron City

**HEIGHT** 6 ft
**WEIGHT** 190 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** Blond

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Avengers Vol. 1 #95 (March 1971)

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**POWERS**

Internalized power prism permits flight, the discharge of energy blasts, and the ability to construct objects of solid energy.

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A powerful sorcerer, Dr. Druid could project images of himself.

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Various versions of Doctor Spectrum, and other Squadron Supreme members, exist among the parallel Earths that compose the multiverse.
Doctor Octopus

Mastermind of mechanical menace

Otto was the son of Torbert and Mary Lavinia Octavius. He was a shy bookworm, but his father, a construction worker, believed that a man was measured by his brute strength. Mary Lavinia wanted Otto to rely on his brains, and when his father was killed in a construction accident, she convinced herself that an early grave was the destiny of all manual laborers.

**Essential Storylines**
- Amazing Spider-Man Annual #1 Octopus forms the Sinister Six to kill Spider-Man.
- Spectacular Spider-Man #221 He appears to be killed by Peter Parker clone Kaine.
- Amazing Spider-Man #426 Doc Ock is restored to life thanks to his protégé Carolyn Trainer.

**Arm's Length**
Otto became a scientist specializing in nuclear research and invented a mechanical harness that allowed him to perform dangerous experiments at a distance. He also began dating Mary Alice Anders, a fellow researcher, and even asked her to marry him. Believing that no woman was good enough for her son, Otto's mother forced him to break off the engagement. Shortly afterwards she died of a heart attack while arguing with her son over Mary Alice. Lost in a private world of grief and guilt, Otto caused a laboratory accident; he was bombarded with radiation and his mechanical arms somehow fused with his body.

**Mind Control**
After this accident, Doctor Octopus was misdiagnosed with brain damage. In reality his superior intellect was busy creating new neuro-pathways allowing him to mentally control his metal tentacles. He can now psionically control them even when they have been completely separated from him.

Doctor Octopus, also known as the Master Planner and Master Programmer, first fought and was defeated by Spider-Man shortly after he became a professional criminal. Sometimes as a member of the Sinister Six, sometimes on his own he has since battled heroes such as Daredevil, Captain America and the Fantastic Four; however Doc Ock's overriding obsession is to destroy the elusive web-slinger.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Otto Octavius

**OCCUPATION**
Criminal mastermind, former nuclear scientist

**BASE**
New York area

**HEIGHT**
6 ft 9 in

**WEIGHT**
245 lbs

**EYES**
Brown

**HAIR**
Brown

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Amazing Spider-Man #3 (July 1963)

**POWERS**
Mental control over four electroplated, 6-ft long, prehensile, titanium steel tentacles that can telescope to 24 ft in length and lift 3 tons; tentacles terminate in three single-jointed pincers that can rotate 360 degrees and grip with a force of 170 lbs per sq. in.

Tentacles can operate independently

Ock's tentacles can move at a speed of 90 feet per second and can strike with the force of a jackhammer.
Doctor Strange
Sorcerer Supreme of Earth's dimension

According to the original account, Doctor Stephen Strange was a highly successful but arrogant surgeon whose brilliant career was abruptly cut short by an automobile accident. Strange suffered minor nerve damage, which prevented him from holding a scalpel steadily enough to perform surgery. Exhausting his fortune searching in vain for a cure, Strange ended up an alcoholic recluse.

ANCIENT WISDOM

Strange journeyed to Tibet to meet a healer known as the Ancient One. Initially, Strange, a man of science, refused to believe in the magic powers that the Ancient One claimed to have. However, Strange discovered the Ancient One's pupil Baron Mordo intended to murder his master. Mordo cast a spell on Strange that prevented him from uttering a warning to the Ancient One, but otherwise allowed him to speak. Not only did Strange now know that magic was real, but he also recognized the existence of evil and realized that it must be fought. Evading the restrictions of Mordo's spell, Strange asked the Ancient One if he could become his pupil. The Ancient One freed Strange from Mordo's spell, revealed that he was well aware of Mordo's treachery, and accepted Strange as his new apprentice.

Sorcerer Supreme

Upon completing his training, Doctor Strange lived in New York City's Greenwich Village. The public does not believe in magic and considers Strange to be merely an eccentric authority on occult lore. Hence they are unaware that Strange has devoted his life to protecting humanity from supernatural menaces from our own world and mystic realms, such as his enemies Mordo, Nightmare and Dormammu. When the Ancient One died, Doctor Strange inherited his role as Sorcerer Supreme of Earth and the dimension in which it exists.

Doctor Strange has allied himself with Earth's leading costumed crimefighters, such as Spider-Man, the X-Men, and the Avengers. Doctor Strange also founded the Defenders, a team of superhuman champions that often included the Hulk and Namor.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES

- Strange Tales #130-146
  Doctor Strange battles Baron Mordo and Dormammu and first meets Dormammu.
- Strange Tales #150-156
  Doctor Strange first confronts Umar and encounters the Living Tribunal.
- Doctor Strange (second series) #1-2, 4-5
  Doctor Strange battles Silver Surfer, dies and is resurrected.

Another version of Strange's origin claims he was injured in a skiing accident.
**Dormammu**

Although a member of the Faltine race, Dormammu has spent most of his life in the Dark Dimension, where his people had been banished by his father. Following his arrival there, Dormammu allied himself to the Dark Dimension's ruler, Ollari, showing him how to expand his realm by absorbing other pocket universes into it. Inadvertently, this was to precipitate Dormammu's rise to power. One of these universes was occupied by the Mindless Ones, destructive beings that, once released in the Dark Dimension, began to wreak havoc. Before they were finally stopped, Ollari was killed and Dormammu had been named regent.

In 2099, a man claiming to be the original Dr. Doom returned to the nation of Latveria. He had no memory of how he came to be transported into the future.

Upon his arrival, Doom discovered that a man named Tiger Wyld, an elite corporate muscle man, had seized the throne of Latveria, declaring himself dictator.

Wyld had caused the people to fall into violence and poverty, but Doom overthrew the pretender and once again made Latveria a great nation.
Dracula
The most powerful vampire on Earth

Vlad Tepes Dracula was born in 1430 in Schassberg, Transylvania. The following year his father, the Transylvanian nobleman Vlad Dracul, became prince of nearby Wallachia. Dracula’s father was later assassinated by other Transylvanians. Dracula nevertheless went through with the marriage his father had arranged with Zofia, a Hungarian noblewoman. After the birth of their daughter, Dracula put an end to their marriage. Zofia committed suicide; her daughter would become the vampiress Lilith.

THE IMPALER
Dracula regained the throne of Wallachia in 1456, and had those responsible for his father’s assassination impaled. He then fought a war with the Turks, during which he impaled huge numbers of them. Hence Dracula became known as “Vlad the Impaler.” Dracula married his second wife, Maria, who bore him a son, Vlad Tepes II.

In 1459, Dracula was defeated in battle by the Turkish warlord Turac, who mortally wounded him. Turac took Dracula to the gypsy healer Landa, who proved to be a vampiress and bit and killed Dracula, transforming him into a vampire.

After Turac murdered Maria, Dracula slew him and turned his son Vlad Tepes II over to the care of gypsies. By defeating the vampire Nimrod, Dracula took his place as the ruler of Earth’s vampires. The eldest vampire on Earth, Varnae, enhanced Dracula’s blood with his own before killing himself. As a result Dracula became the most powerful vampire on the planet.

THE VAMPIRE HUNTERS
In 1890 Dracula employed British solicitor Jonathan Harker to buy Carfax Abbey in England. Moving there, Dracula attacked Harker’s fiancée Mina Murray. Vampire hunter Abraham Van Helsing intervened and led the pursuit of Dracula to Transylvania, where Van Helsing’s allies impaled the vampire. However, Dracula has repeatedly returned from real or apparent death, and he has continued to menace humanity into the 21st century.

In recent years, Dracula’s nemesis was a team led by Jonathan Harker’s son, Quincy. Among his allies were Rachel Van Helsing, Abraham’s descendant; Dracula’s own descendant Frank Drake; and the vampire hunter Blade. Quincy Harker and Rachel Van Helsing have died, but Drake and Blade continue the hunt. Dracula has also battled such adversaries as Doctor Strange, the vampire detective Hanibal King, and the monster hunter Elsa Bloodstone.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Dracula Lives #1-3 How Count Dracula first became a vampire
- Tomb of Dracula #45-59 Dracula marries Domini and father Janus, who rapidly becomes an adult who opposes him.
- Tomb of Dracula #54-70 Dracula becomes human again. After regaining his powers, Dracula and Quincy Harker die in their final confrontation.
A distant descendant of Dracula, Frank Drake's life was dogged by his vampiric ancestry. After being turned, he fled to Transylvania and traveled there with the aim to become a hunter of the undead. Exercising his skills as a hunter, he eventually retired from vampire-hunting to become a private eye in Boston.

Draco Man, an artificial lifeform created by Professor Gregor Gilbert of State University and brought to life by Drako the alchemist, Dragon Man has the intelligence of a dog but is a披 for the Super Villains, including Drako himself, the wealthy industrialist Gideon, and Machensmitt. But Dragon Man is not evil himself—he operates strictly by animal instinct. On occasion, the Fantastic Four have attempted to adopt Dragon Man as a pet, but he has proven to be too destructive to domesticate easily.

The sole survivor of an ancient race of demons, the Dragon of the Moon seeks to gain power by corrupting the human race. The Dragon once allied with Morbus, who was trying to overthrow King Arthur Pendragon of Britain, but was defeated and imprisoned within Saturn's moon Titan by the Eternals. The Dragon later managed to corrupt Thanos, who murdered most of the population of Titan. It also began to corrupt Moondragon. With the aid of the Defenders, Moondragon was freed and the Dragon destroyed. However, it remains to be seen if the Dragon is really dead.

Drax the Destroyer

Thanos, the powerful Titanian, had been monitoring the reckless actions of his son Thanos on Earth. When Thanos destroyed a satellite containing Arthur Douglas and his wife and daughter, fearing that they had seen his spaceship, Mentor took Douglas's daughter Heather, who was still alive, back to Titan to be raised. She would later return to Earth as Moondragon.

Then, with the aid of his father, Chronos, Mentor took the living consciousness of Arthur Douglas before it had completely left his body and placed it into a humanoid body he had created from the Earth's soil, granting it superhuman powers. This new being was known as Drax the Destroyer. Mentor blocked all of Douglas's human memories and instilled in him a single-minded desire to destroy Thanos. Once Thanos was killed, however, Drax wandered space searching for a new reason to exist. Drax was killed while trying to stop Moondragon from controlling the planet Ba-Bantis, but later resurrected and roamed the galaxy once more.
Born in Latveria, Bram Velsing was a skilled engineer, carrying out the schemes of Doctor Doom. As punishment for an act of disobedience, Doom had an iron mask fused to Velsing's face, so that he would know what it meant to be Doom. Fleeing Latveria, Velsing took refuge in the castle of Victor Frankenstein. Calling himself Dreadknight, armed with his own inventions, and riding a winged horse that once belonged to the Black Knight, he vowed to take revenge on his former master—no matter how many innocent people got hurt along the way.

A robotic juggernaut, the Dreadnought was built by the terror group HYDRA, but its first field trial proved unsuccessful: directed to kill Nick Fury, the SHIELD director's resourcefulness, combat training and arsenal of manunatured weaponry combined to overwhelm the automaton. This wasn't the end of the machine, however; when the MAGMA crime family stole the Dreadnought blueprints, eight more of these machines were built, the most sophisticated being a silver version of the robot. Numerous Super Heroes have contended with these new Dreadnoughts, including Iron Man, Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four, and each time the heroes have proved triumphant.
**Drew, Jonathan**

**First Appearance:** Spider-Woman Vol. 1, #1 (April 1979)

**Real Name:** Jonathan Drew

**Occupation:** Scientist

**BASE:** Wundagore City

**Height:** 6'2" in

**Weight:** 195 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Brilliant scientist who specializes in radiation and entomology—the study of spiders and insects.

A gifted scientist with a beautiful wife and child, the world was Jonathan Drew's oyster. Moving to the Balkans with Drew's colleague, Herbert Wyndham, his family was struck down by tragedy. Drew's daughter, Jessica, became critically ill with radiation poisoning and his wife died mysteriously. Unable to cope, Drew fled to England, leaving his daughter in Wyndham's hands. Years later, Drew also died in tragic circumstances. After developing a radiation antidote for Pyrotechnics, Inc., he was killed by his employers. It was left to Jessica Drew—now the first Spider-Woman—to avenge his death. AD

**D'spayre**

**First Appearance:** Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1, #68 (April 1978)

**Real Name:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Demonic being

**BASE:** Extraterrestrial tower

**Height:** 8'3" in

**Weight:** Unknown

**Eyes:** Black

**Hair:** None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Enhanced strength; able to levitate, able to instill fear into other beings; various other unexplained magical abilities.

D'spayre is an extraterrestrial demon created by another demon, the Dweller-in-Darkness. He feeds off the psychic energy of suffering. D'spayre has teamed with Nightmare and is attended by a horde of small servant-beings, the D'sprites. One of D'spayre's first clashes with Super Heroes took place in the Florida Everglades, where he was defeated by Spider-Man and Man-Thing. He has since fought Cyclops, Doctor Strange, and served as a member of the Fear Lords, an alliance of demons. DW

**Dusk**

**First Appearance:** Slingers #0 (December 1996)

**Real Name:** Cassie St. Commons

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**BASE:** New York City

**Height:** 5'6" in

**Weight:** 125 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Receives power from the Negative Zone, allowing her to melt into shadows or to teleport; possesses minor psychic abilities.

During a time when Spider-Man was accused of murder, he adopted four separate costumes and identities, including one called Dusk. Later, former World War II hero Black Marvel gave the costumes to four youths to create the Slingers. Cassie St. Commons, a moody Empire State University student from a rich family, became the new Dusk. After what seemed a fatal fall, she returned with the power of teleportation. The Slingers disbanded after saving Black Marvel's soul from Mephisto, and Dusk has since kept a low profile. DW

**Drew, Patience**

**First Appearance:** Marvel Fanfare Vol. 1, #45 (April 1989)

**Real Name:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Pirate Captain

**BASE:** Sargasso Sea

**Height:** Unknown

**Weight:** Unknown

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Skilled in the use of sabres, swords and pistols, and other weapons of her time. Possessed the same skills in death.

Patience Drew was a pirate captain who lived several hundred years ago. She and her crew were killed by a British ship which led them into a trap during battle. After they sunk into the Sargasso sea, they were doomed to experience their deaths forever. Namor rescued Drew and her ship on one of these occasions and the pair fell in love. Namor joined Drew as a pirate and she gave him an earring to remember her by. Later, Namor left her ship and never returned—despite still wearing her earring, he found her skeleton on the seabed and was uncertain whether he had ever known her. ED

**Dugan, Dum-Dum**

**First Appearance:** Sgt. Fury and his Howling Commandos #1 (May 1963)

**Real Name:** Timothy Dugan

**Occupation:** SHIELD agent

**BASE:** New York City

**Height:** 6'2" in

**Weight:** 165 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Expert boxer, wrestler, marksman, and commando.

Touring 1941 Europe as a circus strongman, "Dum-Dum" Dugan encountered Nick Fury, who was on a covert mission. Dugan struck up a strong, durable friendship with Fury. Throughout the war, the pair fought together in the military strike force, the Howling Commandos, and following Fury's appointment as director of the government agency SHIELD, Dugan served as one of his top operatives. When his health finally hobbled him, Dugan intended to live out his days with his family, but a contented retirement proved impossible—his wife was killed by a HYDRA splinter group and he rejoined SHIELD. AD
**Egghead**

A brilliant scientist, Elías Starr—or Egghead as he was known—because of his unusually-shaped head—lacked a conscience and was prone to boredom. Seeking extra excitement, Egghead had been working for the US government when he was sacked for stealing and selling secrets.

Coming to the attention of the New York mob, Egghead was contracted to aid them in the original Ant-Man, otherwise known as Henry Pym. In the years that followed, the pair were to become arch-enemies. Egghead's stymieing efforts to destroy Ant-Man involved a range of intriguing devices: he built a machine to communicate with ants and persuaded them to turn against Pym, and on another occasion, he developed a bionic arm designed to control the thoughts of Pym's niece.

Although he often appeared fairly harmless during his criminal career Egghead has been responsible for the destruction of an entire Mid-western town, an incident that brought him into direct conflict with the

**FACTFILE**

- **REAL NAME**: Elías Starr
- **OCCUPATION**: Criminal, scientist
- **BASE**: New York City
- **HEIGHT**: 5 ft 7 in
- **WEIGHT**: 210 lbs
- **EYES**: Blue
- **HAIR**: None
- **FIRST APPEARANCE**: Tales to Astonish #38 (December 1962)

Egghead created machines to enable communication with ants, powerful robots, and mind-controlling prosthetic limbs; prone to delusions of grandeur and obsessed with destroying rival Henry Pym.

**POWERS**

- **FIRST COMMUNICATION WITH THE ANTS**: Once I communicate with the ants, they'll obey me, and I don't give a damn what happens to Henry Pym.
- **MIND CONTROLLING ROBOTS**: So much for the heroes—nothing will stop me. I'll destroy everything in my path.

**AVENGERS team of Super Heroes**

As time went on, Egghead's schemes became ends in themselves: the more complex and convoluted they were, the happier he seemed to be. Had it not been for a gun exploding in his face, Egghead's schemes would probably have continued. Instead, the accident brought to an end both his life and his latest attempt to save Henry Pym's reputation. AD
**Ego the Living Planet**

First Appearance: Thor #132 (September 1966)

Real Name: Ego

Occupation: Not Applicable

Base: Mobile

Diameter: 4,165 miles

Special Powers/Abilities: Vast intelligence and psionic powers, including telepathy and telekinesis. Travels through space faster than light and can change its surface appearance.

Ego is a self-aware planet, which although formed from the same cosmic gases and dust resulting from the Big Bang as other planets, somehow also grew a huge brain. About the size of a small moon, Ego is from the Black Galaxy. Ego created armies of superhuman warriors from its own substance, which it sent to conquer other worlds. During a battle with Galactus, Thor sided with Ego, but later realized Ego's evil intentions and battled it with Galactus, Hercules, and Firelord. Eventually, Ego's size was condensed and contained within the body of the Super Hero Quasar.

**Electro**

While working as a lineman for an electrical company during a thunderstorm, Max Dillon received a shock that endowed him with superhuman powers. He became the villain Electro. On his first outing, Electro robbed Daily Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson, who was sure that Electro was Spider-Man in disguise. To clear his name, Spider-Man defeated Electro by short-circuiting his powers with a water stream. Electro then allied himself with criminal teams, including the Sinister Six and the Frightful Four.

A chronic inferiority complex caused by an unhappy childhood led Electro to absorb all the power in downtown Manhattan, until calmed by Spider-Man. He then attempted to overload all of New York City's power stations until Spider-Man, wearing a specially insulated costume, bested him.

Electro recently broke Savon and a number of other criminals out of the Raft prison, but wound up behind bars for his pains.

**Elders of the Universe**

The Elders of the Universe are among the oldest sentient creatures in the universe. Although they do not belong to the same race, they have come to regard one another as brothers. This is because their lifespans date back to the formation of the first primordial galaxies, and because they have each chosen an arena of specialty with which to fill their long lives. In this way they manage to overcome the inevitable boredom that would otherwise accompany their virtual immortality.

The exact number of Elders in existence is not known, but several of their number have had dealings with the Super Heroes of Earth, including the Grandmaster, the Collector, the Gardener, the Contemplator, and the Champion.
Elektra
Assassin-for-hire

The histories of so many superpowered individuals are marred by tragedy. While in some cases these tragedies drive them towards heroism others are compelled to pursue careers of villainy. For Elektra Natchios this choice has never been clear-cut—while she continues to yearn for contentment, time and again her happiness has been spoiled by the intervention of others.

ETCHED BY SADNESS

Even before she was born, misfortune was etched into Elektra's existence: her mother was shot while pregnant and died soon after giving birth. When Elektra's overprotective father became Greek ambassador to the US, she enrolled at Columbia University in New York City, but was followed everywhere by security guards.

Despite this restriction, a romance grew between Elektra and Matt Murdock, a fellow student. For a year, a clandestine relationship flourished, but when her father was killed during a hostage incident Elektra's whole world fell apart. Riven with grief she fled, leaving Matt and the US behind.

KILLER FOR HIRE

In the years that followed Elektra trained as a Ninja, hoping to ease her tortured soul. For a year she belonged to the Chaste, a Ninja order led by Matt Murdock's own mentor, Stick. Ultimately, Elektra's "impure" heart disqualified her from membership; this rejection driving her to the Chaste's enemy—the Hand, an order of assassins. Elektra abandoned them and became an assassin for hire. This grim work ironically led her back to Matt Murdock, now established as the crime-fighter DAREDEVIL. Once lovers, they were now opponents but despite this, when Elektra was mortally wounded by Bullseye, it was to Matt's door that she crawled and in his arms that she died.

ELEKTRA REBORN

Matt refused to believe Elektra was dead and became involved in the Hand's attempt to resurrect her. Fighting alongside Stick, he tried to prevent the Hand from bringing Elektra back to life and claiming her soul. He failed to prevent her return, but his love purified her soul, making her useless to the Hand. Whether Elektra's path will ultimately end in heroism or villainy remains uncertain. AD
Ken Ellis was a reporter for the Daily Bugle, a major New York City newspaper published by the redoubtable J. Jonah Jameson. He has reported on various stories involving the costumed crimefighter Spider-Man.

When Spider-Man's clone, Ben Reilly, adopted his first costumed identity, it was Ellis who named the new crimefighter "The Scarlet Spider" in one of his Daily Bugle articles.

Since this high point in his journalistic career, however, Ellis has become less prominent in the New York newspaper business.
**Enchantress**

One of the immortals of the Norse realm of Asgard (see Gods of Asgard), the Enchantress studied under the master sorceress Karnilla. Vain and headstrong, she centered her magic on increasing her allure, so as to more easily ensnare the hearts and minds of those around her. When her desire for Odin's son Thor proved unrequited, she turned her mystic powers to evil, hoping to catch him one way or another. She especially resented Thor's love of humanity, and longed for him to rule Asgard with her as his queen. Her feelings for the Thunder God are genuine, and she has come close to realizing her dream; however Thor's love of humanity always gets in the way.

Possesses the enhanced lifespan, durability, and might of a goddess of Asgard. Adept at sorcery, specializing in spells that enhance her beauty and allow her to control the minds and emotions of men. Her kiss can ensnare any man. Able to fire power bolts from her hands.

**The Enchantress’s Asgardian body is three times denser and heavier than that of a human being.**

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**Enclave**

The group of scientists known as the Enclave believed they could establish a benevolent world dictatorship. Faking their deaths, the Enclave established a base on a remote North Atlantic island. They first endeavored to create a race of superbeings to control the human race. However, they failed to control the monsters, the first of which rampaged through their base, destroying it. Initially named “Him,” this creature eventually came to be called Adam Warlock. The Enclave embarked on new schemes, such as attempting to dominate the race known as the Inhumans and exploit the aliens' technology. Intervention by the Avengers resulted in two of the Enclave being imprisoned. Although they later broke out, nothing has been heard of the Enclave since.

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**Energizer**

Katie Power is the youngest child of Dr. James and Margaret Power, and the sister of Alex, Jack and Julie Power. When Katie was five, she and her registered with the Whitman family of the alien Kymellians. Dying, “Whitey” endowed the children with superpowers, and they became the Power Pack. At times the Pack has exchanged powers. Katie was Starstreak when she could fly, and Countertop when she could alter her body density. PS
**Enforcers**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Ghost Rider Vol. 1 #23 (February 1977)

**REAL NAME** Charles L. Delany, Jr.  
**OCCUPATION** Criminal

**BASE** Los Angeles, California  
**HEIGHT** 6 ft. 11 in.

**WEIGHT** 191 lbs  
**EYES** Brown  
**HAIR** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Wears bulletproof costume and carries automatic pistol; formerly possessed a disintegration amulet and ring.

Son of a movie mogul, Charles Delany left college to become the Enforcer. His primary weapon was a disintegration device, at times worn as an amulet or ring. The Enforcer, often going by the name of Slaughter, has a secret criminal empire from his father's Delany Studios and clashed with Ghost Rider and Spider-Woman. He was later shot and killed by The Scourges of the Underworld.

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**Eternals**

About a million years ago the extraterrestrial Celestials came to Earth to perform genetic experiments on the still-evolving human race. To test how adaptable the human gene was, the Celestials accelerated the evolution of a few early human test subjects, giving them the genetic potential to mentally control small amounts of cosmic energy.

The result of these experiments was a race known as the Eternals, who possess a number of superhuman powers and far longer lifespans than normal humans. With training an Eternal can further develop a specific superhuman ability. Subsequent genetic experimentation by the Celestials also led to the creation of the Deviants who, in time to come, would vie for power with the Eternals.

Eventually, the Eternals split into two factions, a peaceful, benevolent one, led by Chronos, and a warlike one, led by Uranos. Increasing tension led to a bitter civil war, which was won by Chronos and his followers. The group led by Uranos were exiled to outer space. In time, the survivors among Uranos's followers established a civilization of their own on Saturn's moon Titan.

The Eternals, led by Zuras, clashed with the fourth host of the Celestials, when the latter arrived to judge the Earth and its people. Although Zuras was killed, the Celestials spared the peoples of Earth and departed.

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**Factfile**

**KEY MEMBERS**
- Chronos, Mentor (Alaaa)
- Zuras, Ikaris, Uranos
- Alik, Thena, Sersi, Makkari, The Forgotten One, Kingo Sunen, Sprite, Cybele, Phastos, Khonshu, Interloper
- Ajak, Domo, Valkin, Drugg, Aghasar, Zarina, Delphax
- Brothers, Skipur, Vrapok, Vamako, Vampiro

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Eternals Vol. 1 #1 (July 1976)

All Eternals have superhuman strength, can levitate themselves and other objects, can fly up to 600 mph, create mental illusions, and project cosmic energy in beams from their eyes. Some Eternals can transform an object's shape.

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**Enforcers**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man #10 (March 1964)

**MEMBERS AND POWERS**
- Fancy Dan: Judo and karate expert—a nice line in suits, too.
- Montana: Proficient with the lariat. Ok. Not superstrong but very strong.
- Snake, Marston: Entwines body around objects and people.
- Hammer, Harrison: Expert boxer and unarmed combatant.
- Big Man: Would-be crime lord Frederick Forswell.

The Enforcers can give most Super Heroes a run for their money. Although they have been defeated by Spider-Man a number of times, he has required the help of others to overcome them, calling on the NYPD, the Human Torch, or the reformed Sandman. Initially employed by the Big Man, during his bid to control New York's underworld, the Enforcers have also worked for the Green Goblin and the Kingpin, until he was overthrown, forcing them back into the muscle-for-hire market.

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Ancient Earth civilizations such as the Greeks, Romans, and Norse worshipped the Eternals as gods, whom they called by names such as Zeus, Hera, and Athena. Those humans believed these gods resided in great heavens in places such as Mount Olympus.
**Eternity**

**First Appearance:** Strange Tales #135 (November 1965)

**Real Name:** Inapplicable (alias: Adam Quadrion)

**Occupation:** None, abstract entity

**Height:** Inapplicable

**Weight:** Inapplicable

**Eyes:** Inapplicable

**Hair:** Inapplicable

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Unlimited ability to manipulate time, space, matter, energy or magic for any purpose.

Eternity is the collective consciousness of all life and is dependent on the many trillions of beings within it. It exists everywhere simultaneously. Eternity can take on humanoid form when it desires to communicate with sorcerers and the like. Eternity once aided Doctor Strange against Dormammu, and Strange then helped Eternity escape Nightmare's clutches. To have a greater understanding of humanity, Eternity has occasionally walked the Earth, using the name Adam Quadrion.

**Executioner**

Born in the Asgardian province of Skarnheim, Skurge was the child of a goddess and a Storm Giant. Although ostracized by the Storm Giants for his small height (he was only 7 ft tall), Skurge became a great warrior. Turning against his father's people, Skurge killed many of them during a bloody war, earning himself the sobriquet "The Executioner." He fell under the Enchantress' spell, serving her in various bids to dominate Earth and Asgard. In time, Skurge realized she was just toying with him and rejected her. On a mission to the realm of Hela with Thor, Skurge restored his reputation by fighting to free mortal souls from this land of the dead. Skurge died a hero's death, guarding the escape of Thor's forces.

**Factfile**

**Real Name:** Skurge

**Occupation:** Giant-killer

**Base:** Asgard

**First Appearance:** Journey into Mystery #103 (April 1964)

Skurge, a master of combat, superhuman strength and stamina, wielded a magical double-bladed axe that can create dimensional rifts, enable time travel and also fire blasts of intense heat or cold; also possessed an unbreakable helmet.

**Excalibur**

Based at Captain Britain's lighthouse, the Excalibur team of Super Heroes was formed following the X-Men's apparent demise at the hands of the Adversary. With a base located not just on the shores of the UK but also at the nexus of several realities, many of their battles have been fought across multiple alternate worlds. For instance, Excalibur has confronted the Crazy Gang on Munderworld and its alternate universe counterparts, the Nazi Lightning Force.

Excalibur's unity has often been undermined by romantic tensions. When Nightcrawler developed feelings for Captain Britain's lover, Meggan, friction grew within the team, culminating in a brawl between the two men. Ultimately, it was the relationship between Captain Britain and Meggan that was to bring the team to an end—when the pair married the remaining team members decided to disband. Over time, Excalibur's lineup has evolved.

**Excalibur**


Excalibur missions are bywords for exotic travel to alien worlds and otherworldly dimensions.

**First Appearance:** Excalibur: The Sword is Drawn (1987)
**Exiles**

The Exiles are a group of heroes taken from alternate realities, tasked by the Timebroker with fixing snags in the multiverse of divergent timelines. They receive guidance on repairing the timeline from a device called the Talis. The founding Exiles team consisted of other-dimensional versions of Blink, Mimic, Magnus, Thunderbird, Nocturne, and Morph. Later members included Sunfire, Sasquatch, and Magik. During their dimension-hopping, the team faced off against Hyperion and the opposing team Weapon X, and welcomed Namora and Beak to their ranks. The Exiles later adventured within the Age of Apocalypse timeline, where they picked up that reality's version of Sabretooth as well as Apocalypse's former horseman Holocaust. The current Exiles team has recently adventured within the alternate continuity of "House of M." DW

**Externals**

The Externals, also known as the High Lords, were a small group of superhuman mutants whose lifespans were potentially unlimited. Their aging process was greatly retarded, and they could recover from injuries that would be fatal to normal humans.

Candra exacted payments of "tithe" from the Thieves and Assassins Guild of New Orleans until Gambit stopped her. Gideon was the owner of Ophelia Industries and a recurring foe of X-Force. Selene has lived for thousands of years and became Black Queen of the Hellfire Club. Most of the Externals proved not to be as immortal as they hoped. Burke and Nicodemus succumbed to the Legacy Virus. Candra perished in an encounter with the X-Men. Having drained the life forces of Gideon and the others, Selene is the last living Externals. PS

**Exodus**

First Appearance: X-Factor Vol. 1 #12 (July 1993)

Real Name: Bennet du Paris

Occupation: Superhuman Base: Mobile

Height: 5'10" Weight: 165 lbs Eyes: White Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Incalculable psionic powers including telepathy, telekinesis, and the ability to fire mental bolts; possesses enhanced strength, near-invincibility, and flight.

Originally a crusader during the 12th century, the mutant Bennet du Paris crossed paths with Apocalypse, who placed him in suspended animation when he refused to kill the Black Knight. Awakened by Magneto in the modern era, du Paris took the name of Exodus and became a devoted member of Magneto's Acolytes. Exodus led the Acolytes in struggles against the X-Men, until Nate Grey (X-Man) sealed him in a mountain. Later, Exodus commanded the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants in an assault on the X-Mansion, before being sucked into a black hole by Xorn. DW
FALCON

When both his parents were murdered, his father trying to stop a street fight, and his mother in a mugging, community volunteer Sam Wilson became so disillusioned he turned to crime. While working for a smuggling gang he crash-landed on Exile Island in the Caribbean and encountered the Red Skull. In order to realize one of his diabolical schemes, the Skull used a Cosmic Cube to endow Sam with limited superpowers, moulding him to become Captain America's ideal sidekick.

After helping the Cap to defeat Red Skull, Sam branded himself the Falcon and entered into a long partnership with the famed supersoldier. A gift of jet-powered wings from Black Panther enabled him to become Captain America's airborne companion. Wilson accepted an invitation to join the Avengers, but soon came to believe that Earth's Mightiest team was just trying to fill its quota of black Super Heroes and left.

Although a Super Hero, Sam has never lost sight of his roots. He continues to work for and protect his community in Harlem—serving as its hero, role model, and protector.

FENRIS

Said to be the offspring of Loki and the giantess Angrboda, Fenris is an immense wolf with human intelligence. Though kept chained by the Gods of Asgard, it is prophesied that the Fenris Wolf will devour Odin at Ragnarok.

FENRIS was also the name taken by Andrea and Andreas von Strucker, the twin children of Baron von Strucker, for their terrorist organization. In his guise as Citizen V, Baron Zemo murdered Andrea, and Andreas later became the new costumed Swordsman.

FERAL

When Feral's mutant powers emerged at the age of 15, she killed her stepfather and her mother. Keeping this a secret, she joined X-FORCE. When X-Force tried to rescue Henry Gyrich from the terrorist group the Mutant Liberation Front, Feral switched sides, joining the terrorist group and trying to kill Gyrich. CABLE subdued her, and Feral was arrested by the New York City Police for the murders of her parents.

FIREBIRD

Bonita Juarez gained her fiery powers when she was struck by a fireball from the heavens. Believing that her powers were from God, Bonita became Firebird, and used her abilities to help the people of her native New Mexico. She became a member of the Avengers, though she devoted much time to social work. She learned that the fireball was caused by an alien race, but still maintains that her abilities are god-given.
Pyrens Kril, an officer of the Xandarian Nova Corps, saw his commander abducted by Galactus, devourer of worlds, from aboard the ship Halycon. Kril's commander became Air-Walker, Galactus's herald, seeking out worlds for him to destroy. The loyal Kril followed his trail, eventually becoming Galactus's newest herald following Air-Walker's death. Remade as Firelord, Kril wielded the energies of a miniature sun. Firelord served with Galactus briefly, until Thor offered the Asgardian construct known as the Destroyer (see Gods of Asgard) to Galactus as a replacement herald. DW

When his diplomat father died in a riot, Flag-Smasher committed himself to similar aims of peace; however, he opted to pursue them by violent means. Regarding nationalism as the enemy of concord, he initiated a terrorist campaign against symbols of national identity—embassies, national flags and the like. These activities brought Flag-Smasher face-to-face with that greatest living national symbol, Captain America, who repeatedly defeated him. Extending the scope of his campaign by forming the terrorist organization, Ultimatum, Flag-Smasher subsequently took over Rumeckistan, a small, unstable country that became his new base of operations. AD

Firestar's mutant powers began to emerge when she was 13 years old. She was soon recruited by the Massachusetts Academy, a school that trained young mutants how to use their powers, and she became a member of the Hellions. Emma Frost, who was both the school's headmistress and the White Queen of the Inner Circle of the Hellfire Club at the time, secretly trained Angelica to become an assassin who could kill with detection. After the Hellions repeatedly clashed with the X-Men and New Mutants, Angelica decided to leave the school. She joined the New Warriors and fell in love with Vance "Justice" Astral. They briefly became reserve members of the Avengers, a lifelong dream held by Justice. Angelica eventually learned that her powers were slowly causing her to become sterile and began to use them more sparingly. She later shared her medical problem with the team and Dr. Henry Pym cured her. Justice proposed to her and the couple decided to leave the Avengers to concentrate on their relationship and their education. TD

When Firestar concentrates, she causes microwaves to swirl around her body. She can project them toward a specific target by mentally pushing the waves toward it.
Reed Richards was a scientific genius who dreamt of exploring the stars. His roommate at New York's State University was football star Ben Grimm. Reed shared his dream of building a starship and Grimm, who wanted to become a pilot, promised to help. Grimm subsequently joined the US Air Force and became a test pilot and astronaut. Meanwhile, using his own family's fortune as well as money from the government, Richards built a starship.

**Cosmic Rays**

When the government failed to fund their project, Richards decided to take his prototype ship on a test flight with Grimm at the helm. Richards' fiancée Susan Storm and her teenage brother Johnny came along for the ride. Soon after takeoff, a solar flare bombarded the ship with an unknown form of cosmic radiation that mutated the four passengers and gave them fantastic powers. Richards became Mr. Fantastic, Susan Storm became Invisible Woman, Ben Grimm became the Thing, and Johnny Storm became the Human Torch.

**No Charge**

Pledging to use their new powers for the good of mankind, the four adventurers formed a legal corporation. The Fantastic Four safeguards the planet from human and extraterrestrial threats and continues to make scientific breakthroughs in space exploration. They guard the secrets and inventions that are the source of their powers without charge.

On their first public mission, the Fantastic Four prevented the Skrulls from conquering the world. They later stopped the Jackal and the Thing from destroying Earth and the Miracle Man from Blackout in New York City. They were also responsible for the return of Prince Naboros, the Sub-Mariner, and the Human Torch found them fighting like a team in the Frightful Four and helped restore his lost memory. The FF also uncovered the presence of Doctor Doom and fought him together with the Avengers, the X-Men, and the Fantastic Four. The team battled the Darkseid, the Father of the Universe, and saved Earth from the Annihilation Wave.

**Alternate Worlds**

After a prolonged engagement, Reed Richards married Susan Storm and gave birth to their son Franklin. After a series of adventures, Richards' scientific father Nathan Wildhorn and his alternate-world teenage counterpart Franklin formed an alternate FF team. Reed Richards and Doctor Doom were later transported into a parallel dimension where Reed's alternate self conquered the universe. A few months later, Franklin somehow created a pocket universe called Counter Earth, where he transported his parents to protect them from a psychic threat.

**Bases and Equipment**

The team established its first headquarters on the moon. The base is a 20,000-ton floating ring concealed in outer space by its own magnetic fields. The FF are equipped with a shield of the art-security, a force shield that can be used to capture criminals or with mysterious energy beams that can be used to capture criminals or with mysterious energy beams. The FF also have a time machine that can transport them to any point in time. The FF also have a satellite that is furnished with powerful television equipment that transmits the team's progress to Earth.

**Essential Storylines**

- **Greatest Victories of the Fantastic Four**
  - **Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Team!**
  - **Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Comic Book!**
  - **Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Comic Book!**
- **Fantastic Four: The Essential Collection**
- **Fantastic Four: The Ultimate Collection**
- **Fantastic Four: The Ultimate Collection**

**Doomsday**

Reed Richards eventually had a fantastic battle with Doctor Doom, who threatened to destroy the world and conquer the universe. Temporarily owning every world in Doctor Doom's bad future, the FF destroyed his regime and destroyed all his weapons of mass destruction. The FF later journeyed into another alternate dimension to save the Thing from death and they faced bankruptcy and public disgrace at the hands of the Powerless. They then leave New York City and are rebuilding their reputation as the world's greatest super-team.
**Flux**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Incredible Hulk #17 (August 2000)
**REAL NAME:** Benjamin Tibbetts
**OCCUPATION:** US Army private
**BASE:** Washington, DC
**HEIGHT:** Variable
**WEIGHT:** Variable
**EYES:** Green
**HAIR:** Green
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Exposure to gamma radiation and experimentation by the military gave Flux superhuman strength and durability; however, his physiology is in a constant state of change.

Benjamin Tibbetts enlisted in the US army to fight in the Gulf War and was caught in the blast of gamma bombs dropped by a Black Ops team headed by General Ryker. Tibbetts survived, but unlike the Hulk before him, was forever changed by the gamma radiation. However, his own self-doubts prevented his gamma-abilities from permanently catalyzing, with the result that, as Flux, his body was in a constant state of transformation. Flux was tricked by General Ryker into fighting the Hulk, but lost the battle. He eventually came to realize that he was being used as a pawn, and quit the battlefield.

**Foolkiller**

Paralyzed from the waist down, Ross Everbest's childhood was never going to be easy; then his parents were killed in the Korean War. However, when traveling revivalist preacher Reverend Mike Pike used faith-healing to restore his legs, Everbest's life changed. Joining Pike on the road, Everbest became increasingly angry with the "immoral fools" he encountered every day.

Vowing to rid the world of sinners and dissidents, he became Foolkiller, his murder spree beginning when he discovered Pike indulging in a drunken orgy. Everbest's psychotic reign of death ended when he was killed during a confrontation with the Man-Thing. However, his example was to inspire two more Foolkillers: Greg Salinger, who was eventually locked up in a mental institution; and Kurt Gerhardt, still at large in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Force Works**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Force Works vol. 1 #1 (July 1994)

**FACT FILE**

**MEMBERS AND POWERS**

**CENITY**
Composite being of 100 alien warriors.
**IRON MAN**
Powered armor; flight; energy blasts.
**MOONRAKER**
Emits electrical energy from hands.
**SCARLET WITCH**
Chaos magic.
**SPIDER-WOMAN**
Various spider powers; spine webs of psionic energy.
**US AGENT**
Enhanced strength; expert combatant.
**WONDER MAN**
Body composed of ionic energy.

**BASE**
The Works, Ventura, California

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME:** Ross G. Everbest
**OCCUPATION:** Killer
**BASE:** Mobile
**HEIGHT:** 6 ft
**WEIGHT:** 185 lbs
**EYES:** Blue
**HAIR:** Blond

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Man-Thing #3 (March 1974)

**Powers**

Psychopathic energy gave him greater strength and endurance than an average man of his weight; possessed a raygun, he termed his "purification gun," capable of disintegrating victims.

After the disbanding of the Avengers West Coast, Tony Stark (Iron Man) founded Force Works to be a team with a more aggressive, proactive stance. By using the Scarlet Witch's hex powers, combined with data from a predictive supercomputer, the members of Force Works set out to squash budding threats before they could escalate to crisis levels.

On Force Works' first mission, Wonder Man seemingly died while battling a band of Kree warriors. The team bounced back from this loss by welcoming the alien Cenity into their ranks. Soon, the events known as the Crossing caused Iron Man to appear to turn traitor, behaving irrationally and murderously due to the mind-controlling Immortus. A new hero named Moonrazer (claiming to be Libra) joining the group to distract them from Immortus's larger schemes. Force Works dissolved following the Crossing episode.

**Force Works**

1. Spider-Woman (Julia Carpenter)
2. Wonder Man
3. Iron Man
4. Scarlet Witch
5. U.S. Agent
Forge

The Native American who became known as Forge was not only trained in mystic arts by Naze, a shaman in his Cheyenne tribe, but was also a mutant, with the ability to invent highly-sophisticated mechanical devices.

Forge lost a leg and a hand during the Vietnam War and designed mechanical limbs to replace them. When industrialist Anthony Stark (see Iron Man) stopped making advanced weaponry for the federal government, the US Defense Department began buying new weaponry designs from Forge. The genius inventor was soon at work, creating a scanning device that could detect the presence of mutants and extraterrestrials, and a neutralizing device capable of removing the powers of any superhuman being.

When government agent Henry Peter Gyrich shot the X-Men member codenamed Storm with Forge's device, depriving her of her mutant powers, Forge rescued her. Gyrich later hoped to use the neutralizing device to eliminate the superhuman powers of every being on Earth, but his typically devious plans were thwarted by Forge.

Forgotten One, the

First Appearance: Eternals #13 (July 1977)

Real Name: Unknown; has been known as Gilgamesh

Occupation: Adventurer, agent of the Celestials Base: Mobile

Height: 6 ft 3 in Weight: 269 lbs Eyes: Brown Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Superhuman strength and stamina. Immortality. Full mental control over body. Ability to manipulate matter on a subatomic scale.

A member of the god-like race of Eternals, the Forgotten One has lived for millennia. As punishment for his involvement in the affairs of humanity, for many centuries the Forgotten One was confined to the city of Olympia, only regaining his freedom after foiling an attack by the Deviants, grotesque, distant cousins of humanity. Adopting the name Gilgamesh, the Forgotten One went on to serve with the Avengers, but during a battle with Immortus it is thought to have been killed. Given the power of the Eternals, talk of the Forgotten One's demise may be premature.

Frankenstein's Monster

First Appearance: X-Men #40 (January 1968)

Real Name: None

Occupation: Caretaker, wanderer Base: Bavaria, Germany

Height: 6 ft Weight: 325 lbs Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown

Special Powers/Abilities: The Monster possesses superhuman strength and stamina; able to go into suspended animation when exposed to intense cold.

In the late 18th century, Victor Frankenstein created a living humanoid creature from different corpses. Abandoned by his creator, the Monster learned to speak, and forced Frankenstein to create a mate for him. After Frankenstein killed her, the Monster slew Frankenstein's own bride. The Monster pursued his creator to the Arctic, where Frankenstein perished. The Monster was revived in 1898 and again in modern times. As "Adam," the Monster assisted monster hunter Elsa Bloodstone.

Freedom Force


Base: Washington DC Members and Powers: Mystique (leader), shapechanger [4]; Avalanche, groundshaker [7]; Blob, immovable; Crimso...
**Frightful Four**

The Wizard (Bentley Wittman) was a much-lauded scientist until the similarly brilliant Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards) led the Fantastic Four into the limelight and forced him from the public eye. Insanely jealous, the Wizard committed himself to destroying Reed and his friends, by establishing the Frightful Four team of Super-Villains. The original lineup was Wizard himself, Sandman, Trapster, and Medusa.

The Wizard has changed his team's roster many times, but it has continued to suffer defeats. Even when they took the Fantastic Four off guard—during Reed and Sue Storm's engagement party, for example—the Wizard's team was still beaten. The search for new members led the Wizard to look everywhere, even advertising in the Daily Bugle.

More recently, the Frightful Four's lineup has come to resemble a family—albeit a dysfunctional one—with the Wizard's ex-wife, Salamandra, his daughter, Cole, signing up for duty. Perhaps now the team will finally defeat its sworn enemies, the Fantastic Four. AD

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**Frost, Emma**

Emma Frost was born into a wealthy New England family. Gifted with a superb business brain, at a remarkably young age she was running a multi-billion-dollar corporation specializing in transportation and electronics, which she renamed Frost International. Her great wealth, intelligence, and charisma soon attracted the attention of the Hellfire Club, an elite social organization of powerful politicians and businessmen and women. She joined, becoming a close associate of Sebastian Shaw, who like her was also a mutant. When Frost and Shaw discovered a plot by Hellfire Club leader Edward Buckman to build massive Sentinel robots to hunt down and destroy mutants, they seized control of the organization, renaming it the Inner Circle, and taking the codenames Black King and White Queen.

In her role as the White Queen, Frost was at first an enemy of the X-Men. However, guilt over her inability to prevent the violent deaths of her former students, the Hellions, caused her to offer the Massachusetts Academy, the private school she had headed, to the X-Men's leader Professor X, who turned it into his new School for Gifted Youngsters. Emma Frost now teaches there, instructing the young mutants of Generation X to develop and control their various mutant abilities. MT
Fury, Nick
Agent of SHIELD

Nick Fury grew up on the mean streets of Hell's Kitchen in New York during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Recruited by "Happy" Sam Sawyer, who would serve as his commanding officer for most of the war, Fury enlisted in the US Army at the outbreak of World War II, eventually becoming the Sergeant in command of the Howling Commandos, an elite unit of Able Company given the most dangerous missions.

INFINITY FORMULA

Fury and his Howlers raked up an impressive string of victories over the Axis forces, defeating such foes as Baron von Strucker and his Blitzkrieg Squad, and even the legendary Red Skull himself. Wounded at the end of the war, Fury was injected with an experimental Infinity Formula by Professor Berthold Sternberg. The formula allowed Fury to survive what would have otherwise been fatal injuries (though he did eventually lose his left eye as a result of this injury), but the drawback was that Fury would need to ingest a yearly dosage to survive. On the plus side, the formula greatly extended Fury's natural lifespan—and for decades, Professor Sternberg blackmailed Fury for great sums in order to provide the necessary supply of the drug. After the War, Fury became an operative of the OSS, and then the CIA, earning the rank of Colonel.

THE PEACEKEEPER

When heroes such as the Fantastic Four began to appear, the CIA employed Fury as a liaison between them and the government. Thereafter, thanks to his sterling record, Fury was recruited to head up SHIELD, a worldwide peacekeeping force. SHIELD's first mission was to destroy the terrorist cartel HYDRA, which had been founded by Fury’s old nemesis, Baron von Strucker.

As SHIELD's chief, Fury has battled threats to freedom all over the world, and proved a staunch ally to many of the Earth's Super Heroes, such as Captain America.

Answerable only to those world leaders in the highest positions of authority, Nick Fury stands as an important watchdog on the walls of freedom.

ESSENTIAL STORIES
- Strange Tales #135: Nick Fury is captured by HYDRA to be its Director!
- Nick Fury vs. SHIELD #1-6: Having discovered something deep within his own spy organization, Fury must battle his own men!
- Secret War #1-5: When Fury becomes aware of a clear and present danger to world security, he must organize a team of superhuman and super-tech to save the world.

Resourceful, cool, courageous and committed to the cause, Fury is a super agent, as well as a brilliant leader of others.
Galactus
The Devourer of Worlds

Galactus

FACTFILE

REAL NAME
Galen

OCCUPATION
Consumer of planets

BASE
Mobile

HEIGHT 26 ft 9 in
WEIGHT 18.2 tons
EYES Unknown to humans; appear white
HAIR Unknown; appears black to humans

FIRST APPEARANCE
Fantastic Four #46
(April 1966)

Powers
Manipulates vast cosmic power; can restructure matter and deliver a planet-shattering energy blast; able to teleport across the galaxy and create force fields; travels the galaxy in a warpship the size of the solar system; also pilots a smaller, circular "aircraft."

In the last universe's final moments, Galactus revoked his death.

 Older than the universe itself, the only survivor of the universe that came before our own, Galactus's fate is inextricably bound up with that of the entire cosmos. Although at times he has been a force for good, far more often he has brought doom, destroying whole peoples and consuming entire worlds, for his hunger for energy is insatiable; without it, he would cease to exist.

Galen of Taa
Born Galen, on the paradise world of Taa, Galactus was fated to live in the last days of his universe, just as it was entering the final stages of the Big Crunch. Realizing that his people were doomed, he persuaded them to pilot a vessel into the heart of the Crunch, to die in one last act of heroism. His people perished, but Galactus was somehow saved by the Phoenix Force of his universe.

For billions of years he slept, and when he awoke it was with an immense hunger that could only be sated by consuming the life-energies of a world. At first he searched for uninhabited worlds but his hunger gradually forced him to consume planets populated by sentient races. Galactus's conscience was only eased by a prophecy that he would ultimately make good on the devastation he wrought.

Galactus's Herald
During a search for food, Galactus came upon the planet Zenn-La. To save his homeworld, a young man named Norrin Radd agreed to become Galactus's herald and to search out new planetary fodder. Transformed into the Silver Surfer, Radd's emotions were subdued so he would be willing to identify inhabited worlds for Galactus to consume.

However the Surfer's conscience was reawakened when Galactus turned his greedy attentions to Earth. With Alicia Masters and the Fantastic Four, the Surfer drove him farther away.

Galactus has since attacked the Earth several times, but has been defeated. Nevertheless, he remains as dangerous as ever, with no sign of the earlier hopeful prophecy coming to pass.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
* Fantastic Four #48-50
Galactus discovers the Earth and, for the very first time in his immortal life, experiences defeat.
* Silver Surfer vol. 1 #1
Galactus's first meeting with Norrin Radd, soon to become the Silver Surfer, is detailed.
* Galactus the Devourer #1-6
Galactus is seemingly destroyed by the combined efforts of the Avengers, Fantastic Four, and the Shi'ar Empire.
Gaea

**First Appearance:** Doctor Strange #6 (February 1975)

**Real Name:** Gaea

**Occupation:** Goddess

**Base:** Earth

**Height:** Variable

**Weight:** Variable

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Possesses enormous mystical energies tied to the Earth; commands the forces of nature, such as storms and volcanic activity; power to heal and make things grow; telekinetic abilities; able to bestow magical powers.

Gaea is the embodiment of the spirit of life, growth, harvest and renewal on Earth. One of the foremost of the Elder Gods who ruled the world when mankind was not yet a glimmer, Gaea was the only one not to devolve into a demon, feeding on the spirits of others to survive. Instead, she became literally Mother Earth, and oversaw the growth of all living things. With Odin (see Gods of Asgard), Gaea conceived Thor, who is both of Asgard and of Earth, and the champion of both realms. TB

Gamora

**First Appearance:** Strange Tales Vol. 1 #160 (June 1975)

**Real Name:** Gamora

**Occupation:** Former assassin; member of the Infinity Watch

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft

**Weight:** 170 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Expert gymnast and martial artist; proficient with all known weapons.

Gamora is the sole survivor of the Zen-Whoberi, an alien race wiped out by Magus and his Universal Church of Truth. The mad Titan Thanos rescued Gamora as an infant and trained her to become the deadliest assassin in the galaxy. Thanos killed her after a failed rebellion, and Adam Warlock absorbed her spirit into his soul-gem. She returned in a new form, and granted the Time Gem as a member of the Infinity Watch.

Gardener

**First Appearance:** Marvel Team-Up #65 (March 1977)

**Real Name:** Ord Zyonz

**Occupation:** Botanist

**Base:** The known universe

**Height:** 6 ft 1 in

**Weight:** 300 lbs

**Eyes:** Purple

**Hair:** Gray

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Almost immortal, but not quite; Soul-Gem worn on forehead enables travel between worlds and to other dimensions; Soul-Gem also accelerates growth of plants.

One of the Elders of the Universe, the Gardener belonged to one of the first sentient species to roam the cosmos. Dedicated to horticulture, the Gardener spent his days collecting new seeds and cultivating barren worlds. The Gardener's fate was bound up with the two Soul-Gems that he used to travel between worlds and to accelerate plant growth. Abandoning the first Soul-Gem after using it in battle with the Stranger, the Gardener fought the Death-worshiping Eternal Thanos to retain his second gem, but the battle resulted in his death.

Gamora

**Factfile**

**Real Name:** Remy LeBeau

**Occupation:** Professional thief, adventurer

**Base:** New Orleans, Louisiana; the Xavier Institute, Salem Center, New York State

**Height:** 6 ft 1 in

**Weight:** 175 lbs

**Eyes:** Black (red pupils)

**Hair:** Brown

**First Appearance:** The Uncanny X-Men #255 (August 1990)

Gambit

**Powers**

- Mutant ability to charge small objects with an unknown form of energy: when he throws the objects at a target, they explode on impact.
- More fiery talons cut as Rogue gives Gambit a taste of his own medicine—an energy blast that knocks him off his feet.

The mutant Gambit was abducted soon after his birth by members of the Thieves Guild of New Orleans, and was later adopted by Jean-Luc LeBeau, the head of the Thieves' Guild.

Hoping to make peace between the Thieves' Guild and their rivals, the Assassins' Guild, Remy married the granddaughter of the Assassins Guild's leader. Her brother Julian was opposed to the union and challenged Remy to a duel, in which Remy killed him. Banished from New Orleans, Remy became the international master thief known as Gambit.

Gambit was employed by Mister Sinister to organize the mutant team of assassins called the MARAUDERS, but he was shocked when Sinister sent the Marauders to massacre the Morlocks. Later, Gambit met and aided Storm, who sponsored his membership in the X-Men. He has had a longstanding romantic relationship with his X-Men teammate Rogue. Gambit served in the spinoff team, the X-Force X-Men, before rejoining the main X-Men organization.
**Gargoyle**

In order to secure economic prosperity for his impoverished town, elderly Isaac Christians made a pact with a demonic group called the Six-Fingered Hand. He allowed his essence to be transplanted into the body of a demon, while the demon's mind would reside within his own human body. This demon had formerly been trapped in stone form as a gargoyle, as seen on ancient churches throughout Europe.

Despite his grotesque appearance, the Gargoyle was not truly evil, and after the destruction of his human body, he rebelled against the Six-Fingered Hand and came to be affiliated with the Defenders. When that team disbanded, Christians tagged along with Hellcat and her husband Daimon Hellstrom, eventually becoming the caretaker of Hellstrom's estate.

The Gargoyle should not be confused with a similarly-named Soviet agent (real name: Yuri Topolov) who attempted to capture the Hulk on the eve of the latter's creation and was the father of the Gremlin. TB

**Garokk**

First Appearance: Astonishing Tales #2 (October 1979)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** Sailor, wanderer, god

**Base:** The Savage Land

**Height:** 7 ft

**Weight:** 355 lbs

**Eyes:** (as human) Brown; (as Garokk) Yellow

**Hair:** (as human) Brown; (as Garokk) Virtually none

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can project heat, light, and concussive force from his eyes. Possesses virtual immortality.

Some time in the 15th century, a British sailor from HMS Duke became stranded in the Savage Land. Immersion in a pool of mysterious liquid rendered the sailor virtually immortal. He wandered the world for centuries, and his body took on a gray, rock-like appearance, as if he were a "petrified man."

In recent times, the Petrified Man returned to the Savage Land, where he was worshipped by the Sun People as the incarnation of their god Garokk. As Garokk he regards himself as the guardian of the Savage Land, although his insanity and "offensive capability" makes him a thoroughly unpredictable menace. PS

**Gateway**

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #227 (March, 1988)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** None known

**Base:** Australia

**Height:** 4 ft 6 in

**Weight:** 80 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Gray-black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Ability to open teleportation doorways, transdimensional clarivoyant.

The mysterious, silent Gateway is an Australian aborigine with the mutant ability to open teleportation doorways. The outlaw Reavers forced Gateway to assist them in their crimes by threatening to destroy an aborigine sacred site. The X-Men later evicted the Reavers, operating from their headquarters for a time, and Gateway became an unofficial member. Gateway has a special connection to the Generation X member M, and is an ancestor of the X-Man called Bishop. DW
**Gatherers**

The Gatherers serve Proctor, an extra-dimensional being. Each member of the Gatherers' race comes from an alternate Earth in another dimension. On each of their Earths, the Gatherers were Avengers. Ako, on each of their Earths, Servis, a member of the Eternals, went mad and killed everyone. The Gatherers were the last survivors of their home worlds. They were recruited by Proctor to destroy Servis and the Avengers of Earth-616. But in order for the Gatherers to exist on Earth-616, they had to kill their own counterpart on Earth-616. This process was known as “gathering.” The Gatherers infiltrated the Avengers’ mansion on Earth-616 several times. In the final battle, Proctor tried to destroy all realities, but Thunderstrike hit Proctor with a bolt of lightning, and all the Gatherers collapsed.

**First Appearance**
Avengers #355 (October 1992)

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**Gemini**

Twin brothers Joshua and Damian Link followed opposite paths: Joshua became a street hoodlum, while Damian joined the police force. Exposure to experimental rays forged a psychic connection between the two. At first, the connection worked both ways, but Joshua soon learned how to take complete control of Damian, both physically and mentally. Operating from his prison cell, he forced his brother to become the villainous Gemini, leaving Damian with no memory of the crimes he committed.

Gemini worked as a criminal kingpin for the Zodiac Cartel, aiding their plot to kill everyone in Manhattan born under the Gemini sign. Life model decoys sent by the Maggia later killed Gemini and most other Zodiac members.

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**Generation X**

As one generation of X-Men matures so another steps forward, in this case Generation X. Having experienced danger in the form of the alien collective intelligence, Phalanx, when the members of Generation X banded together they had a fair idea what fate had in store. Accepted by the Xavier Institute's new mutant high school at Massachusetts Academy, the team leaned to hone its abilities and were introduced to Professor X's vision of the future. While at the Academy, the members of Generation X faced various foes, including Empath, who preyed on the morose of mutants. The team members were outed to the world as mutants and, with those in charge of the school—Emma Frost and Scout Cassidy—becoming increasingly unstable, they decided to go their separate ways.

**First Appearance**
Generation X #1 (November 1994)
**Genoshans**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Uncanny X-Men #235 (October 1988)

**BASE** The island of Genosha, Indian Ocean

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** The inhabitants of Genosha were a mixture of ordinary humans and those with mutant abilities. The latter were called "Mutates" and were conditioned to fulfill specific tasks tailored to their particular mutant ability. From time to time Mutates managed to rebel against their human masters.

The Genoshans live on the island of Genosha located near the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. Their economy was based on exploiting the labors of enslaved mutants. Genoshan adolescents were tested to see if they had mutant abilities. Those that did were genetically engineered to alter or enhance their abilities, had numbers tattooed on their foreheads, and lost their personal identities. A militia called the Magistrates enforced the enslavement laws and hunted down mutants who tried to escape.

The UN placed Magneto in charge of the Genoshan government, but a mutant called the Zealot leads a faction that opposes his rule.

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**Ghost Rider**

Centuries ago, Mephisto enslaved a demon, Zarathos. In the 18th century, Mephisto used a shard of the Medallion of Power to transform Noble Kale into a "spirit of vengeance," the Ghost Rider. Noble's descendant Naomi Kale and her husband, Barton Blaze, had three children, John, Daniel and Barbara. After Barton's death, John was raised by "Crash" Simpson, who taught John to become a stunt motorcyclist like himself.

Posing as "Satan," Mephisto offered to cure Simpson of a fatal disease in exchange for Blaze's soul. Simpson died performing a stunt and Mephisto bonded Zarathos to Blaze's body, causing him to transform into Ghost Rider. Blaze was freed of the curse when Zarathos became trapped in a "crystal of souls."

When criminals wounded Barbara Ketch, her brother Dan carried her to a junkyard. With Barbara's innocent blood on his hand, Dan touched a mysterious motorcycle and became Ghost Rider II.

Dan and John Blaze later learned they were brothers. John was again bonded to Zarathos and became a Ghost Rider once more.

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**Ghaur**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Eternals Vol. II #2 (November 1988)

**REAL NAME** Ghaur

**OCCUPATION** Priesthood

**BASE** "City of Toads," Deviant Lemuria

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 4 in

**WEIGHT** 210 lbs

**EYES** Yellow

**HAIR** Blue-Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** The extent of Ghaur's power is currently unknown.

The product of a centuries-long breeding programme run by Deviant Priests, Ghaur came to lead the priests' order. His ambition did not end there, for Ghaur was determined to rule the Deviant race and to challenge the might of the alien Celestials themselves. These hubristic ambitions almost led to his death. For a time his disembodied consciousness floated through space, until a passing Silver Surfer inadvertently enabled him to regain corporeal form. Becoming a servant of the Elder God, Set, Ghaur sought to enable Set's return to Earth but his efforts came to naught. His whereabouts are currently unknown.
**Giant-Man**

**First Appearance:** Avengers Vol. 1 #22 (September 1966)
**Real Name:** William Foster
**Occupation:** Adventurer
**Base:** Los Angeles
**Height:** 6 ft 10 in
**Weight:** 200 lbs
**Eyes:** Brown
**Hair:** Black
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Could grow in size up to a maximum height of 25 ft; gained proportional strength as his size increased.

Dr. Hank Pym (the first Ant-Man) discovered how to use his "Pym particles" to increase his size and became the first Giant-Man. His lab assistant, Bill Foster, duplicated the growth serum and became a crimefighter with Dr. Pym's encouragement. Foster became Black Goliath, and fell victim to radiation fighting Atom-Smasher. He later became the second Giant-Man, and Spider-Woman (Jessica Drew) cured his radiation sickness with a blood transfusion. Foster lost his size-changing abilities in the process, though they have returned sporadically.

**Gladiator**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #116 (July 1966)
**Real Name:** Melvin Potter
**Occupation:** Ex-criminal
**Base:** New York City
**Height:** 6 ft 6 in
**Weight:** 300 lbs
**Eyes:** Blue
**Hair:** None
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Skilled athlete and combatant; wore armor suit with saw blades in gauntlets.

When Foggy Nelson rented a Daredevil outfit from Melvin Potter's costume shop, Potter agreed to dress up like a Super-Villain to ambush Foggy. But Potter acquired a taste for crime, becoming the Gladiator and serving with Electro's Emisisaries of Evil and the Maggia. After numerous defeats, usually at the hands of Daredevil, Gladiator reformed and married, and now has a young daughter. He still owns the Spotlight Costume Shop. Melvin Potter is not to be confused with the alien Gladiator who leads the Shi'ar Imperial Guard.

**Globo**

**First Appearance:** Incredible Hulk #121
**Real Name:** Joe Timms
**Occupation:** Petty thief, swamp creature
**Base:** Florida Everglades
**Height:** 6 ft 6 in
**Weight:** 300 lbs
**Eyes:** Brown
**Hair:** None
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Superhumanly strong, the Globo's mutated swampy body can withstand severe attacks; enhanced speed and stamina; not particularly intelligent.

Escaping prison to be with his dying wife, Joe Timms fled into the Florida Everglades only to drown in the marshes. Decades later the Hulk accidentally split radioactive waste there and Timms was resurrected as the swamp-like creature, the Globo. Mistaking Betty Ross (see Banner, Betty) for his wife, the Globo battled the Hulk for her. He was more than a match for the emerald ogre—every blow the Hulk struck merely sank into the Globo's muddy body. Realising the radioactive marsh might hurt Betty, the Globo gave her up, disappearing into the swamp where some say he walks to this day.

**Gideon**

**First Appearance:** New Mutants #96 (February 1991)
**Real Name:** Gideon
**Occupation:** CEO of Orphahn Industries
**Base:** Denver, Colorado
**Height:** 6 ft 8 in
**Weight:** 205 lbs
**Eyes:** Blue
**Hair:** Green
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Mutant ability to duplicate the superhuman powers of others by aligning himself with their energy signatures. He also had a greatly extended lifespan.

A member of the long-lived mutants who call themselves the Externals, Gideon was a power broker who called the hawks of big business his natural habitat. Utterly corrupt, Gideon attempted to take Roberto DaCosta, the New Mutant known as Sunspot, under his wing, and turn him into his protégé. However his attempts to turn Sunspot into an External like himself met with failure, and he soon turned his attentions to other pursuits. Gideon was subsequently slain by the Externals' vampire Selene, who had embarked on a vendetta against her fellow Externals.

**Glenn, Heather**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #126 (October 1975)
**Real Name:** Heather Glenn
**Occupation:** Secretary; owner of Glenn Industries (after her father's death)
**Base:** New York City
**Height:** 5 ft 6 in
**Weight:** 120 lbs
**Eyes:** Blue
**Hair:** Black
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Proficient secretarial skills; Heather had no superpowers.

The daughter of Maxwell Glenn, owner of Glenn Industries, Heather became romantically involved with lawyer Matthew Murdock. Zebediah Killgrave, the Purple Man, used his mind-controlling powers to force Maxwell Glenn to commit crimes. Murdock prosecuted Maxwell Glenn, who killed himself. Heather blamed Murdock for her father's death; she then discovered that he was the crimefighter Daredevil. Heather and Murdock were reconciled but, while drunk, Heather revealed Daredevil's identity to his enemy Tarkintron Brown. When Murdock broke up with Heather, she committed suicide, as her father had.

**Glorian**

**First Appearance:** Incredible Hulk #161 (September 1976)
**Real Name:** Thomas Gideon
**Occupation:** Apprentice dream-shaper
**Base:** Known universe
**Height:** 5 ft 9 in
**Weight:** 155 lbs
**Eyes:** Pink
**Hair:** Orange
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Glorian can control thoughts, small speed-of-light particles, forming them into rainbow-shaped bridges allowing him to travel across worlds or star systems at light speed. He can also mentally redefine small pockets of reality for short periods of time.

Thomas Gideon and his parents were flying in a private jet when it was caught in the explosion of a Russian nuclear test. Thomas alone survived radiation poisoning, thanks to the Shaper of Worlds, who taught Thomas, now called Glorian, to manipulate reality and dreams. On Earth, Glorian was saved by the Hulk from the demon Satannish. Glorian later aided Generation X when they were lost at sea.
The Gods of Asgard are a powerful race of beings who live in a dimension called Asgard, a small, otherdimensional planetary body whose laws of physics are different from the planets we know in the Earth realm. Asgard is also home to five other races—Giants, Dwarves, Elves, Trolls, and Demons. The Gods of Asgard are the most human-looking and powerful of the six races of Asgard.

NINE WORLDS

All Asgardian refer to the known universe as the "Nine Worlds of Asgard." Four of these worlds—Asgard, home of the gods, Svartalfheim, home of the Asgardian's sister race called the Vanir; Nidavellir, home of the Dwarves; and Alfheim, home of the Elves—are actually part of the Asgard realm. The other five worlds exist in separate dimensions connected by an unknown number of otherdimensional nexuses. They are Midgard, the Asgardian name for Earth, home of humanity; Jotunheim, home of the giants; Niflheim, home of the dark elves; Hel, land of the dead; and It's an alien world Niflheim, the bonus realm of the Brimhverdord dead, and Muspelheim, land of the fire demons and home to the enemies of the Gods of Asgard's most deadly enemy.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

The origin of the Gods of Asgard is not clearly known, but it believed that unlike the other races of the realm, the gods are not native to Asgard. Legend has it that they were born on Earth, but moved to Asgard at some time in the far distant past. The Rainbow Bridge, also known as Bifrost—some of the interdimensional nexuses—connects Asgard to Earth. Although they look like humans, the Gods of Asgard possess superhuman physical abilities. They are extremely long-lived (although not immortal, unlike their Olympian counterparts), and age at an extremely slow pace once they reach adulthood. Their skin and bones are three times as dense as that of a human and are invulnerable to a degree, to physical attack. They possess great strength (able to lift 30 tons) and, due to their density, weigh far more than humans of comparable size. The Gods of Asgard are immune to all diseases found on Earth and their metabolism gives them superhuman endurance while performing physical activities. All Asgardians are born with the potential to use and control mystical energies, although only a few (such as Loki) have developed this power to any significant degree.

ODIN, THOR, AND LOKI

Loki, also called Njorul, is the leader of the Gods of Asgard. Odin is the grandson of Buri, the first of the Asgardians. He is the son of the God Bor and Bestia, of the race of frost giants. For many ages, Odin has ruled Asgard wisely and effectively. Odin wields the enchanted, three-headed spear Gungnir ("The Spear of Horses"), which returns to his hand when thrown, and he travels through space in Skipbladnir, a Viking-style longboat with enchanted sails and oars.

SUN OF ODIN

Although Odin made the Asgardian Goddess Frigg the queen, he desired a son that would combine the power of Asgard and Earth, and to be named with Gag, the patron Goddess of Earth, who bore him Thor, the God of Thunder, Odin's favorite son. However, from the time Thor was an infant, he was raised in Asgard by Frigg, whom he believed to be his mother. When Thor was eight, Odin sent him to Midgard, land of the Dwarves, to ask them to create treasuries for Asgard's rulers. Among the objects they created was the hammer Mjolnir, forged of the mystical metal Urn. Odin enchanted the hammer so that only one worthy of wielding such a powerful weapon could lift it. He hoped that Thor would be the one day be that one.

HEROIC DEEDS

For the next eight years Thor returns to become powerful enough and worthy enough to possess Mjolnir, doing many heroic deeds to prove his valor. When Thor reached the age of sixteen, Odin finally presented him with the mighty hammer, and Thor became Asgard's greatest warrior. Odin adopted Loki, who, although raised alongside Thor, quickly turned to sorcery and earned the nickname, "God of Mischief." Bitterly jealous of Thor, Loki vowed to destroy him and seize the throne of Asgard. Soon the God of Mischief became known as the God of Evil.
The Path of the Gods enabled the Egyptian deities to visit Earth and meddle in human affairs.

CLASH OF THE GODS

Although essentially an extended family, the Heliopolitan gods were somewhat dysfunctional. When Osiris, God of the Dead, was appointed ruler of the Gods his younger brother Seth was overwhelmed with jealousy—the tensions between the pair were to reverberate far beyond their celestial home. Seth's first solution was drastic—he killed Osiris, slicing up his body and scattering the pieces. When Osiris' wife and son—Isis and Horus—managed to resurrect him, Seth employed a different tactic, imprisoning all three in a pyramid. Although trapped there for millennia, Osiris and Isis eventually made the pyramid appear in the 20th century. This attracted the attention of the Asgardian gods Thor and Odin but their efforts to free their fellow immortals did not prove straightforward. Odin was forced to join battle with Seth, their struggle finally culminating in the severing of Seth's left hand.

Continuing Menaces

Seth has attempted time and again to destroy all life in the multiverse. An alliance of evil let loose the demonic Demogorge the God-Eater. Only when the entity attempted to consume Thor was its path of destruction brought to an end. On a separate occasion, Seth drained the energies of his fellow gods and invaded Asgard. He was only defeated by the combined forces of the Avengers and Earth Force. Thanos also threatened the universe with his Infinity Gauntlet. Osiris attended a Council of the Gods to discuss their response. Fortunately, Thanos was thwarted by other entities.

Although the time of the Heliopolitan Gods is now long over, they and their petty squabbles still spill over into human affairs.
Although for centuries they were worshipped by the Greeks it remains unclear where the Gods of Olympus first originated — was it on Earth or in the pocket dimension of Olympus where they currently reside? Wherever they came from, their influence on this planet has faded over the last two millennia, although a handful of their number still walk the Earth.

THE GOLDEN AGE

Children of the Titans, the first generation of the Olympian Gods were imprisoned in the underworld realm of Tartarus as soon as they were born, their father Cronus fearing that they would eventually overthrow him. His anxiety proved to be well founded: the last of his children, Zeus, avoided being incarcerated and, when he was old enough, freed his siblings and led a ten-year-long war against Cronus.

Victorious, Zeus and his siblings became the Gods of Olympus, worshipped by peoples across Europe. It was only when Christianity began to dominate the Western world that the Gods chose to withdraw to the Olympus dimension and began to reduce their ties with the mortal realm.

Although most of the Gods departed a handful either remained on the Earth or returned, time and again, in the years that followed. Of those that stayed on Earth, Neptune (or Poseidon, as the Greeks called him) remained to watch over and be worshipped by the Atlanteans, while Hercules and Venus (Aphrodite to the Greeks) spent time living with mortals.

THIS MORTAL LIFE

In 1948 Venus arrived in the US, taking up a post as an editor at Beauty Magazine. In between writing features, she spent her days bringing couples together, warding off suitors, and fooling various sinister plots. She then became a college professor at UCLA.

Hercules became friends with the god Thor and they fought with the Avengers, against the Triumvirate of Terror and the Red Guardian. However, Venus’ and Hercules’ presence on the Earth did not overly please Zeus, ruler of the Olympian Gods. He set tests for Venus forcing her to prove that being on the planet was worthwhile. Zeus’ treatment of Hercules was much harsher; he stripped Hercules of his immortality and refused to let him return to Olympus. Fortunately for humanity, despite Zeus’ isolationist tendencies it is likely that these ancient Gods will continue to walk amongst ordinary humans for a great many more years. A.D.
Goldbug

First Appearance: Luke Cage, Power Man #41 (March 1977)

Real Name: Unrevealed

Occupation: Criminal

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 8 in

Weight: 170 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blond

Special Powers/Abilities: Battlesuit contains electrically-powered exoskeleton that amplifies strength. "Gold-gun" shoots gold-colored dust that hardens on contact; uses "bugship" hovercraft and submarine.

Goldbug is a thief obsessed with gold. Early in his career he clashed with Luke Cage, Power Man, and Thunderbolt. Later, Goldbug captured the Hulk as part of his plan to find and conquer the legendary city of El Dorado in South America. In El Dorado, Goldbug teamed up with the Hulk to defeat the subterranean conqueror Tyranus. He then sought an alliance with the criminal Maggia, but was thwarted by the intervention of Spider-Man. Sometime afterwards, the Goldbug attempted to steal underwater gold but was foiled by Namor, the Sub-Mariner.

Golden Archer

First Appearance: Avengers #141 (November 1976)

Real Name: Wyatt McDonald

Occupation: Government agent, former cab driver

Base: Squadron City

Height: 6 ft 3 in

Weight: 150 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Expert archer who shot arrows with pin-point accuracy. Besides conventional arrows used a chemical mine arrow, a poison arrow, and a flash arrow.

Wyatt McDonald practiced until he became an expert archer. Deciding to use his skills as a costumed crimefighter he adopted the name Hawkeye. McDonald was the first recruit of the Squadron Supreme, a team of Super Heroes who banded together to protect their world, known as "Earth-S." He later changed his name to Golden Archer. Eventually he was kicked out of the Squadron Supreme for using a Behavior Modification Machine on Lady Lark. He then joined Nightwing's Redeemers as Black Archer and was killed battling Blue Eagle.

Golddigger

First Appearance: Captain America #359 (April 1990)

Real Name: Angela Golden

Occupation: Enforcer

Base: New Orleans, Louisiana

Height/Weight: Unknown

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blonde

Special Powers/Abilities: Skilled hand-to-hand combatant.

Little is known about the woman known as Golddigger, save that she sells her skills to the highest bidder, and that she specializes in sneak attacks. She first crossed swords with Captain America in the service of Superta, who plotted to sterilize the world. Thereafter, she came to be employed by Damon Dran as an enforcer for his child slavery ring. But when Captain America and the brutal hero called Americop demolished Dran's operation, Golddigger attempted to flee in a helicopter, which was subsequently shot down. No one knows whether she truly perished in the crash.

Grandmaster

First Appearance: Avengers Vol. 1 #69 (October 1969)

Real Name: En Dwi Gast

Occupation: Game player

Base: Mobile throughout the universe

Height: 7 ft 1 in

Weight: 240 lbs

Eyes: Red (no visible pupils)

Hair: White (pale blue skin)

Special Powers/Abilities: The power of life and death, 20 arms to exercise.

The Grandmaster has an encyclopedic knowledge and comprehension of games and game theory played throughout the universe. Possesses a cosmic life force and is immune to aging, disease, or injury. Can levitate, project energy blasts, and travel through time, space, and alternate dimensions with the speed of thought. He can also rearrange matter on a planetary scale.

Like his kinsman, the Collector, the Grandmaster is one of the oldest living beings in the universe and a survivor of an intelligent extraterrestrial race that evolved shortly after the "Big Bang" that first created this universe. To combat the unending boredom of immortality, the Grandmaster has spent eons amusing himself by engaging in various games, tournaments, and contests. He particularly relishes challenging other cosmic beings to games of skill and chance for incredibly high stakes.

Grandmaster discovered the alternate Earth inhabited by the Squadron Supreme and created duplicates of these heroes which he pitted against the Avengers. He later decided to use Earth as a breeding ground for superhuman pawns for his games, but gave up this plan when he lost a bet to Daredevil. He also challenged Death to a series of games, resulting in the banning of all the Elders of the Universe from her kingdom, making them all virtually immortal. He also once joined with the other Elders in a plot to kill Galactus, but that failed owing to intervention by the Silver Surfer.
Gorgon

**First Appearance:** Fantastic Four Vol. 1 (November 1965)

**Real Name:** Revealed

**Occupation:** Administrator

**Base:** Attilan, Blue Area, the Moon

**Height:** 6 ft 5 in

**Weight:** 450 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Immensely powerful legs and hooves give her the ability to create seismic tremors.

Gorgon is a member of the Inhuman royal family and a cousin of their ruler, Black Bolt. Like all Inhumans, Gorgon underwent exposure to the mutagenic Terrigen mist as a youth and gained hooves in place of feet, complete with kinetic-release power capable of creating seismic tremors measuring up to 7.5 on the Richter scale. Gorgon fled Attilan during the Inhumans’ war against the Trikon, wandering Earth and encountering the Fantastic Four. Later, Gorgon and Karnak teamed with Daredevil in a search for Black Bolt’s son. He is not to be confused with the Japanese villain called Gorgon who was recently killed by Wolverine.

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Grant, Gloria

Model Glory Grant befriended Peter Parker when they both lived in an apartment house on Manhattan’s Lower West Side. Grant was looking for work, and Peter, a freelance photographer for the Daily Bugle, suggested she apply to be the paper’s publisher J. Jonah Jameson’s secretary, a post recently vacated by Betty Brant Leeds. The irascible Jameson liked Grant and she became Brant’s replacement. Mexican criminal Eduardo Lobo seduced Grant to obtain the Bugle’s files on his enemy, the Kingpin; in time, Grant and Lobo fell genuinely in love. During a battle between Spider-Man and Lobo, Grant tried to shoot Spider-Man, but shot and killed Lobo instead. Later, Grant was possessed by the spirit of the voodoo sorceress Calypso as part of the latter’s plan to return to life. Grant has enjoyed a more successful romantic relationship with Randy Robertson, Joe’s son.

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Graviton

**First Appearance:** Avengers Vol. 1 #158 (April 1977)

**Real Name:** Franklin Hall

**Occupation:** Criminal

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 11 in

**Weight:** 200 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Control over gravity allows Graviton to levitate objects, generate force fields and shockwaves, and pin opponents to the ground.

Franklin Hall, a Canadian researcher, gained absolute control over gravity in an accident involving a particle accelerator. Dubbing himself Graviton, he raised the laboratory thousands of feet in the air in a demonstration of his power, until put in his place by the Avengers.

In subsequent adventures, Graviton fought the Thunderbolts, Spider-Man, and the West Coast Avengers (see Avengers, West Coast), and was the object of worship by the alien Pha during a stay in an alternate dimension. Despite his abilities, Graviton has a deep-seated need for approval that makes him both insecure and megalomaniacal.

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Great Lakes Avengers

Formed by Craig Hollis (Mr. Immortal) the GLA was a self-proclaimed branch of the Avengers based in Wisconsin. Much mocked in the press and by other Super Heroes for their bizarre powers, lack of common sense, and high mortality rate, the GLA insisted on remaining together. Even when the team saved the entire Multiverse from destruction their success was totally overlooked on the evening news. The group’s bills are met by Big Bertha, whose alter ego, superhero Ashley Crawford, earns large sums modelling. Other misfit members have included: Squirrel Girl, Leather Boy, Monkey Joe, Tippy-Toe and Grasshopper, A.D.
GREEN GOBLIN
Spider-Man’s greatest enemy

For almost as long as there has been a Spider-Man, so too has the Green Goblin existed. Spider-Man’s arch nemesis, the Green Goblin is the insane, malevolent alter ego of that once-respectable industrialist, Norman Osborn. Despite their mutual antagonism, the relationship between the pair is complex. Although the Green Goblin loathes and resents Spider-Man’s very existence, for a long time Norman Osborn and Peter Parker shared a deep mutual respect and admiration. Osborn saw in the orphaned Peter the son he really wanted. Osborn traveled to Europe, where he took control of a secret society known as the Serpent. At the same time he watched over Gwen’s children, tending to their physical needs while warping their minds against Peter Parker by convincing them that Peter was their father and had abandoned them.

Genesis of the Goblin

Long before his transformation into the Green Goblin, Norman Osborn was an ambitious businessman, quite prepared to sacrifice others on the altar of his own success. The co-founder of chemical company Oscorp, Osborn gained total control by framing his business partner, Professor Mendel Stromm, for embezzlement. The Goblin Formula that was to prove Osborn’s undoing was a concoction detailed in the professor’s notes, but it was Osborn’s attempt to manufacture it for himself that resulted in the explosion exploding in his face. As a result of this explosion, Osborn’s strength, stamina and reflexes were enhanced but his sanity began to erode. As the Green Goblin, Osborn wished to lead New York’s criminal underworld and he set out to gain the respect of the key gang by destroying Spider-Man. He developed high-tech weaponry specifically designed to achieve this end. Despite discovering Spider-Man’s true identity, the Green Goblin was ultimately defeated; an electric shock, sustained during a battle with the web-slinger, caused Osborn to regain his sanity and lose all memory of his malevolent alter ego. Peter Parker judged that it was better to allow Osborn to resume his old life.

Striking at Spider-Man

Osborn’s regained sanity proved fragile. Time and again his inner demon—the Green Goblin—resurfaced, and

Although Peter repeatedly brought Osborn back to reality, the businesswoman’s grip on sanity became more and more tenuous. During this period, Peter’s then-girlfriend, Green Stacy, met Osborn and, overwhelmed by his charisma, became pregnant by him. Nine months later, she gave birth to twins, Gabriel and Sarah. In France, keeping their existence a secret from Peter. Following Gwen’s return to New York, an angry altercation between her and a desperately undaunted Osborn served to destabilize him further. Determined to punish both her and Spider-Man, when Osborn reverted to the Green Goblin he kidnapped Gwen and carried her to the top of the Brooklyn Bridge.

Other Green Goblins

In becoming the Green Goblin, Norman Osborn is frequently portrayed as a maddeningly unreliable and erratic villain. His methods are always unpredictable. In some stories, Harry Osborn gains control of the Green Goblin and attempts to destroy Spider-Man. In others, Harry eventually gets his father’s legacy behind him, even setting off with a new suit of armor. He even periodic sends bodies back to the Goblin formula. Typically, his body was killed by the deadly concoction. Toss, the Goblin creature is based on non-Osborn, with Peter Pyschotic, Backhand, and Phil London, the user of the true beard. In most cases, the Goblin formula to save his own life. Now the fifth Green Goblin, Gabriel Black, the son of the real Osborn and Gwen Stacy, is the current Goblin. But Peter’s strength of personality proved to be irresistible.

As the war has continued, Osborn has gone to ground but Peter’s recent discovery of Gabriel and Sarah’s existence has shown that this unhinged criminal mastermind still has the ability to cause deep harm. It may well be that these fates are forever intertwined. For as long as there is a Spider-Man, there will always be an evil Green Goblin. A.D.
**GREMLIN**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Incredible Hulk vol. 2 #187 (May 1975)

**REAL NAME:** Unrevealed

**OCCUPATION:** Scientist, BASE: A secret base in Khyber, somewhere in the Arctic and Siberia

**HEIGHT:** 4 ft 6 in
**WEIGHT:** 215 lbs
**EYES:** Blue
**HAIR:** None

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Omnidisciplinarian, psionic manipulator, genius-level intelligence, baresuit gave superhuman strength.

The Gremlin is the son of the dead Soviet scientist known as the Gargoyle, who participated in atomic tests that vastly increased his intelligence but scarred his face and body. The Gargoyle died following an encounter with Bruce Banner, the Hulk. The Gremlin’s intelligence was so great that he achieved a position of authority while only a child. Unfairly blaming the Hulk for his father’s death, the Gremlin frequently tried to destroy him. Wearing a battlesuit similar to Titanium Man, he was eventually killed in a battle with Iron Man. TD

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**GREY GARGOYLE**

French chemist Pierre Paul Duval inadvertently spilled a potion that had been contaminated by an unknown organic substance onto his right hand. To his astonishment, his right hand permanently transformed into stone; however, he could still move it as if it were ordinary flesh. When Duval discovered that he could transform his entire body into mobile, living stone, he decided to become a costumed criminal named the Grey Gargoyle.

Hoping to learn the secret of immortality, the Grey Gargoyle battled Thor, who remains his principal enemy. Over the years, the Gargoyle has also contend against Iron Man, Captain America, Spider-Man, the Hulk, the Avengers and the Fantastic Four.

The Grey Gargoyle also briefly served as a member of Baron Zemo’s Masters of Evil.

For a time the Grey Gargoyle used a secret identity as “sculptor” Paul St. Pictre, transforming real people into supposed stone sculptures. PS

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**GUARDIAN**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** X-Men #109 (February 1973)

**REAL NAME:** James MacDonald Hudson

**OCCUPATION:** Scientist, adventurer

**BASE:** Canada (Dept. H)

**HEIGHT:** 6 ft 2 in
**WEIGHT:** 190 lbs
**EYES:** Blue
**HAIR:** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Electromagnetic battlefield, allows him to fly and discharge force bolts; also uses gravity to dangle him in a westward direction at 1000 mph.

James MacDonald Hudson stole the prototype battlesuit he was developing when he discovered that his employers, Am-Can Petro-Chemical, intended to turn it over to the US military. Hudson took the suit to the Canadian government, and proposed they create a superhuman team like the Fantastic Four. This team became Alpha Flight, led by Hudson (codename Vindicator). Eventually, Alpha Flight was suspended by the Canadian government, but its members remained together. Hudson took the name Guardian to symbolize his new role. Despite many travails, including his seeming death and resurrection, Hudson continues to lead Alpha Flight to this day. TD
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

In an alternate timeline of the 31st century, the Guardians of the Galaxy act as protectors of the Milky Way. The group formed in response to the Badon invasion of 3007, which decimated Pluto, Mercury, Jupiter, and Earth. The Guardians defeated the Badon by 3015, then became adventurers. They have traveled to Earth’s current reality several times, becoming honorary members of the Avengers. The Guardians’ adventures in their own time included a quest for Captain America’s shield. At this time, Vance Astrofik convinced his younger self to follow a different path, leading to his mainstream version becoming Marvel Boy (later Justice). Other teammates have included Hollywood (a future Wonder Man), the feline Talon, the shapeshifting Skrull Replica, a time-traveling Yellowjacket II, and the former herald of Galactus, Firelord. DW

GUARDSMAN

Kevin O’Brien headed up Stark Industries’ research department and aided Iron Man against the Spymaster and the Espionage Elist. After revealing that he was Iron Man, Stark asked O’Brien to substitute for him if the need arose. That day came before O’Brien’s Guardians armor had been fully tested. Stark was kidnapped; O’Brien put on his armor, but its circuitry malfunctioned, stimulating areas of O’Brien’s brain responsible for rage and jealousy. Guardsman and Iron Man clashed and Kevin was accidentally killed. Furious, Kevin’s brother Michael obtained the Guardians armor, and fought Stark. They have since become reconciled, and Michael led a Guardians force guarding the high-tech Vault prison. A D

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

FACTFILE
NOTABLE MEMBERS
AND POWERS
MAJOR VICTORY
Vance Astrofik Psychokinesis, mental force blasts.
ALETA
Can create objects of solid light.
CHARLIE-27
Enhanced strength and stamina.
MARTINEX
Enhanced strength, projection of heat and cold.
WIKKI
Resistant to heat and bright light, sharpshooter.
STARHAWK
Flight, enhanced strength, energy projection.
YONDU
Skilled archer, mystical sensory abilities.
BASE
Mobile
FIRST APPEARANCE
Marvel Super Heroes Vol. 1 #18
(January 1969)

GYRICH

FACTFILE
REAL NAME
Kevin O’Brien
OCCUPATION
Research Scientist
BASE
Long Island, New York
HEIGHT 5 ft. 10 in
WEIGHT 195 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Red
FIRST APPEARANCE
Iron Man #43
(November 1971)

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

FACTFILE
REAL NAME
Henry Peter Gyrich
OCCUPATION
Adventurer
BASE Washington, DC
HEIGHT 6 ft 8 in
WEIGHT 225 lbs
EYES Green
HAIR Red
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES
Gyrich is a normal human being with no superhuman powers; a cunning, ruthless strategist and highly efficient administrator.

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When Jean Grey was ten years old, her best friend, Annie Richardson, was hit by an automobile. Jean’s anguish as she held her friend activated her mutant telepathic powers, and Jean thus shared Annie’s emotions as she died. Traumatized, Jean suffered from deep depression and was unable to control her new telepathic powers.

**MARVEL GIRL**

When Jean was eleven, her parents turned to Professor Charles Xavier (see Professor X) for help. Xavier created psychic shields in Jean’s mind to prevent her from utilizing her telepathic powers until she was mature enough to control them. He also began training her telekinetic ability to mentally manipulate objects. As a teenager, Jean enrolled in Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters, becoming the fifth member of the original X-Men, the team of young mutants whom Xavier was training to combat mutant menaces to humanity. Grey was given the codename “Marvel Girl.”

Grey and her fellow student Scott Summers (Cyclops) quickly fell in love, although they did not reveal their feelings to each other for a long time. After she had trained for years at his school, Xavier finally enabled Grey to use her telepathic powers.

Following Xavier’s recruitment of a new class of X-Men, Grey left the team. However, soon afterwards she and other X-Men were abducted by Sentinels to a space station orbiting the Earth. The X-Men had to escape back to Earth in a space shuttle during a solar radiation storm. Grey volunteered to pilot the shuttle, although she had to sit in a section without sufficient radiation shielding. Grey’s powers proved insufficient to hold back the intense radiation, and it began killing her.

**PHOENIX FORCE**

A sentient cosmic entity of limitless power, the Phoenix Force, made contact with the dying Grey. The Phoenix Force created a human host body for itself that was a duplicate of Grey’s, and infused it with a portion of her consciousness. The Phoenix Force placed Grey’s original body into suspended animation within a large cocoon, in which it would slowly heal. When the shuttle crash-landed in Jamaica Bay, the Phoenix Force’s new host rose from the water, declaring herself to be Phoenix. The X-Men believed that Phoenix was the real Jean Grey, and Phoenix/Grey joined the team.

The X-Men’s old foe the criminal Mastermind began manipulating Phoenix/Grey’s mind to prove his worthiness to join the Inner Circle of the...
Inevitably, Grey and the other X-Factor founders rejoined the X-Men.

Finally, Jean Grey and Scott Summers were married, with the other X-Men in attendance. During their honeymoon, Jean and Scott's souls were transported into an alternate future by Mother Askani (Rachel Summers) and infused into new bodies. As "Redd" and "Slym," Jean and Scott raised Nathan Summers for ten years. Jean and Scott's souls were then sent back to their original bodies in their native time period.

**Drifting Apart**
Jean assumed the name "Phoenix" and linked herself with the Phoenix Force. Jean and Scott began drifting apart from one another, and Jean discovered that Scott was having an affair with Emma Frost, the former White Queen.

Later, the first Xorn, posing as Magneto, slew Grey. But the Phoenix Force resurrected Grey and bonded with her once again. Jean Grey is now "the White Phoenix of the Crown" and inhabits a higher level of reality, known as the "White Hot Room."

**Black Queen**
The mutant Mastermind projected illusions directly into Phoenix's mind, in which she led a double life in the 18th century. Thus he brainwashed her into becoming the sinister new Black Queen of the Inner Circle of the Hellfire Club. Phoenix regained her free will and sent Mastermind into a coma. However, his malevolent tampering with her mind triggered her metamorphosis into the evil Dark Phoenix.

**Back from the Dead**
Upon the death of Phoenix's body, the portion of Jean's consciousness within it returned to her original body within the cocoon at the bottom of Jamaica Bay. Scott Summers eventually married Madelyne Pryor, who later proved to be a Jean Grey clone created by Mister Sinister. Scott and Madelyne had a child, Nathan, who became the warrior Cable.

Eventually the cocoon was found by the Avengers, and a revived Jean Grey emerged from it. Soon she, Cyclops, and the other three original X-Men rejoined to found the original X-Factor team. Pryor went mad, developed superhuman powers as the Goblin Queen, and died in combat with Grey.
MARVEL IN THE 1970s

Marvel Comics began to experiment with its line of comics during the 1970s. The Fantastic Four celebrated its 100th issue in 1970, and new titles such as Clone of the Cat, Marvel Team-Up, Red Wolf, Shanna the She-Devil, The Tomb of Dracula, Wintlock, Vengeance By Night and Luke Cage, Hero for Hire were launched in 1972. The Monster of Frankenstein, Ghost Rider and Tales of the Zombie followed in 1973. Marvel also published black and white magazines and Treasury-sized editions. The Man-Thing and Marvel Two-In-One both debuted in 1974.

The Champions, The Invaders, Iron Fist and Skull the Slayer were all awarded titles in 1975. The first issues of Black Goliath, The Eternals, Howard the Duck, Nova, Omega the Unknown and Peter Parker, the Spectacular Spider-Man appeared in 1976. The Black Panther finally started in his own title in 1977, accompanied by Ms. Marvel and What If. The Defenders, Devil Dinosaur, Machine Man, and Spider-Woman all had first issues in 1978. As the decade drew to a close, the Avengers challenged Korvac, reality went wild when the X-Men first met Proteus and the Fantastic Four were artificially aged as Galactus battled the Sphinx.

In the 1970s, Marvel introduced new characters and concepts, expanding its universe and captivating readers with stories of superpowers, monsters, and epic adventures. The decade marked a turning point for Marvel, solidifying its position as a leader in the comic book industry.
HALLER, Gabrielle

FIRST APPEARANCE The Uncanny X-Man #161 (September 1983)

REAL NAME Gabrielle Haller

OCCUPATION Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom

BASE Tel Aviv, Israel; London, England

HEIGHT/WEIGHT Unspecified

EYES Brown

HAIR Black

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Gabrielle Haller has no superpowers, but is a highly accomplished diplomat.

Gabrielle Haller is a survivor of the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany. There, the Nazis implanted in her mind the location of a hidden cache of gold. After the war, Haller was afflicted with catatonic schizophrenia and hospitalized in Israel. Charles Xavier (see Professor X) used his telepathic powers to cure her and they fell in love. When Baron Von Strucker and his HYDRA agents kidnapped Haller to find the gold, Xavier and "Magnus" (the future Magneto) rescued her.

Many years later Xavier learned that Gabrielle had given birth to a son, David (see Legion). Haller is now Israel's ambassador to the UK.

HAMMERHEAD

Once a small-time criminal, so obscure his real name is not known, Hammerhead was found, severely injured, by the criminal scientist Dr. Jonas Harrow after an apparent gang showdown. Harrow saw this as an opportunity to use some of his untested medical techniques on his nameless guinea pig. The doctor's experiments reconstructed the criminal's shattered skull, reinforcing it and making it as strong as steel—his new name.

Hammerhead was restored to health, but retained no knowledge of his past life, save that he had been a criminal. Taking his inspiration from the poster of a gangster movie, The All-Capone Mob, which was the last thing he saw before he was shot down, Hammerhead returned to the New York underworld. But this time he was determined to become the boss of bosses and prepared to violently dispatch anyone who stood in his way, including criminals such as Doctor Octopus, the Kingpin, and Maggia boss Don Fortunato. One of his few Super Villain allies is the Chameleon.

Hammerhead's style recalls the Prohibition gangsters of the 1920s.

FACTFILE

REAL NAME

Unknown

OCCUPATION

Criminal, gang boss of the Hammerhead "family"

BASE

Manhattan, New York City

HEIGHT 6'10" in

WEIGHT 195 lbs

EYES Blue

HAIR Black

FIRST APPEARANCE

Amazing Spider-Man #113 (October 1972)

Hammerhead's reinforced skull allows him to head-but with devastating effect, and even smash through walls. He can also use his head as a shield against blows. He has strong criminal organizational skills, and his favorite weapon is a Tommy gun.

HAMMER, Justin

FIRST APPEARANCE

Iron Man #120 (March 1972)

REAL NAME Justin Hammer

OCCUPATION Criminal financier

BASE Mobile

HEIGHT 6'2" in

WEIGHT 170 lbs

EYES Blue

HAIR Gray

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES A financial and business genius, Hammer has cunningly preserved his wealth despite being worldwide persona non grata.

Whatever Justin Hammer lacked in guile he made up for with low cunning. Infuriated by Stark International's success, Hammer resolved to undermine Tony Stark's business by compromising its corporate emblem, the Iron Man. Using a hypersonic device to take control of the armored suit, Hammer used it to kill a foreign ambassador. After Stark cleared his name, Hammer went into hiding and took to funding various criminals, including Blizzard, Boomerang, and Water Wizard. Another showdown with Stark left Hammer frozen in a block of ice and floating through space.
**Hand, The**

The Hand is a cult of mystical ninjas involved with organized crime and often hired to carry out assassinations. The Hand dates back to 16th-century Japan, where the cult adapted classical ninjitsu techniques to its own evil purposes. The Hand's activities have now spread throughout the world. Hand operatives are servants of a demon known only as the Beast. Skilled in the use of powerful occult magic, they can kill a person, then bring that person back to life as a member of the Hand. Only Elektra and Wolverine have ever been able to reverse this process. If one of the Hand is killed, his body magically turns to dust in order to prevent identification.

The Hand has most often clashed with Daredevil, Elektra, and other members of the clan of warriors once led by Stick, the late martial arts master. They have also battled Wolverine, Spider-Man, the Avengers, and the X-Men.

**Havok**

With his brother Cyclops, Alex Summers was separated from his sibling following the deaths of their parents. Although Alex's mutant abilities developed during puberty, it was his mutant college professor, Ahmet Abdul, who was the first to recognize them. After absorbing the cosmic energy stored in Alex's body, Abdul became the Living Monolith but was defeated by the X-Men. Reunited with his brother, Alex was taken under the X-Men's wing, taught to control his abilities, and became a sometime member of Professor X's team.

Alex has fought alongside Wolverine, led X-Factor, and fought to save a dark and twisted alternate-reality Earth. Throughout these adventures, he has often felt stifled by his brother's reputation, and harboured a love for fellow mutant Lorna Dane (Polaris). Although their relationship has been repeatedly undermined, Alex is looking to rebuild bridges with Lorna and renew their romance.

**Harkness, Agatha**

Agatha Harkness was raised in the town of New Salem, Colorado, whose inhabitants practiced magic. She excelled in her craft and eventually became the town's most powerful sorceress and leader. Agatha believed that witches and warlocks didn't have to live apart from normal humans. Her son and the town elders disagreed and chose to leave New Salem. After moving to Whisper Hill, New York, she was hired as the governess for Franklin Richards, son of Mr. Fantastic and Invisible Woman. When the Scarlet Witch became unbalanced and disassembled the Avengers, she apparently murdered Agatha. However, Agatha has been reported dead before and has returned.
An orphan who ran away to join a traveling carnival, Barton was only fourteen years old when he attracted the attention of the show's star attraction Jacques Duquesne, the Swordmaster. Duquesne began to train Barton in the art of throwing knives, but quickly realized the boy was a natural at archery and turned him over to Trickshot, the carnival's archer. After mastering the bow and arrow, Barton took on the stage name of Hawkeye the Marksman.

**GOING WRONG**
After learning that Duquesne robbed the carnival's payroll to pay gambling debts, Barton was severely injured when his former mentor cut a tightrope out from under him. Rejoining the carnival after recovering from his injuries, Barton later witnessed Iron Man in action and became inspired to use his archery skills to fight crime. However, when Hawkeye tried to prevent a robbery, he was mistaken for a thief and soon found himself battling Iron Man. He met Natalia "Natasha" Romanova, the Black Widow, who was a professional spy at the time. He quickly fell in love with her and was soon committing crimes to impress her.

**REFORMED CHARACTER**
Hawkeye later decided to reform and begged to be admitted into the Avengers. Impressed by his sincerity, his old enemy Iron Man sponsored him for membership. Hawkeye remained a member of the Avengers for many years, though he occasionally took brief breaks and even joined the Defender during one of them. To help the team, Hawkeye sometimes borrowed Hank Pym's growth formula and became a new version of Goliath.

While on leave, Hawkeye married Bobbi Morse (Mockingbird). They moved to California when Hawkeye was assigned to set up the West Coast branch of the Avengers. After Mockingbird was killed in action and the West Coast branch was disbanded, Hawkeye rejoined the Avengers. He died in one of the many battles that recently caused the Avengers to disassemble.
**HEADMEN, THE**

The Headmen comprised four brilliant individuals, each so confident of their abilities they were convinced that they should rule the Earth. United by Dr. Arthur Nagan they agreed to combine their talents to gain control of the planet. Despite obvious ability, their tactics were at best questionable.

Looking to obtain superhuman powers for themselves, the Headmen targeted the Defenders and succeeded in implanting Chondu’s brain into the head of Kyle Richard, alias NIGHTHAWK. When his consciousness was subsequently transferred into the body of a vile monster, Chondu went mad. Although his sanity had returned by the time his brain was transferred into a SHE-HULK clone, this proved to be one step too far. Furious at having been given a woman’s body, Chondu attacked the Headmen with the help of SPIDER-MAN. The group reunited and attempted to take over the world, starting with Manhattan, by manipulating a hugely powerful, extra-dimensional entity named Orago the Unconquerable. AND

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**HEADMEN, THE**

**THE HEADMEN**

1. Gorilla-Man
2. Ruby Thursday
3. Orago the Unconquerable (not a member)
4. Chondu, the Mystic
5. Shrunkin Bones

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**HELLCAT**

As a teenager, Patsy Walker was the subject of popular comic written by her mother. As an adult, Walker wed Air Force officer Buzz Baxter (later MAD DOG), though the marriage ended unhappily. She had always idolized Super Heroes, so Walker decided to become one, donning a costume once worn by Greer Nelson (TIGRA). Calling herself Hellcat, she aided the AVENGERS and served with the DEFENDERS for years. Eventually she married master of the occult Daimon Hellstrom, the SON OF SATAN. The couple moved to San Francisco, becoming paranormal investigators. Hellcat later took her own life, but her spirit lived on in Hell. There she encountered Hawkeye and the Thunderbolts, who had journeyed to the underworld to rescue MOCKINGBIRD. The team returned to Earth with Hellcat, who redefined herself to the heroic life. She has since thwarted DORMAMMU’S scheme to conquer Hell. DW

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**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**

Patricia "Patsy" Walker Hellstrom

**OCCUPATION**

Adventurer

**BASE**

San Francisco, California

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 8 in
**WEIGHT** 135 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** Red

**FIRST APPEARANCE**

Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #93 (March 1962)

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**POWERS**

Minor psionic abilities, skilled acrobat and combatant (received combat training from Moon Dragon). Costume enhances strength and agility; stiletto-clawed gloves and boots; a wrist device fires a 30-ft cable with grappling hook for scaling tall buildings.
The Hellfire Club was founded in England in the mid-18th century as an exclusive social organization for Britain's upper classes. According to legend, the Club provided a place where members could secretly pursue illicit pleasures. In the 1770s, Sir Patrick Clemens and Lady Diana Knight established the Hellfire Club's American branch in New York City. Today, the Hellfire Club is a worldwide organization with branches in London, Manhattan, Paris, and Hong Kong. Its members include socialites, celebrities, wealthy businessmen, and politicians. Despite the Club's outward respectability, its Inner Circle secretly seeks world domination through accruing political and economic influence. Inner Circle members hold positions named after chess pieces. The men dress in 18th-century costume and the women in risqué clothes.

**Hellions**

First Appearance: New Mutants #16 (June 1984)

**Hellstorm**

First Appearance: Marvel Spotlight #12 (October 1973)

**High Evolutionary**

First Appearance: Thor #134 (November 1968)

Daimon Hellstrom is the son of a demon father named Satan and a human mother. Sent to an orphanage after his mother's breakdown, Daimon returned home to discover her diary and thus learned the truth about his father. Satan brought him to the demon's netherworld domain, where Daimon vowed to battle his father. As son of Satan, he joined the Defenders and eventually defeated his father.

At Oxford in the 1930s, Herbert Wyndham built a genetic accelerator that evolved any entity placed inside it. Ostracized by his peers, he joined up with scientist Jonathan Drew to establish a research center at Wundagore Mountain in the Balkans. Wyndham used his accelerator to evolve his own mind, becoming the High Evolutionary. He created a series of humanoid animals, and, calling them the Knights of Wundagore, charged them with defending Wundagore Mountain. The High Evolutionary later founded a new planetary home for his knights, established Counter-Earth, and tried to evolve humanity to a new state of being. The Avengers stopped this last effort, but the High Evolutionary is likely to meddle in human affairs again at some time.
Hercules is the son of Zeus, king of the Gods of Olympus, and a mortal woman. He is best known for his Twelve Labors, which he carried out to prove that he was worthy of immortality. He also made three enemies during the course of these labors: Ares, the god of war, Pluto (Hades), the lord of the underworld and Typhon, the giant son of Titan.

**PRINCE OF POWER**

Hercules is known throughout Olympus as the Prince of Power and he lives for the thrill of battle. He also believes that it is a great honor to fight him and often bestows this so-called “gift” on both friends and foes alike. Instead of a handshake, Hercules likes to greet his fellow Avengers with a friendly punch in the face!

In modern times, Hercules met and battled Thor when the thunder god accidentally journeyed to Olympus. Hercules later traveled to Earth to renew his acquaintance with the Asgardian and unwittingly signed a contract that made him Pluto’s slave. After being rescued by Thor, Hercules returned to Olympus until the Enchantress cast a spell on him and sent him to battle the Avengers. He later joined the team when Zeus temporarily exiled him to Earth. He was taken prisoner by Ares and his minions, but rescued by the Avengers. Hercules joined Thor on a journey to the far end of the galaxy, where they battled the Destroyer, Firelord and Ego, the Living Planet. He also joined the Los Angeles super-team known as the Champions and spent time as one of the Defenders.

**THE TRIALS OF HERCULES**

Hercules was nearly beaten to death and left in a coma when the Masters of Evil seized control of Avengers Mansion. He eventually recovered, but fought the Avengers during a brief bout of insanity. While fighting the High Evolutionary during the so-called "Evolutionary Wars", Hercules was mutated beyond godhood, but later regained his normal appearance. His stepmother Hera, who had always resented him, conjured an illusion of a mortal woman and cast a spell on Hercules so that he fell in love with it. He was heartbroken when he learned the truth.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Hercules, alias Hercules, Harry Ceesee

**OCCUPATION**
Adventurer

**BASE**
Olympus

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 9 in
**WEIGHT** 325 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** Dark brown

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Journey into Mystery Annual #1 (1965)

**POWERS**

- Virtually immortal
- Trained in hand-to-hand combat and ancient Greek wrestling skills
- Excellent archer
- Wields a practically indestructible golden mace
- Hercules can be rash and stubborn but is usually generous and exuberant
- He is a faithful friend and valiant warrior who loves the thrill of battle

**ESSENTIAL STORYLINES**
- Thor #123–130: Hercules first journey to Earth in modern times, rescued by Pluto, rescued by Thor
- The Avengers: Under Siege #1–10: Zeus’s new Masters of Evil invade Avengers Mansion and almost defeat Hercules to death
- Hercules: Prince of Power #1–10: Hercules confronts Galactus in the far future
HOBGOBLIN

When one of the victims of his unscrupulous dealings—BELLADONNA—attempted to kill him, Roderick Kingsley looked for ways to defend himself. He uncovered a cache of the GREEN Goblin's costumes and weaponry, hidden in the New York sewers. Thus equipped, he sought to dominate New York's criminal underworld as Hobgoblin; however, his efforts were undermined by SPIDER-MAN.

To defeat the Wall-Crawler, Kingsley has manipulated two other men into taking the Hobgoblin role. Petty crook Lefty Donovon served as a human guinea pig when Kingsley wanted to test his own version of the Goblin formula; and, after being brainwashed by Kingsley, Ned Leeds also acted as Kingsley's substitute until his death. Since Betty LEEDS outed Kingsley as the Hobgoblin, he has been in hiding, plotting revenge from the sanctuary of the Caribbean.

Hodge, Cameron

FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Factor #1 (February 1986)

REAL NAME: Cameron Hodge

OCCUPATION: Businessman

BASE: Mobile

HEIGHT: 6 ft 2 in

WEIGHT: 196 lbs

EYES: Blue

HAIR: Black

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Cunnin manipulator; due to a pact with the demon N'ASTRUIR, Cameron Hodge cannot die, since becoming a cyborg, he has vast strength and weaponry.

Hogan, Harold

FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men Alpha #1 (February 1994)

REAL NAME: Harold "Happy" Hogan

OCCUPATION: Tony Stark's right-hand man, chauffeur

BASE: New York City

HEIGHT: 5 ft 11 in

WEIGHT: 221 lbs

EYES: Brown

HAIR: Brown (as human) / Brown (as Freak) / None

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: As the Freak, Hogan possesses superhuman strength and durability.

When former boxer "Happy" Hogan saved Tony Stark from a car crash, Stark hired him as his chauffeur. Hogan eventually realized that Stark was secretly the famous Super Hero IRON MAN. When the need arose, Hogan would occasionally don an Iron Man battle suit and stand in for Stark. Doctors used Stark's invention, the Enervator, to save Hogan's life, but its cobalt radiation had the unfortunate side-effect of transforming Hogan into a virtually mindless monster known as the Freak. Iron Man subsequently employed the Enervator to change Happy Hogan back to his normal human form, although Hogan has sometimes reverted to the Freak.

Holocaust

FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men #38 (February 1994)

REAL NAME: Unknown

OCCUPATION: Horseman of the Apocalypse

BASE: Mobile

HEIGHT: 6 ft 2 in

WEIGHT: 240 lbs

EYES: Red

HAIR: Blond

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Holocaust is a flaming skeleton held inside a containment suit, able to absorb energy and release it as concussive power blasts.

Sired in the Age of Apocalypse timeline, Holocaust claimed to be the son of Apocalypse and served as the leader of Apocalypse's Four Horsemen. Escaping from that timeline just moments before it was obliterated, Holocaust was transported to Earth-616, where he destroyed the Avalon space station and battled another timeline refugee, X-Man. Press-ganged into joining reality-hopping heroes the Exiles, an encounter with a tyrannical Hyperion led to Holocaust's demise. After cracking his containment suit, Hyperion literally absorbed his entire being.
Hornet

**First Appearance:** Slingers #0 (December 1998)

**Real Name:** Eddie McDonough

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5 ft. 11 in.
**Weight:** 175 lbs.

**Eyes:** Blue
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Cybernetic suit has built-in electrical slingers and provides flight, enhanced strength, and damage resistance.

Spider-Man created the identity of the Hornet during a time when he adopted four separate personas in response to a bogus murder charge. The discarded costumes later found their way into the hands of the Black Marvel, who gave them to four youths to create the Slingers. Empire State University student Eddie McDonough became the new Hornet, and found that the armored exoskeleton permitted him to use his normally palsied right arm. The Slingers soon disbanded when the members discovered that the Black Marvel had received the costumes from the demon Mephisto, and the Hornet later died at the hands of a brainwashed Wolverine.

Howard the Duck

**Real Name:** Howard (last name unknown)

**Occupation:** Many, including former candidate for President of the United States; most often unemployed.

**Base:** Cleveland, Ohio

**Height:** 2 ft 7 in.
**Weight:** 40 lbs.

**Eyes:** Brown
**Feathers:** Yellow

**First Appearance:** Fears #19 (December 1973)

Howard the Duck was born on Duckworld, a planet in another dimension, where the most intelligent life evolved from waterfowl. When the demon Thog the Nether-Spawn caused the Interdimensional Cosmic Axis to Shift, Howard was dropped into the Florida Everglades on Earth, the site of the Nexus of All Realities, where many dimensions meet.

Hoping to correct the Cosmic Axis and get home, Howard joined up with Korrek the Barbarian, the Earth sorceress Jennifer Kale, Dakinok the Enchantress, and the Man-Thing. As this group battled Thog in an inter-dimensional melee, Howard fell off the Stepping-Stones of Oblivion and tumbled back to Earth, landing in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. There he met Beverly Switzer, when the two were attacked by the costumed criminal accountant Pro-Rata. Howard and Beverly escaped, and began living together, attempting to have a normal life as possible in a human-duck relationship.

Howling Commandos

The Howling Commandos was the first attack squad of Able Company during World War II, a unit specifically designed and peopled so as to take on the most dangerous missions of the war. Under orders from Captain "Happy" Sam Sawyer, Sgt. Nick Fury led his ragtag group of soldiers against the worst the Axis powers could throw at them, including the legendary Blitzkrieg Squad of Baron Von Sterker, and the malevolent Red Skull himself. The Howlers racked up an impressive record during the war, and many members of the unit survived to become the nucleus of the UN peace-keeping force known as S.H.I.E.L.D. Recently, the Howling Commandos name has been reactivated within S.H.I.E.L.D., and used to refer to a top-secret squad comprised of monsters and dedicated to battling supernatural forces against which normal S.H.I.E.L.D. operatives would prove ineffective.

![Howling Commandos]

**First Appearance:** Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #1 (May 1963)

Apparantly ill-assorted group welded into crack unit by S.H.I.E.L.D. Fury's unmatched leadership qualities. Each member was a highly trained commando, with skills in hand-to-hand combat, the use of explosives, and proficiency with a variety of firearms.

**Members:**
- Sgt. Nick Fury
- Corporal Dugan
- "Dum Dum" Dugan
- Private Dino Manelli
- Izzy Cohen
- Gabe Jones
- Percival Pinkerton
- Reb "Rebel" Raisen
- Jonathan "Junior" Juniper (killed in action; Eric Koenig)

**Base:** Pacific Theater of Operations, World War II
A child prodigy, Bruce Banner grew up in an abusive household, one that would have a profound long-term effect on his psyche. An introverted child, Bruce was ill-equipped to deal with the outbursts of his father, who called young Bruce a monster and terrorized both him and his mother. Bruce developed a multiple personality disorder, shunting aside and repressing all of his negative emotions when the trauma became too much to take. This cycle of abuse continued until the day Brian Banner slew his wife in a fit of rage. Thereafter, Bruce was shuttled from relative to relative, and grew even more socially awkward, even as his remarkable intellect became more apparent.

**FIRST LOVE**

The US Army recruited Banner to develop new weapon systems while he was still in high school. Bruce was placed under the authority of General Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross, a blustering no-nonsense veteran. It was in the person of Ross's daughter Betty that Bruce found a kindred spirit. Both she and Betty had lost their parents to war, and were subjected to the curtailments of raging fashions; an attraction soon developed between them.

**THE GAMMA BOMB**

Prompted by his military leaders, Banner developed the Gamma Bomb, a weapon harnessing the power of gamma radiation. On the day the bomb was to be tested, a thunderstorm forced the test to be postponed. Bruce, however, drove over to the test site, a dune, and planted his bomb. When the test was finally completed, the bomb's radiation, which had been reduced to harmless levels, returned to its original intensity. The gamma rays struck Bruce, turning him into the Hulk.

**MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES**

- Bruce Banner
- The Hulk
- Professor Hulk
- Abomination
- World War Hulk
- Immortal Hulk
- Beta Ray Bill

**ENDNOTES**

- Immortal Hulk #1
- Immortal Hulk #2
- Immortal Hulk #3
- Immortal Hulk #4
- Immortal Hulk #5

**COMPETITIVELY STRONG**

Bruce Banner is one of the strongest human beings ever known. He has been described as having "arm strength rivalling an entire army" and "the ability to lift anything with his bare hands." His strength is so great that he has been compared to the archetypal "giant of the ages," and his feats are said to be "the stuff of legends." Banner's strength is not just physical, however; it is also mental. His intellect is so great that he has been described as "the smartest man in the world," and his problem-solving abilities are said to be "the stuff of science fiction."
Johnny Storm and his older sister Susan grew up on Long Island, New York, the children of a doctor and his wife. In spite of the fact that Johnny’s mother was killed in a car crash when he was nine years old, the boy developed a passion and skill for building, fixing, and driving cars. He overhauled his first transmission at the age of 15. The following year his father bought him his first hot rod.

**FATEFUL FLIGHT**

While a teenager, Johnny went to California to visit his sister Susan who had moved out west to become an actress. Susan Storm (see Invisible Woman) was engaged to marry a brilliant physicist and engineer named Reed Richards (see Mister Fantastic). Richards was developing a device that would be capable of exploring other galaxies. While Johnny was in California, the government threatened to cut off Richards’ funding, so he decided to prove his ship’s worth by taking it on a test flight to the stars. Reed’s best friend Ben Grimm (see Thing) piloted the craft Susan and Johnny insisted on coming along.

In space, inadequate shielding on the ship allowed a huge dose of cosmic radiation to bombard the crew. They managed to return to earth using the autopilot, but all four were changed forever.

The cosmic rays altered Johnny’s genetic structure allowing him to create fiery plasma that covered his entire body in flames without causing him harm.

He also discovered that he was able to fly short distances, and from that day on, calling himself the **Fantastic Four**, the transformed astronauts decided to team up and use their new powers to help humanity. Reed Richards called himself Mr. Fantastic, Ben Grimm the Thing, Johnny Storm the Human Torch, and Susan Storm the Invisible Woman.

The first Human Torch was an android, created by Professor Heinrich von Bora. But the professor’s dream of creating a perfect human being failed when the android, his body, which was covered in photovoltaic solar cells, burst into flames upon contact with oxygen. Antagonists, the android itself was not harmed by the fire.

At first the public, fueled by the news media, believed this Human Torch a menace. The Torch then rejected his creator’s “ownership,” claiming “I don’t want to be a ‘knife’ to someone more concerned about his own fame than about his creator’s well-being.”

Later, Alicia Masters was revealed to be a spy named Lyja from the alien race of shape-changers known as the Skrulls. The deception devastated Johnny. Usually boorish, brawling, and out-going, he changed, becoming sullen and brooding for long periods. Johnny’s ability as a mechanic has come in handy, as he has scoured and redesigned the Fantastic Four’s Fantastic-Far-Car. MT.
Huntara

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four #377 (June 1985)

**REAL NAME** Huntara Richards

**OCCUPATION** Guardian of the Sacred Timelines

**BASE** Elsewhen

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 2 in

**WEIGHT** 155 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Psionic scythe cuts through almost any material, fires concussive bolts and teleports between dimensions and across space; superior athlete and combatant.

Huntara was born on an alternate Earth. The daughter of Nathaniel Richards and the half-sister of Mister Fantastic, she was taken to Elsewhen, a barbaric alien dimension. Huntara was trained in the arts of war and combat alongside her nephew Franklin and they both became Guardians of the Sacred Timelines, who prevent and repair time paradoxes.

When her father created a time paradox by exchanging the teenager Franklin Richards with his younger self, Huntara was forced to journey to this timeline where she eventually met the Fantastic Four. She later returned to Elsewhen and resumed her duties as a Guardian.  

HusK

**CONDEMNED TO A HUMDRUM LIFE on a struggling family farm in West Virginia, Paige Guthrie envied her elder brother who, as Cannonball, had forged a career among the New Mutants team. Although she underwent a mutation of her own, Paige kept this hidden until she was forced into a battle of wits with the Seismaster. This mutant with psionic powers had formed the Upstarts, who specialized in assassinating mutants. Paige’s intervention freed her brother and several of his friends from the Grandmaster’s clutches.**

**Shortly afterward, she was captured by Phalanx, an alien collective intelligence, along with several other young mutants. Its effort to assimilate them into its consciousness was foiled and Paige was invited to join the Xavier Institute’s new school, Massachusetts Academy, and become a member of Generation X. Paige subsequently joined X-Corps, helping to police mutants in Europe, and then went traveling with Archangel. Her dream of a life of adventure had been realized. AD**

HusK

**FIRST APPEARANCE** The Uncanny X-Men #139 (November 1980)

**REAL NAME** Stephanie “Stevie” Hunter

**OCCUPATION** Dance instructor

**BASE** Salem Center, New York

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 9 in

**WEIGHT** 121 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Dark brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** A talented dancer and athlete and an excellent dance teacher.

Stevie Hunter was a ballet dancer, until a broken leg forced her to retire. She became a dance instructor and opened a school in Salem Center, New York State. Professor Charles Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters, the headquarters of the X-Men, was located nearby. One of Xavier’s students, Kitty Pryde, began taking lessons at Hunter’s school. Eventually, Hunter discovered that Xavier’s students were mutants. Xavier hired Hunter to be a physical trainer and therapist at his school.

Hunter has since returned to operating her own dance academy.  

HusK
HYDRA

“Cut off one limb and two more shall take its place!” This is the motto of HYDRA, the global terrorist organization that has threatened the world since the end of World War II. Created by BARON VON STRUCKER, HYDRA was a conventional organization with a base on a Pacific island. When US Marines destroyed this, HYDRA began to decentralise, becoming less easy to attack.

Under Strucker's guidance HYDRA twice attempted to blackmail the world, first with a Betatron bomb and later with a biological weapon, the Death Spore. After his death, HYDRA focused on criminal activities. In recent years HYDRA has been reinvigorated, allying with the HAND to destroy all Super Heroes and preparing for a confrontation with "Earth's mightiest," the AVENGERS. A D

HYDRA

FACTFILE

KEY MEMBERS

BARON VON STRUCKER
Master criminal strategist; founder of HYDRA.

ARNOLD BROWN
Brilliant bureaucrat who transformed HYDRA.

RED SKULL
Instructed Strucker to found HYDRA.

MADAME HYDRA
Leader of New York City HYDRA

LAURA BROWN
Daughter of Arnold Brown; one of the first women to serve in HYDRA.

BASE Mobile

FIRST APPEARANCE

Strange Tales #135 (August 1960)

The personalities of HYDRA personnel are subordinate to the organization they serve.

HYPERION

A member of the race of ETERNALS on a parallel earth, Hyperion, unaware of his lineage, was raised by human beings, and taught to use his tremendous powers for the benefit of all men. Adopting the costumed identity of Hyperion, he became the foremost champion of his world, and a founding member of the heroic Squadron Supreme.

After the Squadron was manipulated by the OVERMIND into participating in a plan that left their world decimated, Hyperion and his fellow Squadron members embarked on a bold plan. They resolved to take control of their world for one year, and to turn it into a utopian state within that time.

Despite initial success, their program met with resistance from one of the Squadron's former members, NIGHTHawk, and before too long, Hyperion and the others realized the error of their ways; unfortunately by the time the team were ready to dismantle the government they had set up, it had turned into a corrupt, totalitarian regime. Ever since, Hyperion and the remaining Squadron members have functioned as freedom fighters, trying to liberate their homeland. T B

FACTFILE

REAL NAME
Unrevealed; adopted the human identity of Mark Milton for a time.

OCCUPATION
Adventurer, world leader

BASE
Squadron City on the Squadron Supreme's parallel Earth.

HEIGHT 6 ft 4 in
WEIGHT 460 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Red

FIRST APPEARANCE

Avengers #85 (February 1971)

In one world visited by the reality-hopping Exiles, Hyperion had murdered most of humanity.

HYPERION

Owens possesses almost limitless strength, speed, and endurance. He is impervious to virtually any injury, can fly through the air, and project radioactive beams of energy from his eyes as "Flash-Vision."
Iceman

Born a mutant, young Bobby Drake was almost lynched when his ability to freeze moisture in the air was discovered. Bobby was saved by Cyclops of the X-Men, and became the second recruit to Professor Charles Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters (see Professor X), where he would learn to control his mutant gifts. Adopting the codename Iceman, Drake fought as one of the X-Men, battling such enemies as Magneto's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, the Juggernaut, and the robotic Sentinels. Upon graduation, Iceman attempted to forge a super-heroic career on his own, founding the Champions of Los Angeles. However, his path eventually led him back to Xavier's School, where he remains as a member of the X-Men today. His command of his icy abilities has increased, to the point where, rather than simply sheathing his body in an icy coating, Drake's entire form now transmutes into living, sentient ice.

Iceman can manipulate temperatures around him to freeze the water vapor in the air, forming a variety of icy weapons, protective ice shields, and ice slides.

Iceman can transform back into an ordinary-looking human being at will.

Immortus

Immortus was born in the 31st Century of one of Earth's alternate futures. It was a time of peace and prosperity, but Immortus craved adventure. Using parts found in the ruins of his ancestors' property, he built a time machine and set off traveling through time.

In each time era he arrived at, Immortus adopted a new guise, among them Rama-Tut and Kang the Conqueror. He left behind countless temporal counterparts capable of existing on their own and of further time travel. The being who became Rama-Tut journeyed to Limbo, a realm existing outside the timestream itself. There he was visited by the Time-Keeplers, who helped him unlock the secrets of time. Immortus then set about untangling the many timelines he and his counterparts had created by their time travel.
**IMPOSSIBLE MAN**

The planet Poppup was an inhospitable world, its people surviving through asexual reproduction and their shape-changing abilities and group mind. Then a Poppupian was born who had a degree of individuality. Bored by life, this creature transformed himself into a spacecraft and traveled to Earth where he encountered the Fantastic Four. Finding him unbearably annoying, the Thing told the creature that he was "impossible", and so "Impossible Man" was born.

To the Fantastic Four's annoyance, the team has encountered Impossible Man several times. When Galactus was threatening to consume Counter-Earth, Impossible Man tricked him into eating Poppup instead, giving him a bad case of cosmic indigestion. With his peoples' consciousness living on through him, Mr Impossible set about rebuilding the Poppup race, first creating a wife—Impossible Woman—and later scores of children. Despite his newfound responsibilities, Impossible Man has continued to visit Earth, oblivious of humanity's ambivalence toward him. AD

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**In-Betweener**

The In-Betweener, the creation of Lord Chaos and Master Order, is the living synthesis of balance, representing both life and death, good and evil, logic and emotion, reality and illusion, existence and nothingness, and god and man. When the Titan Thanos tried to plunge the universe into death, the In-Betweener tried to restore balance by abducting Adam Warlock and turning him into a champion of life. The In-Betweener later clashed with the sorcerer Doctor Strange and Galactus, and briefly had possession of the reality-warping Soul Gem until Thanos stole the item in his quest to build the Infinity Gauntlet. DW

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**INFECTIA**

The daughter of a geneticist, Infectia gained an enormous amount of knowledge from her father, which enabled her to understand her mutant ability to mutate organic life. Following her father's death while she was still at high school, Infectia inherited a small fortune and withdrew from society. Re-emerging as a dangerous and manipulative mutant, she set her sights on obtaining the X-Factor's sky-craft headquarters. Her plan was to transform Iceman into a form she could manipulate, but because he was a mutant her efforts caused an explosion. It was the last time she was to pose a threat—shortly thereafter, Infectia was stricken by the fatal Legacy virus and died in Beast's arms. AD
Inferno

First Appearance: (as Inferno) Avengers #192 (August 1977)

Real Name: Joseph Conroy

Occupation: Steelworker

Height/Weight: Unrevealed

Eyes: Red

Hair: None

Special Powers/Abilities: Possessed superhuman strength and durability; could radiate intense heat; could absorb and redirect electrical energy.

Thor once repaired his enchanted uru hammer at the Pareta Steel Mill in Pittsburgh. Steel worker Joseph Conroy kept a file from the hammer for luck. Later Conroy threatened to expose the criminal activities of his boss, Vince Pareta, and was knocked into a vat of electrified molten steel. The magic of the uru file transformed Conroy into Inferno, a being made of "living slag." Inferno's evil mission led to a clash with the Avengers. When Captain America promised that Pareta would be jailed, Inferno committed suicide by walking into a river.

Inhumans

The Inhumans are a race who diverged from mainstream human beings on Earth about 25,000 years ago. The aliens known as the Kree created this separate race using genetic experimentation on early humans, in order to create a race of superhuman warriors to serve the Kree.

Following these experiments, however, the Kree abandoned this plan, leaving a small tribe of these genetically enhanced humans to fend for themselves on Earth. This group became known as the Inhumans. The Inhumans settled on an island in the North Atlantic that they named Attilan. There, they developed technology and culture at an astounding rate.

An Inhuman geneticist named Randak developed a substance called Terrigen which he believed would accelerate genetic advances. Subjecting himself to immersion in the Terrigen Mist, Randak developed advanced mental powers. But the Terrigen had a genetic side-effect on others, causing nonhuman mutations in about half of those exposed to the Mist.

Interloper

First Appearance: Defenders Vol. 1 #147 (September 1985)

Real Name: Unknown

Occupation: Hermit

Height/Weight: 6 ft 2 in / 196 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Virtually immortal through total mental control of his body, levitation, projects cosmic energy in form of beams from hands or eyes.

Although one of the Eternals of Earth, for most of his life, the Interloper lived as a hermit, emerging for periodic battles against his nemesis, the malevolent Dragon of the Moon. Only three of these battles have been chronicled, the first taking place on the Saturn moon of Titan and the second during the final days of King Arthur Pendragon. Believing that he had finally bested the Dragon, Interloper withdrew to the Siberian wastelands, but his destiny was still bound up with the creature. Returning to fight one more time, the Interloper sacrificed his life to destroy the dragon altogether.
**Invaders**

The greatest Super Heroes of World War II

During the opening days of World War II, before the United States had formally entered the conflict, an elite fighting unit was banded together by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to halt Nazi aggression. The first great gathering of superhuman champions ever recorded—Captain America and Bucky Barnes, Namor the Sub-Mariner, the Human Torch and Toro, Union Jack, Spitfire, Miss America and the Whizzer—this alliance, known formally as the Invaders, cut a swath through enemy forces until the Axis powers were defeated.

**The All-Winners**

Although they disbanded after the war, for a time combating crime on the homefront as the All-Winners Squad, the Invaders established a legend and a tradition that would inspire others to follow in their footsteps over the years. Some of those heroes associated with the Invaders joined forces with Parisian resistance fighters to form the covert V-Battalion, maintaining world order secretly through the decades.

**The New Invaders**

In the early years of this century, the demonic Red Skull infiltrated the highest levels of government in the guise of US Secretary of Defense Dell Rusk. He proceeded to organize a new incarnation of the Invaders, malevolently intending it to forcibly protect US interests worldwide, and thus foment greater distrust among nations. This new incarnation of the Invaders, recruited by the right-wing US Agent (whose title as Captain America had been restored by Rusk), and led by the Nazi-hunting Thin Man, soon realized the truth. Instead of following Rusk’s agenda, the new Invaders turned their efforts towards the destruction of Axis Mundi, a secret cabal of sinister superhumans organized in the waning days of World War II.

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**Fact File**

**Current Members and Powers**

**US Agent**

Super-strong soldier.

**Blazing Skull**

Immortal; impervious to flame.

**Thin Man**

Can disintegrate body and teleport by twisting dimensions.

**Union Jack**

Trained fighter who specializes in battling monsters.

**Tara**

Android like form that bursts into flames and can fly.

**BASE**

The Infiltrator, a battleship capable of interdimensional travel

**First Appearance**

Giant-Size Invaders #1

(June 1975)

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**Essential Storylines**

- Invaders #1–6 and Marvel Premiere #29–30
- The Invaders are joined by the homefront heroes of the Liberty Legion to thwart a scheme by the Red Skull
- Avengers #83–85, New Invaders #0
- When the Avengers become a global organization, a modern day team of Invaders is assembled by the US government to do the jobs that they will not.

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**Character Key**

1. Union Jack
2. Tara
3. The US Agent
4. Captain America
5. The Blazing Skull

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The Machiavellian Thin Man, once imprisoned for his murder of a former Nazi agent, was the brains behind the modern-day Invaders’ operation.
Invisible Woman

The Fantastic Four's female presence

Factfile

Real Name
Susan Storm Richards

Occupation
Adventurer

Base
New York City

Height
5 ft 6 in

Weight
120 lbs

Eyes
Blue

Hair
Blonde

First Appearance
Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #1
(November 1961)

Can turn herself invisible, and is able to project energy around other people or objects that makes them invisible too. Can generate protective force fields, or shape invisible objects of psionic force. By projecting force fields beneath her, she can travel through the air.

Actress Susan Storm had already struck up a romance with the scientist Reed Richards when she volunteered to join him on an experimental mission into space. Along with her brother Johnny Storm and the starship's pilot Ben Grimm, Sue received a mutagenic dose of cosmic rays that gave her the power to turn invisible at will. The others had also received superhuman powers, and Sue became a member of their new team, the Fantastic Four, under the identity of the Invisible Girl. Sue's powers evolved over time, giving her the ability to project impenetrable force fields and to turn objects invisible through mental control.

Motherhood and Malice

Sue soon married Reed, and battled threats to the Earth including the planet-devouring Galactus. Complications with her first pregnancy forced Reed to stabilize her labor with the exotic energies of Annihilus' Cosmic Control Rod, and Sue safely gave birth to a boy, Franklin Richards. Later, she briefly separated from Reed and left the Fantastic Four, allowing Medusa to fill her spot. Sue's second pregnancy ended in a stillbirth. During this vulnerable period, Psycho-Man controlled Sue's mind and caused her to assume the villainous identity of Malice. After shaking off Psycho-Man's influence, Sue reinstituted herself the Invisible Woman.

Leading Lady

Sue and Reed briefly joined the Avengers, but returned to their original team. After Reed's apparent death at the hands of Doctor Doom, Sue served as the Fantastic Four's leader, rejecting romantic overtures from Namor the Sub-Mariner. It transpired that the child from Sue's earlier stillbirth had been preserved in another dimension by Franklin. After a battle with Abraxas, the unborn girl returned to Sue's womb.

Doctor Doom assisted with Sue's second delivery, naming the baby girl Valeria and trying to take control of her, Sue fought to save Franklin from Hell during one of Doom's cruelest revenge schemes. Later, her relationship with her husband suffered a new strain when the Fantastic Four usurped control of Latveria. Ben Grimm's death (see Thing) prompted her to separate from Reed again; however the two have reconciled since Ben's return from the afterlife.

Essential Storylines

- Secret Wars #2
  Sun assumes the villainous identity of Malice while under the influence of the Psycho-Man.

- Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #204
  It's goodbye to the venerable codename Invisible Girl, as Sue reinvents herself as the Invisible Woman.

- Fantastic Four Vol. 3 #54
  Sue gives birth to her second child, Valerie Richards, assisted in the delivery by the Fantastic Four's archenemy, Doctor Doom.
**Iron Fist**

Wendell Rand was the son of the ruler of K'un-Lun, a city in another dimension. He came to the US, married, and had a son, Danny. When Danny was nine, he accompanied Wendell, his wife Heather, and his business partner Harold Meachum on an expedition to K'un-Lun. Meachum caused Wendell's death, and Heather was killed by wolves. Only Danny reached K'un-Lun. Aged 19, Danny slew the dragon Shao-Lao the Unyielding and gained the power of the "Iron Fist." As Iron Fist, he confronted Meachum, but spared him; a ninja slew Meachum instead. Rand became wealthy as co-owner of Rand-Meachum, Inc. and, as Iron Fist, partnered Luke Cage, (alias Power Man), in Heroes for Hire, Inc. PS

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**Ironclad**

Ironclad was one of the U-Foes, organized by industrialist Simon Utrecht, who hoped to recreate the accident that had empowered the Fantastic Four. Bruce Banner (see Hulk), believing the spaceship carrying the U-Foes was in trouble and recalled it, limiting Ironclad's exposure to radiation and his power. MT

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**IT**

It, the Living Colossus was a statue supposed to celebrate the might of the Soviet Union. The night before its unveiling, the statue was animated by a team of alien scientists. It rampaged through Moscow until other Kigor-fetched their companion. It was transferred to Los Angeles and once again animated by the Kigor, however special-effects expert Robert O'Bryan tricked the aliens with a booby-trapped prop and uploaded his own mind into the statue. Thus began a tug of war with Dr. Vault. Since then, O'Bryan has twice rebuilt it, once for a movie, and once while under the thrall of crime boss Lotus Newmark. Fortunately, O'Bryan was freed from Newmark before any harm could be done. AD
Iron Man

The billion-dollar man

Factfile

Real Name
Anthony Stark

Occupation
Businessman and philanthropist, hero and leader of the Avengers

Base
Stark Tower ("Avengers Tower"), Manhattan, New York

Height
6 ft 1 in

Weight
225 lbs

Eyes
Blue

Hair
Black

First Appearance
Tales of Suspense #39
(March 1963)

Powers
Prodigious inventiveness and business acumen. Standard Iron Man armor provides superhuman strength and durability, jet-packed powered flight, repulsor beams in gauntlets, and chest-mounted uni-beam. Armor's underlayer is now incorporated into Stark's body, letting him control Iron Man remotely.

Allies
The Avengers, James Rhodes (War Machine), SHIELD, Virginia Potts, Bethany Cabe, Edwin Jarvis.

Foes
Obadiah Stane, Justin Hammer, Madame Masque, Titanium Man, Sypmaster, Mandarin.

Iron Man—corporate mascot, bodyguard, or armored Super Hero?

Billionaire industrialist and philanthropist Tony Stark is perhaps the most influential superpowered individual on the planet. While Professor X has the respect of the Earth's mutant community, Stark's work as Iron Man, his long-term membership of the Avengers, and position as head of Stark International arguably gives him even wider authority.

Forging the Iron Man

The son of a wealthy industrialist, Tony Stark died in a car crash when he was young, leaving him their business conglomerate, Stark Industries. Taking over the company when he was 21, in retrospect some of Tony's early business decisions were ethically circumspect. An engineering prodigy, many of Tony's early inventions were designed for use by the US military and it was his dealings with the army that ultimately led him to create his Iron Man armor.

Developing mini-transistors for use on the battlefield, Tony travelled to Vietnam to see them in use on the ground. The trial ended badly when an exploding bomb left a piece of shrapnel dangerously close to his heart and Tony was captured by the North Vietnamese warlord, Wong-Chu.

Told that the shrapnel would only be removed if he developed a weapon for the North Vietnamese, Tony responded with typical tenacity. Teaming with a fellow prisoner, Nobel prize-winning physicist Ho Yinsen, Tony developed an iron suit that would protect his heart as well as allow him to fight the warlords and his men and escape.

Social Conscience

In the following years, Tony donned this armor many times. Claiming the Iron Man was his bodyguard and corporate emblem, at first he simply used it to fight communists and threats to his business empire. With the advent of new technologies and ideas the armor evolved, becoming increasingly, at times dangerously, sophisticated.

Over the years Tony's own world view also began to evolve; he halted sales to the military, recognizing that they caused more harm than good, and established a number of charitable foundations. He became a founder member of the Avengers, allowing the team to use his mansion as their base and providing financial backing via the Maria Stark Foundation—a non-profit-making organization named for his mother.
ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- *Iron Man Vol. 1 #120-129 #159-165* Tony Stark’s first encounter with Justin Hammer and his battle with alcohol.
- *Iron Man Vol. 2 #162-200* Stark’s long dark fall to the gutter at the hands of Obadiah Stane, and his gradual resurrection.
- *Iron Man Vol. 3 #1-30* The Iron Man armor becomes sentient and attacks Stark.

Although immensely strong-willed, at times the pressures upon Tony Stark have proved overwhelming—twice he has succumbed to the lure of alcohol. Tony’s first fall from grace was precipitated by a series of attacks from supervillains hired by business rival Justin Hammer. While fending these off, Iron Man was framed for the murder of a diplomat, and at the same time national security agency SHIELD were attempting to buy his company and so gain his military secrets. Gradually, with the support of his friends, Tony overcame these threats and defeated his addiction.

This episode was nothing compared to Tony’s second dance with drink. As a result of the emotional manipulations of his ex-wife Obadiah Stane, Tony entered a deep depression and for a time became a homeless vagrant. His epiphany came when he was forced to deliver the child of a homeless woman, who died soon after.

At the same time he continued to serve as Iron Man. Eventually, the mounting conflicts of interest led him to resign from the government and announce that the role of Iron Man was now being borne by someone else.

Despite his life’s many ups and downs Tony Stark remains the same man he always was, adhering to his principles with an iron will. AD

OLD FLAMES
Wealthy, charming, handsome—over the years, countless women have been drawn to Tony Stark, and many hearts have been broken, including his own. Time and again, his dual identity and multiple responsibilities have sabotaged any hope at a settled, long-term romance.

JANICE CORD
Daughter of Stark rival Diesel Corp.

BETHANY GARE
Tony’s former wife whose husband reared their children.

SUNSET BAIN
Seduced Tony and stole his secrets.

VIRGINIA POTTS
One of Tony’s most loyal confidantes.

NATASHA ROMANOVA
Something adversary and former flame.

AN ENEMY OF AMERICA
Although a long-term member of the Avengers, at times Tony’s decisions have brought him into direct conflict with his Super Hero friends, as well as with the US government. When Justin Hammer stole Stark technology and distributed it to criminals across the world, Tony began a quest to find each item of missing technology. It was his effort to track down the US military’s Stark-derived Guardians suits that resulted in the Iron Man being branded an outlaw by the US government. This action also antagonized CAPTAIN AMERICA.

A HEAVY BURDEN
Tony’s life has gone through many dramatic changes. When he publicly admitted to being the Iron Man, his initial relief at no longer having to lead a double life was short-lived. Successfully campaigning to become US Secretary of Defense, he tried to use his government position to control the use of his various inventions.

Although sometimes at odds with his fellow Avengers, Tony Stark remains one of the team’s most constant members. While his money keeps the team afloat, it is as Iron Man that he really leaves his mark.
In one possible future, Zane's parents are Cain Marko, the original Juggernaut, and Sachi Yama, an Assistant District Attorney. They fell in love shortly after Marko renounced his criminal ways, joined the X-Men, and was pardoned for his past crimes. They married, but Sachi kept her last name for professional reasons. While on an X-Men mission, Marko was lost in an alien dimension. Years later, Zane discovered that he could temporarily gain the mass and power of the Juggernaut. Calling himself J2, Zane joined the Avengers of his timeline and eventually freed his father from an alien sorcerer who had been holding him prisoner.

Peter Parker's biochemistry teacher was obsessed with Peter's girlfriend, Gwen Stacy. Grief-stricken by her death, he became unhinged, creating clones of Gwen and Peter and killing his lab assistant when he was discovered. Unable to face what he had done, he developed an alternate personality, the Jackal, who gradually became dominant. The Jackal blamed Spider-Man for what had happened to Gwen, and forced Peter to face up to his own guilt for her death. Their last confrontation was in the Daily Bugle offices, where the Jackal met his maker.
J. Jonah Jameson began his career in journalism while he was still in high school, working as a part-time copy boy for New York’s prestigious Daily Bugle newspaper. The son of a war hero, he obtained firsthand experience of conflict when he served as a war correspondent in Europe during World War II. Jameson later spent three years covering the Korean War, during which time Joan—his first wife and the mother of his son, John—was tragically killed by a masked mugger, sparking a lifelong distrust of mask-wearers, be they villain or hero.

**CRIME FIGHTER**

Jameson reacted to the grief by throwing himself even more fully into his professional life, rising to become editor-in-chief of the Bugle. He eventually became the paper’s publisher, relinquishing the editor-in-chief position to Joe “Roddie” Robertson. In time, Jameson bought the paper. For many years, Jameson used his newspaper to fight for civil rights and to battle organized crime. The Kingpin of Crime tried to have him killed, but this attempt on his life did nothing to change Jameson’s uncompromising attitude. The stubborn, belligerent, but courageous publisher continued to print exposés of big-time criminals—even when his old friend, Norman Osborn, turned out to be one of them.

Jameson began writing editorials against costumed Super Heroes, criticizing them as vigilantes who took the law into their own hands. When the Amazing Spider-Man appeared in New York and began fighting crime as a costumed hero, J. Jonah Jameson focused his most pointed attacks on the Wall Crawler. He called Spider-Man a menace, claiming that the Web Swinger was a danger to the citizens of New York.

**SPIDER SEEKER**

Ironically, Jameson has bought many photos of Spider-Man in action from freelance photographer Peter Parker. Unknown to the Bugle’s publisher, Peter Parker is Spider-Man’s secret identity. Jameson has tried unsuccessfully for years to uncover Spider-Man’s true identity, even hiring private detectives and offering rewards for information. He has never suspected that the Webbed Wonder is in fact one of his most prized freelancers.

Over the years, Jameson has made a number of attempts to capture Spider-Man, including hiring Dr. Mafra Mafra to build him a Spider-Slayer robot. He later fell in love with Mafra and the two were married. Despite his hatred for Spider-Man, Jameson is not a murderer and only hopes to capture and unmask Spider-Man, not to kill him. **TM**
Jarella

A creature called Psylocke subjected the Hulk to a ray that caused him to shrink, until he was shunted into an alternate dimension called a "microworld." The Hulk found himself outside the city of K'ai on an unnamed planet, whose humanoid inhabitants had green skin like his own. After defeating huge beasts called warthos, the Hulk was hailed as a hero by the people of K'ai. Its warrior queen, Jarella, chose the Hulk to become her husband and king of the city-state. K'ai's Pantheon of Sorcerers cast a spell that enabled the personality and intellect of Dr. Bruce Banner to dominate the superhuman form of his alter ego, the Hulk. Believing he would never return to Earth, Banner came to love Jarella. However, the day before their wedding, Psylocke returned the Hulk to Earth, where the spell no longer had effect.

Jarella visited Banner on Earth, and the Hulk twice returned to K'ai, before returning to Earth with Jarella. The Hulk later battled a robot, the Crypto-Man, causing a wall to collapse. Saving a child from the toppling wall, Jarella was crushed to death by it instead.

Jarvis, Edwin

Edwin Jarvis is a war hero and a former pilot in Britain's Royal Air Force. After retiring to the US, he became the butler of Howard and Maria Stark and continued to work for their son Tony (see Iron Man) after their deaths. When Stark transferred ownership of his mansion to the Avengers, he asked Jarvis to stay on as the team's principal domestic servant. Jarvis agreed and served the team loyally until he was captured, hypnotized and transformed into the Crimson Cowl by Ultron. Under Ultron's control, Jarvis allowed the second version of the Masters of Evil to enter Avengers Mansion and capture the team. Ultron also hypnotized Jarvis into believing that he had betrayed the Avengers to secure funds for his ailing mother's medical care. After regaining his true memory, Jarvis convinced the Avengers of his innocence and returned to his duties. Although he supervised an enormous staff, Jarvis was the only servant who actually lived in the mansion. The Scarlet Witch, in a temporary fit of madness, used her reality-altering powers to "disassemble" the Avengers team and destroy the mansion. Jarvis fortunately survived this disaster, and subsequently moved to the new team's headquarters, Stark Tower, resuming his role as the Avengers' major domo.
JESTER

Struggling actor Jonathan Powers thought he had got his big break in an off-Broadway play. Unfortunately his performance was panned by the critics and booted by the audience. He began studying fencing, gymnastics, and bodybuilding, hoping to win additional roles, but all he landed was a job as a comic foil on a children's TV show.

Deciding to turn to crime, Powers contacted the Tinkerer, who specialized in creating unusual weapons from toys. Donning a harlequin-style jester's costume, Powers called himself the Jester, and set out on a crime spree in New York, using his deadly toys and gimmicks.

Jester soon came into conflict with the costumed hero Daredevil, who halted Jester's criminal activity and helped to put him in jail. MT

The Jester finally runs out of pipes when cornered by Daredevil on a tee escape high above the streets of New York City.

JOCASTA

The robot Jocasta was created by another robot, the hate-filled Ultron, to be his mate. Jocasta's personality is based on that of the Wasp, who was the wife of Ultron's creator, Henry Pym. Although Ultron programmed Jocasta to serve him, she turned against him. She repeatedly aided the Avengers and became a member of their team. Later Jocasta's artificial intelligence entered the main computer in the Seattle mansion of Tony Stark (Iron Man), and she became his personal ally. Subsequently, Jocasta appeared in a robot body that resembles her original form. PS

JOLT

After her parents were killed during the rampage of Onslaught, Hallie Takahama had to fend for herself on the streets of New York. Abducted by mad genius Annim Zomo, Hallie was rescued by the Thunderbolts—Super-Villains posing as heroes. Not realizing their motives, Hallie joined the team as Jolt, to the consternation of its leader, Baron Zemo. She inspired some members to turn against Zemo, before leaving the team and opting to live on the ravaged Counter-Earth on the other side of the sun. TB

JONES, Gabe

Like so many other members of World War II heroes the Howling Commandos, Gabe Jones was to continue fighting alongside its commander, Nick Fury, for most of his life. Reuniting with the rest of the military strike squad during the Korean and Vietnam wars, Gabe became a key aide to Fury when he was made director of Shield. Responsible for infiltrating and bringing down the insidious organization known as the Secret Empire, Gabe remained loyal to Fury even after the android Delilah infiltrated Shield. He went on to play a key role when the organization was re-established as a leaner, more focused operation. AD
JONES, Jessica

**FIRST APPEARANCE**: Alias #1 (November 2001)

**REAL NAME**: Jessica Jones

**OCCUPATION**: Private investigator

**BASE**: New York City

**HEIGHT**: 5' 4" in

**WEIGHT**: 120 lbs

**EYES**: Brown

**HAIR**: Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**: As the Super Hero Jewel, Jessica Jones possessed the powers of flight, superhuman strength, and a high resistance to injury.

When the car she and her family were in collided with a truck full of radioactive chemicals, young Jessica Jones acquired superpowers. The rest of her family was killed. Taking the identity Jewel, she used her powers to battle criminals until the evil Zebediah Killgrave, known as the PURPLE MAN, took control of her mind and enslaved her. After losing a battle with the AVENGERS, Jessica fell into a coma and underwent psychic therapy with Jean Grey. She gave up being a hero and opened a detective agency specializing in cases involving superpowered beings. MT

JONES, Marlo

**FIRST APPEARANCE**: Incredible Hulk #317 (September 1986)

**REAL NAME**: Marlo Chandler-Jones

**OCCUPATION**: Talk show host, comic shop owner

**BASE**: Las Vegas, Los Angeles

**HEIGHT**: 5' 6" in

**WEIGHT**: 145 lbs

**EYES**: Green

**HAIR**: Red

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**: In excellent physical shape. At one point she acquired the ability to see the spirits of dead people.

Marlo Chandler met and dated the Hulk when he was in his grey Joe Fixit personality and working as a bodyguard for Las Vegas casino-owner, Michael Berengetti. She broke off the relationship after witnessing the Hulk savagely kill an enemy. Marlo later met the Hulk’s friend Rick Jones, when he was on a book tour promoting his memoirs. Rick and Marlo married and hosted a television talk show called *Keeping Up With the Joneses*. Rick and Marlo separated, made up, then broke up again. Despite their many ups and downs, Rick and Marlo are still together. MT

JOSEPH

**FIRST APPEARANCE**: Uncanny X-Men #327 (December 1995)

**REAL NAME**: Unknown

**OCCUPATION**: Adventurer

**BASE**: Xavier Institute, New York State

**HEIGHT**: 6' 2" in

**WEIGHT**: 190 lbs

**EYES**: Blue-gray

**HAIR**: White

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**: As Magneto’s clone. Joseph has the same power as Magneto—the ability to control magnetism and magnetic forces—frequently to devastating effect.

Sister Maria de la Joya nursed him back to health and a child at the orphanage where she worked named him Joseph. Sister Maria sent Joseph to the US to seek help from the X-Men, but they believed that he was really Magneto, only younger and with amnesia. Nevertheless, they allowed him to join the team. In a final confrontation with the real Magneto, Joseph bravely sacrificed his life in order to save the world from Magneto’s attack on the Earth’s magnetic fields. Magneto’s dreams of world conquest would have to wait a little longer. MT

JONES, Rick

A shiftless teenager, Rick Jones had no idea how his life and the world would change the day he snuck onto a military testing facility on a dare. For the test of a new Gamma Bomb was being carried out, and it was only through the sacrifice of Bruce Banner that Jones survived the blast—the same blast that cursed Banner with becoming the Hulk whenever he became enraged.

Feeling enormous guilt over his catalytic role in this chain of events, Rick remained by Banner’s side, helping him to conceal his secret from the military. Thereafter, when the AVENGERS were formed in response to the threat of the Hulk, Rick became an honorary member. Trained by CAPTAIN AMERICA, Rick served as his partner for a time, and subsequently worked in concert with both CAPTAIN MARVEL and his son, Genis-Vell (see CAPTAIN MARVEL), and with the space knight known as ROM. Most recently, Rick secretly bankrolled the young superhuman help group known as Excelsior. YB

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**: Richard Jones

**OCCUPATION**: Adventurer

**BASE**: Various

**HEIGHT**: 5' 9" in

**WEIGHT**: 165 lbs

**EYES**: Brown

**HAIR**: Brown

**FIRST APPEARANCE**: Incredible Hulk #1 (May 1962)

Rick Jones possesses a courageous spirit and expert fighting skills, or that trained by Captain America.
**JUBILEE**

Born to a wealthy Asian-American family, Jubilee was raised in Beverly Hills and became a top-class gymnast. After her parents lost their fortune and then their lives, Jubilee was left orphaned and embittered. Jubilee ran away, living at the Hollywood Mall, where her mutant powers became manifest. Having evaded mall security with the help of various X-Men, Jubilee followed them through a teleportal to their Australian base, remaining hidden there until it was abandoned. She left the base with Wolverine and they travelled through Asia; she found her directness, sarcasm and honesty refreshing; she came to regard Wolverine as a surrogate father. Since returning to the US, Jubilee has been a member of the X-Men. While she still has some sharp edges, much of Jubilee's faith in humanity has been restored.

**FACTFILE**

- **REAL NAME**: Jubilation Lee
- **OCCUPATION**: X-Corporation employee
- **BASE**: Mobile
- **HEIGHT**: 5 ft 5 in
- **WEIGHT**: 105 lbs
- **EYES**: Blue
- **HAIR**: Black

**FIRST APPEARANCE**

Uncanny X-Men #244 (May 1989)

Generates and projects energy globules—“fireworks”—from her fingers; Jubilee is also able to control, direct and reabsorb these.

**JUGGERNAUT**

After the death of her husband, Sharon Xavier, married his colleague, atomic scientist Dr. Kurt Marko. Dr. Marko often beat his son Cain, who in turn bullied his new stepbrother, Charles Xavier (see PROFESSOR X), whom he came to hate. Marko joined the army, but deserted while in Korea. In a cave he came upon a temple to the god Cytorrak. Marko seized a large ruby, which magically transformed him into a “human juggernaut,” an unstoppable super-being. Enemy bombs then caused the cave to collapse, burying him alive.

Years later, Marko resurfaced as the Juggernaut, invading Xavier’s mansion and trying to kill him. The Juggernaut had several battles with the X-Men, often teaming up with Black Tom Cassidy, whom he had met in prison. In time, the Juggernaut lost much of his power, made peace with Xavier, and fell out with Cassidy. Marko even joined the X-Men, and later became a member of the third incarnation of Excalibur.

**FACTFILE**

- **REAL NAME**: Cain Marko
- **OCCUPATION**: Former soldier, later mercenary, professional criminal, adventurer
- **BASE**: Mobile
- **HEIGHT**: 6 ft 10 in
- **WEIGHT**: 900 lbs
- **EYES**: Blue
- **HAIR**: Red

**FIRST APPEARANCE**

X-Men #12 (July 1965)

At full power, possessed virtual invulnerability, extraordinary superhuman strength, and could generate an impenetrable force field around himself. Wore a helmet that protected him from psychic attack.
Kaine

The first, flawed clone of Peter Parker created by the Jackal, Kaine developed cellular degeneration and was able to survive only by wearing a special life-support suit. His condition left him badly scarred, and caused his spider-powers to become twisted and magnified. Abandoned by his creator, and knowing himself to be nothing more than a mockery of true life, Kaine wandered the world taking on work as an assassin to survive. Kaine would duplicate his own facial scarring on his victim’s faces, leaving it as a calling card—the “mark of Kaine.”

Kaine believed that the Ben Reilly clone of Peter Parker was the true Spider-Man, and made it his mission in life to torture and torment Reilly for having the life that he never would, even framing him for a series of murders.

Eventually, Kaine was drawn back into Spider-Man’s orbit as part of a far-reaching plot of the Jackal’s, and he was a participant in the Maximum Clonage affair which resulted in him finally learning the truth about Reilly and Parker. In the end, Kaine gave himself up to the authorities to pay for his crimes; however, he later escaped from prison, and his current whereabouts are unknown.

Kala

Kala is the queen of an underground realm known as the Netherworld. She had threatened to attack the surface world, but Iron Man captured her and brought her up to the surface. The sudden change in atmospheric conditions caused the young and beautiful Kala to age rapidly. She denounced her plans of conquest and was returned to the Netherworld, where she reverted to her youthful self. Kala allied with Moth Man of Subterranea, but the two later went to war.

Jennifer

Jennifer is the granddaughter of Joshua Kale, a leader of the Cult of Zhered-Na, named after a sorceress who lived in Atlantis before it sank. Jennifer and Man-Thing were magically transported to another dimension, where they met the wizard Dakimh, last surviving pupil of Zhered-Na. As Dakimh’s apprentice, Jennifer became a sorceress. An ally of Man-Thing and Howard the Duck, she is a founder of the Legion of Night and teamed with Topaz and Satana as the Three Witches.

Kaluu

Born five hundred years ago in Tibet, Kaluu trained alongside the being that came to be known as the Ancient One. Whereas the Ancient One became a force for good, Kaluu was corrupted by the vampire Varna. Over the centuries he threatened Earth numerous times but redeemed himself in more recent years, helping Dr. Strange to destroy a board of demons the Doctor had inadvertently released. Unable to complete the journey to eradicate the greatest of these demons, Shuma-Gorath, Kaluu was left behind by Strange. His whereabouts are currently unknown.
Kang

Time-traveling conqueror

Born in an alternate timeline in 3000 AD, Nathaniel Richards (a descendant of Mr. Fantastic's father, who bore the same name) discovered time-travel technology that enabled him to journey virtually anywhere he liked in the timestream.

TIME TRAVELER

Richards' first stop was ancient Egypt, where he seized power and ruled for a decade as Pharaoh Rama-Tut until forced to flee after a fight with the Fantastic Four. Arriving in the 40th century, he briefly became the Scarlet Centurion before settling on the name Kang the Conqueror. Kang found the century in turmoil and easy to subjugate.

Looking for new challenges, Kang traveled to 1901 and established the city of Timely, Wisconsin in his guise as Victor Timely. He assembled an elite warrior class, the Anarchonauts, from all eras of history before returning to the 40th century. There he fell in love with Princess Ravonna. After her death during a revolt by Kang's troops, he tried and failed to become the consort of the Celestial Madonna (Mantis), killing the original Swordsman in the process. A future version of Kang, calling himself Immortus, tried to thwart his younger self's aggressive schemes, but Kang would not be contained, and assembled the original Legion of the Unliving.

Kang's Gang

After a stint in 1873 Arizona and many other time hops, Kang gathered alternate versions of himself from branching timestreams and formed the Council of Kangs. The Kangs killed any duplicates deemed unworthy until only the prime Kang remained.

Kang joined with Libra, the Kree Supreme Intelligence, and the Avengers to prevent Immortus and the Time Keepers from wiping out a multitude of alternate realities. During the battle, Kang and Immortus's histories diverged. Kang then conquered modern-era Earth with his son Marcus (the new Scarlet Centurion), but met defeat at the hands of the Avengers.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES

- Avengers Vol. 1 #65
  In his first appearance, Kang battles Earth's mightiest heroes and proves why he is a foe for the ages.
- Avengers Vol. 1 #129-135 and Giant-Sized Avengers #2-4
  In the "Celestial Madonna" story arc, Kang kidnaps Marta, the Scarlet Witch, and Agatha Harkness to determine which will give birth to a being of great power.
The Deviants are an evolutionary offshoot of humanity with an unstable genetic code. Those whose genetic makeup varies beyond standard set by the Devient priesthood are labeled mutants. The Deviant mutate Karkas was raised to be a gladiator, but at heart he was a philosopher. He was defeated in the arena by another mutate, Ransak the Reject. Then Karkas asked Thena, a visiting Eternals, to grant sanctuary to himself and the Reject. She transported them to Olympia, home of the Eternals. Ever since then Karkas has been a staunch ally of the Eternals.

Xi’an and her twin brother Tran had the ability to possess the minds of others. Tran worked for the criminal organization of their uncle, General Coy, and Coy tried to force Xi’an to do the same by abducting their younger siblings Lezong and Nga. With the aid of Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four, Xi’an rescued the children, but had to absorb Tran’s psyche into her own. She attended Professor Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters, and became the first member of the New Mutants, but has since left.

Ka-Zar

Son of British nobleman Lord Robert Plunder (the discoverer of Antarctic vibranium), Ka-Zar grew up in the Antarctic “Savage Land” following the murder of his father at the hands of Man-Apes. Raised by the intelligent sabertoothed tiger Zabu, Ka-Zar learned to survive against dinosaurs and Man-Apes. His enemies have included his brother Parnival, also known as the Plunderer, and the Savage Land Mutates. Ka-Zar eventually married Shanna the She-Demon, and the two are currently raising a son, Matthew.

Kelly, Senator

As senator for Massachusetts, Robert Kelly proposed strong anti-mutant legislation. Repeated assassination attempts and his wife’s death hardened his stance until, while standing for president on an anti-mutant platform, he was saved from another attempt on his life by the sacrifice of Pyro. Kelly then changed his stance dramatically, only to be killed by a non-mutant who accused him of betraying humanity.
Killraven

First Appearance: Amazing Adventures Vol. 1 #16 (May 1973)
Real Name: Jonathan Raven
Occupation: Freedom fighter
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 1 in
Weight: 185 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Red
Special Powers/Abilities: An expert combatant and swordsman who can take mental control of a Martian's body. A natural leader who has keen survival instincts suited for a post-apocalyptic world.

In an alternate timeline, Martian invaders conquered Earth in the year 2001. The Martians forced many of the survivors to battle in gladiatorial pits, where Jonathan Raven first won fame as "Killraven." Keeper Whitman, a scientist employed by the Martians but secretly working against them, was given the task of rehabilitating Killraven following an unsuccessful escape attempt. Whitman genetically modified Killraven, giving him the ability to seize mental control of his Martian masters. Killraven led a team of Freemen in a cross-country trek, striking out against the Martian overlords while searching for his lost brother. DW

Kincaid, Dr.

First Appearance: Thor #136 (January 1967)
Real Name: Dr. Keith Kincaid
Occupation: Medical doctor
Base: California
Height: 5 ft 7 in
Weight: 155 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blend
Special Powers/Abilities: Dr. Keith Kincaid is a normal human with no superhuman powers. He possesses the normal degree of physical fitness of a man of his age and weight.

Following the temporary transformation of Thor's mortal love Jane Foster into a goddess by Odin (see Gods of Asgard) and her defeat at the hands of the Unknown (a formless creature composed of living fear), Odin returned her to Earth. Jane had no memory of either Thor or his alter ego Dr. Donald Blake. Foster went to work for Dr. Keith Kincaid. She fell in love with Kincaid, whose personality and appearance were virtually identical to Blake's. They married and had a son named Kevin. As it turned out, Odin had originally used Kincaid as the model for the Don Blake persona he created as a punishment for Thor. TB

Killer Shrike

First Appearance: The Rampaging Hulk #1 (January 1977)
Real Name: Simon Maddicks
Occupation: Criminal
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 5 in
Weight: 200 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Special Powers/Abilities: Possesses enhanced strength and ability to fly. Wears bracelets with titanium talons and power-pellets that fire electrical bolts of concussive force.

Former soldier Simon Maddicks worked as a mercenary before becoming a covert operative for the Roxson Oil company. The mutagens laboratory of the Brand Corporation, Roxson's subsidiary, boosted Maddicks' strength to superhuman levels and implanted an anti-gravity generator at the base of his spine, which enabled him to fly.

Roxson assigned Maddicks, in his new costumed identity of Killer Shrike, to infiltrate the cabal called the Conspiracy. This mission led to his defeat by the monster hunter Ulysses Bloodstone.

Eventually, Killer Shrike became a freelance agent, hiring out his services or committing crimes on his own. In the course of his criminal career, he has battled the Super Heroes Spider-Man, Moon Knight, and the She-Hulk. PS

King, Hannibal

First Appearance: Tomb of Dracula #25 (October 1974)
Real Name: Hannibal King
Occupation: Private Investigator
Base: Boston, Massachusetts
Height: 6 ft 2 in
Weight: 196 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Has all of the abilities typical to a vampire, but prefers not to use them due to his self-loathing about his condition.

A low-rent private investigator, Hannibal King was slain by the vampire Deacon Frost and three days later rose from the dead himself as a vampire. Repulsed by his new condition, King's force of will was so strong that he refrained from feasting on human blood. Resuming his career as a private eye, albeit one who only operated at night, King clashed with the vampire lord Dracula, which brought him into the sphere of the man called Blade, who had his own grievances against Deacon Frost. Together, the two men tracked Frost to his lair, and ended his menace forever. Thereafter, King and Blade formalized their professional relationship, becoming the Nightstalkers, dedicated to hunting down and eradicating supernatural evil. TB
Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin, is the most formidable figure in organized crime, and a perennial enemy of the Super Heroes Spider-Man, the Punisher, and, most frequently, Daredevil. The Kingpin’s operations are global and the assassins that have done his dirty work are legion, including such names as Bullseye, Elektra, and Typhoid Mary.

**UNDERWORLD KING**

As a youth, Fisk bulked up his body to strike back against the bullies who tormented him, committing his first murder at the age of 12. At 15, he led a gang of street toughs, and came to be called the “Kingpin of Crime.” Employed by crime lord Don Rigoletto, he ended up killing Rigoletto and assuming control of his operations. He married Vanessa, a beautiful socialite, and they had a son, Richard. The Kingpin also became the guardian of Maya Lopez (Echo), the daughter of one of his murdered business partners. After decades in power, the Kingpin organized the various New York gangs and challenged the Maggia, triggering a war that Spider-Man helped to end.

**POWER STRUGGLES**

The Kingpin believed that his son Richard had died in a skiing accident. In truth, Richard had become a rival crime lord, the Schemer, who lured his father into an alliance with a HYDRA faction. The Kingpin left his empire behind to pursue a new life with Vanessa in Japan, but returned with vengeance after Vanessa’s apparent death. Richard Fisk then became a new criminal rival, the Rose.

After the Kingpin learned Daredevil’s secret identity, he destroyed the hero’s life and nearly killed him. The Kingpin also participated in a gang war between New York crime families, and defeated the Red Skull. The Kingpin’s empire crumbled when HYDRA agents cleaned out his bank accounts and assaulted his headquarters, Fisk Tower. The Kingpin rebuilt his empire by controlling multinationals such as Fujikawa Industries. His foster daughter Echo blinded him by shooting him in the eye, and the Kingpin’s inner circle—including his son Richard—stabbed him many times and left him for dead. Vanessa nursed her husband, killed Richard for betraying his father, and the Kingpin returned stronger than ever. Recently, however, Daredevil beat his longtime nemesis senseless and declared himself the new Kingpin. DW
Physicist Ulysses Klaw was working on a device to turn sound into physical objects and needed Vibranium, an element found only in the African nation of Wakanda. He traveled to the country and tried to seize the element from the Cult of the Black Panther, but in the battle, Klaw's right hand was destroyed by his own sonic blaster. Eventually buying vibranium on the black market, Klaw made a prosthetic device that could turn sound into matter, to replace his hand. He has frequently battled the Fantastic Four.

A young member of the Kymellian race of aliens, Kofi was the son of Lord Yrik Whitmane, the interstellar ambassador to the Zhirx (see Snarks). As he became older, Kofi grew to resent the time and energy his father committed to his work. Things came to a head when Kofi discovered a Zhirx plot to kidnap the junior team of Earth Super Heroes known as Power Pack, and to use them in a game of political brinkmanship. Traveling to Earth, Kofi defied the schemers, his efforts earning the admiration of his father and forging a reconciliation between them.

A member of Atlantis's military, Krang aspired to the throne of his underwater nation, during the long absence of its prince, Namor, the Sub-Mariner. When Namor finally returned, he appointed Krang as his warlord. But Krang staged a coup d'état, seized the throne and plotted to conquer the surface world. Namor bested Krang in single combat and exiled him from Atlantis. Since then Krang has continued to scheme against Namor and Atlantis, and has allied himself with Namor's enemies Attuma and Byrrah. Krang also once fell under the sway of the Serpent Crown and joined forces with the second Viper's Serpent Squad.

Once a highly-decorated police officer, Misty Knight's days on the Force came to an end when she lost her right arm to a terrorist's bomb. In recognition of her bravery, Stark International arranged for Misty to receive a bionic prosthetic to replace her lost limb. Unwilling to accept a desk job with the police department, Misty instead went into business as a private investigator with her friend, samurai Colleen Wing. As the Daughters of the Dragon, the two women have shared innumerable adventures, often in the company of Power Man (see Cage, Luke) and Misty's longtime lover, Iron Fist.

Korvac comes from the same possible 31st-century future as the Guardians of the Galaxy. When the Badoon invaded Earth, he quickly offered to help the alien conquerors. They rewarded his loyalty by amputating the lower half of his body and replacing it with a mobile computer module. Realizing the potential of his new form, Korvac began to plot against the Badoon. He also managed to siphon energy from the Grandmaster and absorbed the power cosmic from the world-sized starship that belonged to Galactus. Now seemingly omnipotent, Korvac traveled to the 20th century with the intention of restructuring the universe in his image, but he later faked his own death during a battle with the Avengers.
**Kraven**

His parents were Russian aristocrats, who died while he was a child. Sergei Kravinoff found employment with an African safari, learning to track and kill big game. A mystical serum augmented his strength and speed, and Kraven became the world's greatest hunter.

After anglicizing his name to Kraven, he took up a challenge from his criminal half-brother, the Chameleon, to hunt the most dangerous game of all—the American Super Hero Spider-Man.

After suffering numerous defeats, both on his own and as one of the Sinister Six, Kraven tranquilized Spider-Man and buried him alive. Kraven then assumed the hero's identity in a bid to prove himself the better crime fighter. In the end, confident that life held no further challenge, Kraven shot and killed himself. Spider-Man later helped Kraven's spirit find its final rest. Kraven's son Vladimir briefly served as the Grim Hunter, while his son Alyosha has since become the second Kraven the Hunter. **DW**

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**Kulan Gath**

Kulan Gath once held a high position among the sorcerers of Stygia during the Hyborian era. He married his bitter rival, the sorceress Vannitar, to gain access to the Iron-Bound Books of Shuma-Gorath and together they opened the books, unleashing a Nether Demon. Kulan Gath also studied under the master sorcerer Thoth-Amun, a longtime enemy of Conan the Barbarian. The wizard's physical body has been killed more than once, but his spirit always survives, often in a necklace to enslave others. He has clashed with Dr. Strange, Spider-Man, the Avengers, and the X-Men, among others. **MT**

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**Kurse**

Kurse began life as Algrim the Strong, mightiest of the Dark Elves who served their ruler Malekith. Chosen to battle Thor on behalf of his master, Algrim fell into a pit of lava. His desire for vengeance was so strong he survived, but he no longer knew who he was. The Beyonder decided to use Algrim to study vengeance. He transformed Algrim into the vastly more powerful Kurse, who pursed Thor across the Nine Worlds.

Kurse eventually learned that his true enemy was his one-time ruler Malekith. After he slew the Dark Elf Lord, his craving for revenge was sated, and he became a sword protector of Asgard and its children, taking the name Valgoth. **TB**
KREE, THE
Extraterrestrial empire-builders

The Kree are aliens, similar in appearance to humans but possessing twice the strength and endurance. They originated on the planet Hala in the Pama system, located in the Greater Magellanic Cloud, a planet they shared with another intelligent species, the plant-like Cotati. Kree consist of two primary races: the original blue-skinned race and a pink-skinned race which emerged millennia later.

WAR YEARS
Nearly a million years ago, the Skrulls landed on Hala and set up a contest between the Kree and the Cotati. When the Cotati were named as victors, the enraged Kree killed the contact team, stole their starship technology, and launched the Kree-Skrull war that raged for eons. They took a special interest in Earth, creating the offshoot of humanity known as the INHUMANS. Kree society was ruled by the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, a computer consciousness formed by the collective minds of the greatest Kree thinkers. In the modern era, the Kree officer Mar-Vell scouted Earth for a possible invasion, but defected to Earth's side as the superhuman CAPTAIN MARVEL.

KREE EVOLUTION
During the Kree-Sh'ar war, a later conflict sometimes called Operation Galactic Storm, the Supreme Intelligence arranged for the detonation of a mega-bomb in Kree space in the hope of jumpstarting the species' evolution. Over ninety percent of the Kree died, and the survivors became vassals of the Shi'ar. The AVENGERS executed the Supreme Intelligence, but it survived, and using the Forever Crystal, accelerated the evolution of some Kree into a new breed, the Rull, which could spontaneously produce adaptations such as the ability to fly or to breathe underwater. During AVENGERS Disassembled, HAWKEYE seemingly died while fighting a Kree invasion force, but these Kree were probably manifestations of the SCARLET WITCH's formidable reality-warping powers.

The Kree have created many technological wonders, including Kree Sentinels and the Psycho-Magneton, which can harness any weapon from Kree history.
**Lady Deathstrike**

Yuriko Oyama is the daughter of Lord Dark Wind, a Japanese scientist who created a process for binding the indestructible metal adamantium to human bone. Seeking vengeance on her father for the death of her brothers and the scarring of her face, Oyama joined forces with the costumed champion Daredevil against him. She killed Lord Dark Wind just as he was about to murder Daredevil. However, the man she loved, Kiru, a member of Lord Dark Wind’s private army, then committed suicide.

Oyama believed that the secret of her father’s process had been stolen and used to lace Wolverine’s skeleton with adamantium.

**Cyborg Assassin**

As the samurai warrior Lady Deathstrike, Oyama attempted to kill Wolverine and take his skeleton. However, she was defeated by Wolverine’s friend Heather Hudson in her costumed identity of Vindicator.

Subsequently, Lady Deathstrike was converted into a cyborg by the extradimensional being Spiral. In this new form, Lady Deathstrike’s own skeleton has been reinforced with adamantium. Although Lady Deathstrike heads Oyama Heavy Industries, she also works as a professional assassin. For a time she was a member of the Reavers, Donald Pierce’s team of cyborgs. She severed the legs of the Japanese hero Sunfire. Wolverine remains her principal adversary.

**Lava Men**

Moulded into their current form by an unknown demon, the Lava Men were originally descended from the Gortokians, a genetically engineered offshoot of humanity. There are two known tribes of Lava Men. For a time, the first was led by a witch doctor known as Jinku, but his reign ended when Thor thwarted efforts to ignite every volcano on the planet. The second tribe lives in caverns beneath the Project Pegasus research facility. Researchers became aware of these Lava Men when the creatures were disturbed by a drilling project. The Avengers resolved the situation and the Lava Men haven’t been seen since.

**Leap-Frog**

Vincent Patillo started out as a toy inventor before seeing a chance to make some money when he created a set of electrically-powered jumping coils. He devised a frog costume and embarked on a criminal career as Leap-Frog. He met with a string of pathetic setbacks, including a disastrous stunt with Electro’s Emissaries of Evil and a number of humiliations at the hands of Daredevil and Spider-Man. Vincent’s son Eugene later donned his father’s costume and became Frog-Man, an identity that Vincent has sometimes assumed as he continues in his modest calling.
Leader
After dropping out of school, Samuel Sterns took a menial job in a US government research facility, where an accident led to his body being bombarded by intense gamma radiation. In the days that followed, Sterns developed an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and as his intelligence expanded at exponential rates, so too did his cranium.

Unfortunately, Sterns’ increased intellectual capacity was not matched by emotional maturity. Disgusted by governmental corruption, he decided that he should command the human race, and reigned himself as the Leader.

Over the years, the Leader’s efforts to dominate the world have been repeatedly foiled by the Hulk and undermined by his own impatience. The Leader has battled green behemoths with robotic humanoids and even painted Super Villains like the Rhino and the Green Goblin against him, but global domination has remained elusive. However, he has had some successes, in particular the construction of Freehold, a utopian city hidden in Canada’s icy north.

An increasingly lonely individual, the Leader came to believe that only the Hulk truly understood him. Believing that his brain was about to ascend to a higher plane, he asked Banner to come to him. Did the Leader find the enlightenment that he anticipated? It may be too soon to say.

Leech
FIRST APPEARANCE Uncanny X-Men #179 (March 1984)
REAL NAME Unrevealed
OCCUPATION Adventurer
BASE Various
HEIGHT 4 ft 2 in WEIGHT 67 lbs EYES Yellow HAIR None
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Leech can dampen the superhuman powers of any Super Heroes or Villains, mutant or not, within his proximity, up to a range of 30 feet.

Abandoned by his parents when they discovered he was a mutant, Leech was found by Caliban, who brought him into a mutant community known as the Morlocks, who lived in the sewers beneath Manhattan. Leech was happy there—until Mister Sinister sent the Marauders to wipe the Morlocks out. Leech was saved by Power Pack and X-Factor. The green-skinned boy lived with X-Factor as one of their junior team, the X-Terminators, then associated with Generation X and a group of adventurous children known as the Daydreamers.

Leeds, Betty Brant
Although unfazed by the rantings of her bullish boss, J. Jonah Jameson, Betty Brant’s positive outlook was gradually worn down as events drove her from one calamity to another. Betty was Spider-Man Peter Parker’s very first girlfriend, and when their relationship ended, she married Daily Bugle reporter Ned Leeds. Ned’s obsession with his work caused constant tension, which he blamed on Spider-Man. She was dismayed to discover that Ned had become the evil Hobgoblin, and suffered a mental breakdown following his death. Since then, Betty has rebuilt her life, becoming an investigative reporter. It was she who discovered that Roderick Kingsley was the original Hobgoblin. Having experienced the worst that life can deal, Betty can now look to the future with confidence.
**Lethal Legion**

When Simon Williams (see Wonder Man) sacrificed his life to save the Avengers, his altruism had untold consequences. His grieving brother, Eric, blamed the Avengers for Simon’s death and determined to destroy them, adopting the guise of the Grim Reaper and forming the Lethal Legion of Super-Villains. The Legion’s efforts ended in failure, while Eric’s own enmity to the Avengers was compromised following his brother’s resurrection. Nevertheless, the Lethal Legion lived on under the leadership of Count Nefaria. Not much of a team player, Nefaria stole the powers of his fellow legionnaires but was still defeated, despite his augmented abilities.

Following Grim Reaper’s death, the Legion’s name was adopted by the demon lord Satannish, who resurrected various historical figures—including Josef Stalin and Heinrich Himmler—to capture the souls of the Avengers. Although this plot was also foiled, the Lethal Legion’s name continues to inspire fear.

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**Left-Winger**

First Appearance: Captain America #323 (November 1986)
Real Name: Hector Lennox
Occupation: Former wrestler
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 5 in
Weight: 265 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Lennox possessed superhuman strength and stamina thanks to the Power Becker’s strength-augmentation program.

When his ex-army buddy John Walker (see US Agent) became the Super-Patriot, Lennox became one of his Bold Urban Commandos (“Buckies”). Walker was then selected to replace Steve Rogers as Captain America. Angered, Lennox and his partner took on guises as Left-Winger and Right-Winger, and set out to destroy Walker’s tenure as Captain America. They revealed Walker’s true identity to the media. Walker’s parents were killed as a result, and he vowed vengeance. Left-Winger was so badly burned in an ensuing explosion that he took his own life.

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**Legion**

First Appearance: New Mutants #25 (March 1985)
Real Name: David Charles Hailer
Occupation: Student
Base: Mur Island, off the coast of Scotland
Height: 5 ft 8 in
Weight: 120 lbs
EYES: (left) Green; (right) Blue
HAIR: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Telepathic ability: weakness enables him to lift objects and protect self with force field; also able to start fires with his mind.

Some time ago, a relationship between Charles Xavier (Professor X) and Gabrielle Hailer led to the birth of a boy, David, though years passed before Xavier learned of this. When David was ten, his mutant abilities began to emerge. He developed multiple personalities, each of which controlled different powers. His psychological condition gradually deteriorated but David would be in his late teens before Xavier was asked to help and finally discovered that David was his son. With his father’s aid, David’s core persona reasserted itself, allowing him to live a happier, more contented life.

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**Libra**

First Appearance: Avengers Vol. 1 #72 (January 1976)
Real Name: Gustav Brandt
Occupation: Professional criminal
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft
Weight: 195 lbs
EYES: None (formerly blue)
HAIR: Blond
Special Powers/Abilities: Skilled martial artist; psychic, can access the “Place Between Places” in order to teleport.

Gustav Brandt served as a mercenary in Asia, where he fathered a daughter, later known as Mantis, before losing his sight in the fire that killed his wife. A pacifist group called the Priests of Pana taught him to see via psychic means, but because Brandt was a soldier they took his daughter away and raised her themselves. The Zodiac Cartel later recruited Brandt as a criminal kingpin, and he took the name of Libra. His ability to access the “Place Between Places” made it possible for him to disappear and appear at will, and several times he vanished suddenly and mysteriously while serving prison sentences. Libra was eventually briefly reunited with his daughter. He considered himself the balance point between good and evil and acted accordingly, switching sides to aid the Avengers and Kang against the forces of Immortus and the Time Keepers.
The Legion of the Unliving are foes of the Avengers, their ranks made up of deceased heroes and villains brought together by outside entities. Legion members have variously appeared as duplicates or animated zombies and, most disturbingly, have included former Avengers. Kang, the Conqueror, allied with Immortus, assembled the original Legion. Scouring the timestream, Kang brought together Frankenstein's Monster, Midnight, Flying Dutchman, villain-turned-hero Wonder Man, Baron Zemo and the heroic Human Torch.

**DEFEATED**

Despite their combined powers, Kang's Legion failed to defeat the Avengers, and Immortus—after defeating the turncoat Kang—sent the Legion members to their proper places in the timestream.

The second Legion of the Unliving came about through the efforts of the Grandmaster, who raised such figures as Bucky Barnes, the Swordsman, Captain Mar-Vell, Korvac, Dracula, and the Red Guardian to guard "life bombs" that threatened to wipe out the universe. As the Avengers struggled to thwart the Grandmaster's scheme, their slain members joined the ranks of the Legion of the Unliving. Fortunately, all the Avengers returned to life after the resolution of the crisis.

**NEVER SAY DIE**

A third Legion included such notable figures as the Grim Reaper, the Black Knight (Nathan Garrett), and Toro. They were gathered by Immortus in order to help him capture the Scarlet Witch.

Following Immortus's failure, the undead Grim Reaper gained additional power from the demon Llorgoth and gathered a fourth version of the Legion of the Unliving. Grim Reaper's Legion included copies of villains such as Count Nefaria and Inferno, but the team once again met defeat in battle against the Avengers.

The fifth Legion of the Unliving were once more pawns of the Grim Reaper against the Avengers. It consisted of the deceased heroes Captain Mar-Vell, Doctor Druid, Hellcat, Mockingbird, Swordsman, Wonder Man, and Thunderstrike (Eric Masterson). The Scarlet Witch used her powers to send the spirits of this Legion into the afterlife, and her love for Wonder Man restored him to life. Likewise, Wonder Man restored his brother the Grim Reaper to full physical health, thus ending his threat.
**Lifeguard**

**First Appearance:** X-Treme X-Men #6 (December 2001)

**Real Name:** Heather Cameron

**Occupation:** Member of X-Corp  
**Base:** Mumbai, India

**Height:** 5'10"  
**Weight:** 156 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Blonde

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Possesses bio-morphic ability—powers adapt to circumstances. In past Lifeguard has grown wings, extra arms, and developed ability to breathe underwater.

Targeted by the Chinese Triad, only the X-Men's intervention saved the lives of Heather Cameron and her brother, Davis. Forced to reveal her mutant abilities during this encounter, Heather was invited to join the X-Men and forsake her career as an Australian lifeguard. As her powers developed, Heather's appearance changed, becoming increasingly alien, and it became apparent that her mother was a member of the Shi'ar race. Unable to cope with this revelation, Davis disappeared and Heather left the team to find him.

Now working for the X-Corporation in Mumbai, it is not yet known whether Heather has ever found her brother.

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**Lilith**

**First Appearance:** Ghost Rider #98 (August 1992)

**Real Name:** Keskillia  
**Occupation:** Sumerian Goddess  
**Base:** The Shadowside Dimension, Atlantis

**Height:** 6'7"  
**Weight:** 140 lbs  
**Eyes:** Yellow  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Superhuman strength and stamina; manipulates the dark forces of the universe. She can summon her children from other dimensions, giving them new bodies on Earth.

Lilith is believed to be the daughter of Aehr, the ancient god of darkness. She lived on the island of Atlantis and survived its destruction, escaping in the form of a storm demon to the desert beyond the Euphrates River. Later, Atlantean sorcerers imprisoned her within the belly of a Leviathan believed to be Tiamat. On emerging, Lilith saw a vision of the future in which her children, the Lillies, were defeated by Ghost Rider and Blaze. She then traveled through a portal to gather her children to her side. Lilith and the Lillies later came into conflict with Doctor Strange.

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**Lipscombe, Dr. Angela**

**First Appearance:** The Incredible Hulk Vol. 3 #12 (March 2000)

**Real Name:** Angela Lipscombe  
**Occupation:** Neuropsychologist  
**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 5'9"  
**Weight:** 135 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Blonde

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Genius-level knowledge of the science of neuropsychiatry; kind-hearted and a loyal and courageous friend to Bruce Banner in his hour of need.

Angela Lipscombe and Bruce Banner (see Hulk) dated in medical school, but Banner broke off the relationship, jealous when Lipscombe received a coveted grant for graduate study and he did not. Doctor Lipscombe became one of the world's foremost experts in the field of neuropsychiatry. Many years later, Bruce Banner looked up in terrible distress, believing he had contracted an incurable disease. Lipscombe used the opportunity to study the bizarre and disturbing multiple personalities that Banner exhibited as the Hulk. She is the partner of Doc Samson.

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**Lightmaster**

**First Appearance:** Peter Parker, the Spectacular Spider-Man #1 (December 1975)

**Real Name:** Dr. Edward Lansky  
**Occupation:** Physics professor  
**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 6'11"  
**Weight:** 175 lbs  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Lightmaster possesses the ability to generate light, including lasers, to create simple solid objects out of light, and to fly.

In a bid to prevent budget cuts that might affect his position at Empire State University, Dr. Edward Lansky donned a high-tech suit designed to harness the power of light and became the criminal Lightmaster. His intent was to hold various key government officials hostage, but his scheme was foiled by Spider-Man. During the conflict, Lansky's suit was damaged, transforming him into an energy being. Since that time, Lightmaster has resurfaced, attempting to cash in on his light-based powers. But each time heroes such as Dazzler, Quasar, Cable, and the aforementioned Spider-Man have succeeded in putting his lights out.

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**Lilith**

**First Appearance:** Giant-Size Chillers Vol. 1 #1 (June 1974)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed  
**Occupation:** Adventuress  
**Base:** South of France

**Height:** 6'7"  
**Weight:** 125 lbs  
**Eyes:** Red  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Unique among vampires, Lilith could walk in sunlight and was unaffected by religious talismans; superhuman strength; hypnotic abilities; could transform into a bat.

The daughter of Dracula and his first wife, Zofia, Lilith hated her father for throwing them out of their castle home and driving her mother to suicide. Lilith was raised by a gypsy woman called Gretchen. When Dracula killed her son, Gretchen used magic to transform Lilith into a vampire, condemning her to hunt Dracula for the rest of her life.

For centuries, Lilith stalked and battled her father until, in a final climactic confrontation, she tore open his chest and gouged his organs to kill him. To her dismay, Lilith discovered that she was unable to slay her own father. She resigned herself to failure and withdrew to the south of France.
**Living Laser**

First Appearance: Avengers Vol. #34 (November, 1965)

**Real Name:** Arthur Parks

**Occupation:** Criminal

**Height:** 5 ft 11 in

**Weight:** (formerly) 125 lbs

**Eyes:** (formerly) Blue

**Hair:** (formerly) Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Composed entirely of light, he can travel at light speed or transform himself into an offensive laser.

Technician Arthur Parks strapped laser projectors to his wrists to become the costumed criminal Living Laser. Obsessed with the beautiful Wasp, he kidnapped her until the Avengers broke her out. The Living Laser escaped from prison and worked as a criminal henchman for the Mandarin, Batroc’s Brigade, and the Lethal Legion. He later attempted to implant laser diodes beneath his skin, but the process drew too much energy into his body and he exploded. He continues to exist as a sentient being made entirely of light. DW

**Living Mummy**

First Appearance: Supernatural Thrillers #5 (August 1973)

**Real Name:** N’Kantu

**Occupation:** Wanderer

**Height:** 7 ft 6 in

**Weight:** 650 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Blood replaced by life-preserving fluid removing human need for food, water, or sleep; enhanced strength, rock-hard body, near-immortality; limited mobility.

Chief N’Kantu of the Swarit of North Africa became a prisoner of the pharaoh Aram-Set, and organized a slave rebellion. Although Aram-Set was killed, the rebellion was crushed and N’Kantu’s punishment was to be embalmed and entombed while still alive. Preserved in a sarcophagus for 3,000 years by mystical means, N’Kantu reawakened in the modern era and went on a rampage before being shocked back to relative sanity when he seized a power line. As the Living Mummy, N’Kantu lumbered through Africa searching for meaning in what passed for his life. He aided Captain America during the Bloodstone Hunt. DW

**Living Tribunal**

First Appearance: Strange Tales #157 (June 1967)

**Real Names:** Equity, Necessity, and Vengeance

**Occupation:** Guardian of the Multiverse

**Base:** The Multiverse

**Height:** n/a

**Weight:** n/a

**Eyes:** n/a

**Hair:** n/a

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Immeasurably powerful; can cause a sun to go supernova by firing a single bolt of its cosmic energy.

The Living Tribunal has existed as long as the universe itself. Its purpose is to safeguard the Multiverse (the totality of all alternate universes) from an imbalance of mystical forces. Thus the Living Tribunal will pass judgment on any crisis that threatens to affect the cosmic balance. It will prevent one universe from acquiring more mystical power than any other. The Living Tribunal will also intervene to prevent an imbalance between the mystical forces of good and evil within a single universe.

The Living Tribunal is capable of destroying entire planets in order to maintain the cosmic balance. In its humanoid form, the Living Tribunal has three faces—its fully visible face represents equity, its partially hooded face represents vengeance, and its fully hooded face represents necessity. It will only pass judgment when all the three sides are in agreement. MT

**Living Lightning**

First Appearance: Avengers West Coast #63 (October 1990)

**Real Name:** Miguel Santos

**Occupation:** Student

**Height:** 6 ft 0 in

**Weight:** 170 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Living Lightning can transform his body into sentient electrical energy, which he uses for various effects, including to fly.

The eldest son of the Lightning Lord, head of a radical organization called the Legion of the Living Lightning, who had designs on overthrowing the US government. The Legion’s plans were destroyed by the rampaging Hulk, and the Lightning Lord was killed in the collapse of his hidden base. Miguel intended to follow in his footsteps, and excavated the Legion’s base. An accident with one of his father’s devices transformed him into a being of pure electrical energy, who needed a containment suit to remain stable. Though driven temporarily insane, Living Lightning eventually became a member of the Avengers. TB

**Living Pharaoh**

First Appearance: Marvel Graphic Novel #17

**Real Name:** Ahmet Abdol

**Occupation:** Would-be world conqueror, now living planet

**Height:** 5 ft 8 in

**Weight:** 190 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Absorbs cosmic energy and wields it as a destructive force; at times able to increase body size.

Egyptian academic Ahmet Abdol was obsessed with the Egyptian Pharaohs, so when a traumatic incident caused his own mutant powers to become evident he renamed himself the Living Pharaoh. The discovery that his abilities were muted by those of Alex Summers (see Havok) led to many encounters with the X-Men, during which he occasionally transformed himself into the 30-ft-high Living Monolith. Terrible destruction always ensued, including his daughter’s own death, and eventually Ahmet faced up to this. Asking Thor to hurl him into deep space, cosmic energy gradually transformed him into a rich and verdant Living Planet. AD
**LIZARD**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** The Amazing Spider-Man #6 (November 1963)

**REAL NAME** Dr. Curtis Connors

**OCCUPATION** Research biologist

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 175 lbs

**EYES** (as human) Blue, (as Lizard) Red

**HAIR** (as human) Brown, (as Lizard) None

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Superhuman strength and speed. Can cling to walls like a gecko, and can telepathically control reptiles.

When Dr. Curt Connors was an Army surgeon, his wounded right arm had to be amputated. Back in civilian life, he researched the ability of some reptiles to regenerate missing limbs and created a serum to grow his arm back. It worked, but transformed him into a savage humanoid lizard. Spider-Man restored him to human form, but he has repeatedly reverted into the Lizard. Though the Lizard is one of Spider-Man’s main enemies, Dr. Connors has acted as a friend to both Spider-Man and his true identity, Peter Parker. PS

**LILYRA**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Sub-Mariner #32 (December 1970)

**REAL NAME** Lily Morris

**OCCUPATION** Subversive

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 220 lbs

**EYES** Green

**HAIR** Green

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Amphibious—can live under water or on land—and able to change skin color to pass as human or homo mermanus; can manipulate bases of primitive marine life.

Daughter of a Homo mermanus (see Atlanteans) and a human woman, Lilyra was raised on land by her mother following her father’s death. Confused by her hybrid status, Lilyra became increasingly unstable, and caused great angst to those she encountered. On her first visit to the underwater kingdom of Lemuria, Lilyra seized the throne, only to be overthrown by Namor the Sub-Mariner. Lilyra made Namor the focus of her rage. Before Namor finally captured her, Lilyra was responsible for murdering his fiancée. Prison is definitely the best place for her. AD

**LOBO BROTHERS**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Spectacular Spider-Man #143 (Oct. 1988)

**REAL NAMES** Edwards and Carlos Lobato

**OCCUPATION** Drug traffickers

**BASE** Dallas, Texas

**HEIGHT** Edwards: 6 ft 1 in, (lwoff) 6 ft 4 in (Carlos): 6 ft (lwoff) 6 ft 4 in

**WEIGHT** Edwards: 225 lbs, (lwoff) 275 lbs, Carlos: 210 lbs, (lwoff) 260 lbs

**EYES** (both) Brown

**HAIR** (both) Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Mutation shape changers.

Twin boys, the Lobo Brothers grew up alone on the streets of Puebla de Zaragoza, Texas, never having known their parents. Their mutant powers began to emerge when they were teenagers and they used them to unite all the independent criminal mohs in South Texas. They eventually bought an oil refinery and began shipping drugs in their oil tankers. Believing that they were cutting into his profits, the Kingpin of Crime took out a contract on them. They escaped and came to New York for revenge, where Edwards met and fell in love with Glory Grant, J. Jonah Jameson’s secretary. Edwards was later accidentally shot and killed by her during a battle with Spider-Man. Carlos was captured and is currently in prison. TD

**LOCKJAW**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four #45 (December 1965)

**REAL NAME** Not known

**OCCUPATION** Dog

**BASE** Atlantean, Blue Area, the Moon

**LENGTH** 6 ft 8 in

**WEIGHT** 1,240 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Immense physical strength; can teleport self and up to a dozen others the distance from the Earth to the Moon; can also teleport to other dimensions.

When they come of age, Inhumans are exposed to the Terrigen Mists, from which they gain their unique powers. For the Inhuman known as Medusa, exposure gave her living hair, while another Inhuman, Crystal, gained the ability to manipulate elements.

The Mists transformed another child into a teleporting dog, now known as Lockjaw, who serves as a companion to the Inhuman Royal Family. Lockjaw is able to teleport not only himself, but a number of others up to a maximum combined weight of one ton. Although he has the intelligence of a human, Lockjaw still has canine tendencies: he likes to chase other animals, fetch sticks, and enjoy other doggy pleasures. He has also been known to speak, but that’s another story. AD

**LORDS OF BLOOD**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Men Vol. 1 #34 (May 1969)

**REAL NAME** Unknown

**OCCUPATION** None

**BASE** Westchester County, New York

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 8 in

**WEIGHT** 150 lbs

**EYES** White

**HAIR** None

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Can fly and breathe fire; empathic ability.

**LOCKHEED**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #166 (February 1983)

**REAL NAME** Unknown

**OCCUPATION** None

**BASE** Westchester County, New York

**HEIGHT** 2 ft

**WEIGHT** 20 lbs

**EYES** White

**HAIR** None

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Can fly and breathe fire; empathic ability.

Lockheed is a small dragon belonging to the alien species known as the Flock. He encountered the X-Men during their fight with the Brood, and took a liking to Kitty Pryde (Shadowcat). He returned with the team to Earth, where Kitty gave him the name Lockheed (after the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird aircraft used by the X-Men). Lockheed is Kitty’s constant companion, serving with her as a member of Excalibur as well as on the current team of X-Men. OW
Loki was the son of Laufey, king of the Frost Giants of Jotunheim. Ashamed of Loki’s small size, Laufey hid him away, but the child’s existence came to light after the Frost Giants were defeated in a battle with the Asgardians. Odin (see Gods of Asgard), the ruler of Asgard, discovered Loki in the Frost Giants’ fortress. Realizing that Loki was the son of Laufey, a king whom he had slain, Odin took the boy back to Asgard and raised him as his own son.

**Asgard’s Misfit**

Unfortunately, Loki never fitted in among the inhabitants of Asgard. He nursed a virulent grudge against his stepbrother Thor, the God of Thunder, who possessed in abundance the heroic qualities prized by the Asgardians that Loki himself lacked. Jealous of the praise Odin showered on Thor, Loki took up the dark arts of sorcery and plotted for a way to become ruler of Asgard. His love of trickery earned him a reputation first as the God of Mischief, and then, as he grew more and more cruel, the God of Evil. After many attempts by Loki to usurp the throne of Asgard, Odin lost patience with him and imprisoned him within a mystical tree. He eventually freed himself and went in search of Thor, now living on Earth in the mortal guise of Donald Blake.

**Earth-Shaker**

Thor and his adopted home, Earth, became the focus of Loki’s attentions. He accidentally precipitated the formation of the Avengers by inciting the Hulk to violence, and transformed Crusher Cull into Thor’s foe, the Absorbing Man. He occasionally allied with the Enchantress, an Asgardian villainess, and turned all of Earth’s major Super Villains into his pawns during the Acts of Vengeance conspiracy. Loki never ceased vexing Thor, yet he never intended to destroy Asgard, and willingly defended the kingdom against threats such as the fire demon Surtur.

**The End of Asgard**

During the last days of Asgard just prior to Ragnarok, Loki finally conquered Asgard and remade it in his own image. But Thor succeeded in decapitating Loki, carrying his mystically-preserved head to observe the final act of Ragnarok. When Thor severed the tapestry that wove the reality of his dimension, Asgard and all its inhabitants vanished from existence.

**Essential Storylines**

- **Avengers #1** Loki hatches a plot to destroy his brother Thor, accidentally inspiring the world’s greatest heroes to form the Avengers.
- **Loki #1-4** In this limited series, told from Loki’s point of view, the Trickster God temporarily succeeds in winning power over all of Asgard.
- **The Mighty Thor #582-583** As Ragnarok unfolds around them, Loki and Thor face off for their final battle, then tour the end of the world.
**LONGSHOT**

Longshot is from a world in another dimension, whose inhabitants have no spines. A scientist named Azie created an artificial exoskeleton which allowed members of his race to stand upright. Under Azie’s guidance their civilization thrived.

A group called the Spineless Ones refused to use the exoskeletons yet became the planet’s rulers. They forced Azie to create a race of slaves for them using genetic engineering. Longshot was one of these slaves. From the moment he achieved consciousness, however, Longshot refused to be anyone’s slave. He helped organize a slave revolt. Captured by the Spineless Ones, Longshot escaped through an interdimensional portal, arriving on Earth. Mojo, the Spineless One who claimed to own Longshot, followed him to Earth, hoping to stop him returning home and telling the slaves about this world where they could live freely. Longshot with his ally Quark, and help from DOCTOR STRANGE, defeated Mojo.

**FACTFILE**

REAL NAME
Unknown

OCCUPATION
Former slave, former movie stuntman, rebel leader

BASE
Mobile

HEIGHT 6 ft. 2 in
WEIGHT 80 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Blond

FIRST APPEARANCE
Longshot #1
(September 1985)

**LONGSHOT**

Longshot and his team of rebels prepare to do battle with the manipulative Mojo, the Spineless One.

**LORD CHAOS**

FIRST APPEARANCE
Marvel Two-In-One Annual #2 (1977)

REAL NAME
None

OCCUPATION
Abstract entity

HEIGHT/WEIGHT
Unknown
EYES
None
HAIR
None

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES
Can teleport himself and a dozen others the distance from the Earth to the Moon; can also teleport to other dimensions.

An abstract entity (depicted as a disembodied purple head) Lord Chaos embodies the concept of Chaos, just as other entities represent DEATH, Order (depicted as a bald head with black eyebrows), and even ETERNITY. Alongside Order, Chaos strives to maintain a cosmic balance, only intervening in mortal affairs on rare occasions.

When Thanos was attempting to destroy the universe, SPIDER-MAN released Adam Warlock from a Soul Gem, allowing him to save the day. After these events, Order and Chaos implied that Peter Parker’s destiny had been manipulated since birth, in order for him to perform this very act. No one knows if this is true.

**LORD TEMPLAR**

FIRST APPEARANCE
The Avengers Vol. 3 #13 (Feb. 1999)

REAL NAME
Unrevealed (last name presumably Tremont)

OCCUPATION
Operative of Jonathan Tremont
BASE
Mobile

HEIGHT/WEIGHT
Unrevealed
EYES
Red
HAIR
Gray

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES
Various powers include the ability to fire energy blasts; can summon counterparts of himself called the Avatars of Templar, each of whom has a different super-power.

Jonathan Tremont’s two older brothers died from a disease. Years later Tremont acquired a cosmic artifact in the form of a triangle and used it to resurrect his brothers as the superhumans Lord Templar and Pagan.

Jonathan Tremont founded the Triune Understanding, a cult allegedly devoted to world peace. In actuality, Tremont sought to amass power for himself. He used Lord Templar to combat the Avengers. Ultimately, Tremont absorbed the life forces of Lord Templar and Pagan into himself, only to be defeated by the Avenger Triathlon.
**Lorelei**

**First Appearance:** Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #63 (December, 1969)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** Mercenary

**Base:** Savage Land

**Height:** 5'7" in  
**Weight:** 125 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Blonde

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Lorelei can project hypnotic pitches that affect the sexual desires of human males and mesmerize them.

A member of the Swamp People inhabiting the Antarctic jungle known as the Savage Land, Lorelei received the vocal power to hypnotize men after Magneto subjected her to a DNA-altering machine. Her powers are irresistible to males but have no effect on females. Lorelei became a member of the Savage Land Mutates (also known as the Beast Brood), battling foes from the X-Men to Ka-Zar. She later joined Magneto's Brotherhood of Evil Mutants and fought the Defenders. Recently, Lorelei found employment as a recruiter for AIM, enlisting other Savage Land mercenaries like herself. DW

**Lubensky, Nathan**

**First Appearance:** Spectacular Spider-Man #47 (October 1980)

**Real Name:** Nathan Lubensky

**Occupation:** Retired

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5'8" in  
**Weight:** 125 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** White

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Lubensky was a charming and likeable personality and a skilled entertainer.

Nathan Lubensky met Peter Parker's Aunt May at the Restwell Nursing Home, and the two struck up a romance that culminated in a brief engagement. An ex-Vaudeville entertainer, Lubensky had considerable personal charm, but his struggles with gambling threatened to ruin him. He ultimately wagered everything he had on the outcome of a criminal assassination by the Vulture and Chance to eliminate billionaire Richard Trask. During the attempted hit, the Vulture grabbed Aunt May as a hostage. Lubensky intervened, saving her life but suffering a fatal heart attack in the process. DW

**Lumpkin, Willie**

**First Appearance:** Fantastic Four #11 (February 1963)

**Real Name:** William "Lumpy" Lumpkin

**Occupation:** United States Postal Carrier

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5'8" in  
**Weight:** 165 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** White

**Special Powers/Abilities:** None, although he believes that he possesses a special talent when it comes to wigging his ears: good at his job, courageous, and loyal.

After working as a postman for a small town, Lumpkin moved to New York City, where he was assigned a mail route that included the Baxter Building. Soon after the Fantastic Four moved into the top five floors of the Baxter, Lumpkin half-jokingly petitioned for membership on the grounds that he had the ability to wiggle his ears. Although he never joined the team, he has been involved with them on many occasions. He once rang a bell that allowed the team to escape the Mad Thinker, and a Skrull once impersonated him to gain access to the FF headquarters. Lumpkin is currently semi-retired and his curvaceous niece Billie has replaced him as the FF's mail carrier. TB

**Lotus**

**First Appearance:** Avengers Spotlight #30 (March 1990)

**Real Name:** Lotus Newmark

**Occupation:** Mob leader

**Base:** California

**Height:** Unrevealed  
**Weight:** 125 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Lotus is a trained martial artist and an experienced criminal leader. She possesses some skill at hypnotizing others to do her will.

As a child, Lotus was traded to Hong Kong underworld leader Li Fong to cover her father's gambling debts. She became Fong's protégée, trained in martial arts, and eventually ascending to a high position within his organization. Lotus emigrated to California to set up her own criminal operation. As she increased her power, she began to run afool of various heroes, including Hawkeye, Wonder Man, and Night Thrasher.

As a cover for her illegal activities, Lotus took over a film studio and became a movie producer. However, proof of her misdeeds was uncovered by Wonder Man and the Beast, and she was taken into police custody. TB

**Lucifer**

**First Appearance:** X-Men #9 (January 1995)

**Real Name:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Agent for the Arcane

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6'2" in  
**Weight:** 325 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Initially merely possessed limited telepathic powers, later able to manipulate ionic energy to increase strength, generate protective shields, and fuse self with other beings.

Belonging to the planet-conquering Arcane race, the alien Lucifer served as one of their leading agents and was responsible for the capture of numerous worlds. Ordered to obtain Earth for the Arcane, Lucifer was thwarted by a young Charles Xavier (see Professor X). Furious at his defeat, before fleeing, Lucifer used a stone slab to cripple Xavier's legs. This encounter motivated Xavier to create the X-Men. That mutant organization claimed victory over Lucifer several more times. Angry at their agent's failures, the Arcane leaders had him terminated. AD

**Lyja the Laserfist**

**First Appearance:** (as Alia) Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #365 (April 1994); (as Lyja) Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #367 (October 1994)

**Real Name:** Lyja

**Occupation:** Skull agent

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 5'8" in  
**Weight:** 120 lbs

**Eyes:** Green  
**Hair:** Green

**Special Powers/Abilities:** A shapeshifter, like all Skrulls, able to fly and project energy bursts.

The Skrull called Lyja used her natural shapeshifting abilities to masquerade as Alicia Masters, in an attempt to further a scheme by her commander, Paibok, to destroy the Fantastic Four. In her guise as Alicia she married the Human Torch, though he discovered the ruse and broke off their relationship. Lyja became "the Laserfist" after Paibok bestowed her with energy powers, and from then on she alternated between fighting the Fantastic Four and seeking to reconcile with the Human Torch. After losing her energy powers during a false pregnancy, Lyja assumed the identity of a human named Laura Greene. DW
**MacTaggart, Dr.**

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men #96 (December 1975)

Real Name: Mora Kinross MacTaggart

Occupation: Geneticist

Base: Muir Island, Scotland

Height: 5 ft 7 in

Weight: 125 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: brilliant geneticist with expertise in the mutant genome.

Moira MacTaggart met Charles Xavier (Professor X) at Oxford University. They agreed to wed but she later broke off their engagement, as she was already locked into an abusive marriage. She bore a child (Proteus) to her husband but kept his existence a secret, and also adopted the mutant child Rahne Sinclair (WOLFSBANE). Later, she struck up a romance with Sean Cassidy (BANSHEE). MacTaggart established a Mutant Research Center on Muir Island off the coast of Scotland, where she found a cure for the Legacy virus. She later died in an explosion caused by Mystique. **DW**

**MacTaggart, M.**

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men #316 (September 1994)

Real Name: Monet St. Croix

Occupation: Investigator

Base: Mutant Town area of New York

Height: 5 ft 7 in

Weight: 125 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: M possesses superhuman strength and durability, flight and telepathy.

Having lived much of her young life mysteriously trapped in the speechless form of Penance by her brother Empath, Monet St. Croix's existence was usurped by her two younger sisters Claudette and Nicole. They used their mutant abilities to combine into a single entity that resembled Monet. Both Penance and the amalgam-Monet became members of Generation X, the satellite team of young X-Men at the Massachusetts Academy. Later, the truth of M's situation became apparent, and she and her sisters were restored to their rightful forms. M joined Jamie Madrox's detective agency, X-Factor Investigations. **TB**

**Mach-4**

First Appearance: Strange Tales #123 (August 1964)

Real Name: Abner Jenkins

Occupation: Superhero, former criminal

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 11 in

Weight: 175 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Special Powers/Abilities: armored suit provides enhanced strength and supersonic flight with a built-in tactical computer and a generator that can fire electrostatic blasts.

Abner Jenkins's career began as the Beetle, a criminal whose armored suit allowed him to fly. He later joined the Masters of Evil and agreed to Baron Zemo's scheme that the team pose as Super Heroes, the Thunderbolts. As the supersonic MACH-1, Jenkins learned that being a hero had its rewards, and most of the team decided to go straight. Jenkins became MACH-2 and MACH-3 while serving prison sentences for past crimes. He currently leads the Thunderbolts as MACH-IV, serving alongside his longtime love interest Songbird. **DW**

**Mach-Man**

A self-motivated mobile weapons system, X-51 was designed to be a killer. He was part of a government project to build robot soldiers that could make independent decisions. His limbs could extend 100 feet and his endoskeleton housed solar power augmented batteries, multi-optical imaging devices with zoom and magnifying sensors, and anti-gravity devices allowing flight. His fingers were equipped with miniature lasers, concussive blasters and a .357 Magnum pistol. Believing that a robot could only act like a man if he was treated like one, Dr. Aaron Stack took X-51 into his home and even designed a human face for him. The project was later terminated and only X-51 escaped destruction. Assuming the identity of Aaron Stack, he attempted to assimilate into human society and later met Gears Garvin, a mechanic who repaired any damage to his robot body. X-51 befriended the robot called Jocasta. He felt so guilty when Ultron destroyed her that he agreed to fight the Avengers in return for the Super-Adaptoid's promise to rebuild her. To make amends for these actions, X-51 later aided the West Coast Avengers against Terminus and the original Human Torch's old enemy the Hyena. **TD**
MAD THINKER

For many years the police did not know of the Mad Thinker's existence, despite the various criminal activities he had masterminded over that period. He only leapt into the public eye when he went head-to-head with the Fantastic Four. A brilliant strategist, he tempted each of them away from New York with various impossible-to-refuse jobs. He subsequently used their absence to enter the Baxter Building and steal Reed Richards' inventions. Manufacturing superhuman androids based on Richards' designs he used them to battle the Fantastic Four. However, the Mad Thinker failed to account for a circuit breaker Richards had built into the designs for just this eventuality. Once the circuit was activated all the robots became disabled. Since then, the Mad Thinker has spent much of his time in prison but he has somehow managed to continue his activities from inside. His motives remain unclear—perhaps no one is brilliant enough to understand them or could the Mad Thinker just be enjoying the game?

In the comics she wrote, Dorothy Walker based her characters on her daughter Patsy and Patsy's friend "Buzz" Baxter. After the real Patsy and Baxter graduated from high school, they married and Baxter joined the Air Force. As a security consultant for the Brand Corporation, Baxter hunted the mutant Beast. Patsy divorced Baxter and became the Hellcat. When Brand captured the Avengers, Hellcat forced Baxter to free them. Baxter underwent treatment by Rontoxon Oil's Mutagenics Department that gave him superhuman powers. Thus Baxter became Mad-Dog, who has battled not only Hellcat, but also other costumed adventurers. PS
Originally the subversive organization HYDRA restricted its membership to men. The first female HYDRA agent was Laura Brown. Another female operative seized command of HYDRA’s New York operations, took the name Madame Hydra, and battled Captain America. Eventually she took a new alias, the Viper, and became one of the world’s most dangerous terrorists. Another female Hydra agent, Madame Hydra VI, clashed with SHIELD and allied with the Yellow Claw. (Five other Madame Hydras outranked her.) She committed suicide to avoid capture. Viper has now reassumed the name of Madame Hydra. P S

**Back to Her Roots**
IRON Man’s intervention in an attempt to rescue Whitney’s father from Avenger’s Mansion accidentally resulted in the the Count’s death. Griefstricken, Whitney returned to her criminal roots, once again taking the reins of the Maggia.

Now fiercely opposed to Tony Stark, she has even made efforts to kill him. She remains at large, a lingering chink in the armor of the Iron Man.
MADAME WEB

A one-time ally of Spider-Man, Cassandra Webb was born blind but developed skills as a clairvoyant that compensated for her sightlessness. Cassandra's first encounter with Spider-Man came when businessman Rupert Dockery was scheming to take over the Daily Globe. At first skeptical of the help she offered, Spider-Man later acknowledged her usefulness and they worked together to prevent the assassination of a local congressman.

At times Cassandra could be hugely manipulative. When Norman Osborn invited her to become part of his mystical "Gathering of Five," she tricked Spider-Man into obtaining a mystical object for her, so that she could gain the youthful immortality she so wanted. Since then, she has used her powers for good, even agreeing to mentor the third Spider-Woman, Mattie. A.D.

MADMAN

Philip Sterns, brother of Samuel Sterns who became the Hulk's enemy, the Leader, was a classmate of Bruce Banner (the Hulk) in graduate school. Banner was always at the top of his class, Philip Sterns at the bottom. After graduation, both Banner and Sterns began researching the use of gamma radiation as a potential weapon. But the government funded Banner's research, not Sterns', increasing Sterns' envy of Banner. When Sterns learned that Bruce Banner had become the Hulk through exposure to gamma radiation, Sterns grew even more jealous, believing that the enormous power of the Hulk should have been his. Sterns began intentionally exposing himself to gamma radiation over a period of years, trying to duplicate the accident that created the Hulk. As a result of this exposure, Stern's gained the powers of the Madman. Sterns and Madman are two separate personalities, both existing in the same body. Over the years Madman has battled the Hulk many times. M.T.
**MAELSTROM**

The seeds of a Super Villain's behavior can often be found in their childhood. The hybrid child of a Deviant and an Inhuman, Maelstrom's birth caused consternation. His mother was killed for giving birth to him, and as a child he was forced to work in Deviant slave pits until rescued by his father, the brilliant geneticist Phaeder.

Following in his father's footsteps, Maelstrom traded information on genetics with various dubious individuals including Red Skull, Magneto, and the High Evolutionary. Their use of this knowledge caused untold suffering to the Nazi genetic atrocities and various clones of Spider-Man were direct results of Maelstrom's collaborations.

A desperately lonely individual, Maelstrom looked for an antidote to his unhappiness in plans to end the Multiverse. Destroyed by Quasar when he first attempted this, he was resurrected and tried again. This time, Mr. Immortal of the Great Lakes Avengers tricked Maelstrom into committing suicide—a humiliating way to die.

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**MAGGIA**

The Maggia is the world's most powerful crime syndicate. The organization's operations are worldwide, though its roots began in southern Europe during the 13th century and it spread to the United States in the 1890s. The Maggia has its fingers in gambling, narcotics, loan-sharking, organized labor, and crooked politics. Those who betray the Maggia are executed, often with a death-grasp to the chin nicknamed the "Maggia touch."

The three largest Maggia families active in New York City include the Silvermane family, the Hammerhead family, and the Nefaria family. The Silvermanes are a traditionally-structured crime network controlling the narcotics trade. The Hammerheads are styled in the fashion of 1920s gangsters, and are led by the flat-topped Hammerhead. The Nefarias, organized by Count Nefaria, are the most colorful of the three families, frequently employing costumed criminals to further their schemes. Early in his career, the gang boss Kingpin was one of the Maggia's most successful rivals.
MAGGOT

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men #345 (June 1997)
Real Name: Japheth
Occupation: Former X-Man
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 6 in
Weight: 350 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Back
Special Powers/Abilities: Two semi-sentient slugs can leave and re-enter Maggott's body. They feed on anything and use it to nourish him. He can replay in mind's eye past events in local area.

A sickly child, unable to eat solid food, young Japheth felt that he was nothing but a burden to his poor South African family. Heading into the desert to die, Japheth encountered Magneto who activated his mutation, allowing two slugs to leave his body and feed on his behalf. Now calling himself Maggott, Japheth went searching for Magneto. In Antarctica, he first encountered the X-Men, and briefly joined the mutant team. Unfortunately, Maggott's life was not to end happily; captured by the Weapon X facility, he became an inmate at the Neverland concentration camp and was eventually executed by the authorities there. AD

MAGMA

First Appearance: New Mutants #8 (October 1983)
Real Name: Amara Aquilla
Occupation: Adventurer
Base: Mobile
Height: 5 ft 6 in
Weight: 124 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Blonde
Special Powers/Abilities: Projects bursts of heat and molten rock, and causes shifts in the tectonic plates beneath the surface of the Earth to produce volcanic eruptions.

Raised in the hidden city of Nova Roma in the Amazon jungles of Brazil, Amara was selected for sacrifice by Selene, a high-immortal mutant who drains the life essences of others. Hurled into an active volcano, Amara's mutant ability to control molten rock surfaced, and she was reborn as Magma. Magma was rescued from Selene by the New Mutants, students of Professor X, and she became a long-time member of the group. Questions about her past—for a time, she believed herself to be Allison Crestmore, daughter of an English Ambassador—caused her to part ways with the New Mutants, but she still reappears in the circles frequented by the X-Men. TB

MAGIK

Illyana Rasputin is the younger sister of Piotr Rasputin, the X-Man known as Colossus. A few years after Piotr left their home in Russia and joined the X-Men, Illyana was kidnapped by Miss Locke, assistant to the assassin Arcade. Rescued by the X-Men, Illyana decided to stay with her brother at Professor X's school for mutants in New York State. Later, the sorcerer Belasco brought Illyana and the X-Men to his extradimensional realm, Limbo. The X-Men escaped from Limbo, but Belasco managed to keep Illyana there as his captive. He turned a portion of her soul evil, which she called her darksoul. This change gave her powers of sorcery. Belasco hoped eventually to turn Illyana completely evil. Illyana eventually mastered the magic in Belasco's books and did battle with him using her soulsword, a construct of her magic power. With Belasco defeated, she returned to Earth, and joined the New Mutants under the code name, Magik.

FactFILE

Real Name: Illyana Nikolovna Rasputin
Occupation: Student
Base: Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, New York; the extradimensional realm, Limbo

Height: 5 ft 5 in
Weight: 120 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Blond

First Appearance: X-Men #1 (1975)

Magik is both a mutant with superhuman powers and an expert sorceress. She can teleport herself and others through time, perform astral projection, and sense the presence of magic.

Magik is not only a powerful mutant, she is also a skilled sorceress, which helps to make her a formidable warrior.
MAGNETO
Master of magnetism

One of the most powerful and dangerous of all mutants, Magneto has been both the foremost enemy of the X-Men and, sometimes, their ally. As a boy, he was imprisoned in the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz, Poland. Sickness and malnourishment prevented Magneto’s mutant powers from emerging there. In Auschwitz, Magneto’s family perished, and he witnessed the inhumanity that people can show to those who are considered different.

MUTANT RAGE
Following World War II Magneto married Magda, and they had a daughter, Anya. When Anya was trapped in a burning building, an insensitive crowd prevented Magneto from rescuing her. Infuriated, Magneto lashed out with his powers, killing them. Frightened by what her husband had done, Magda fled from him. She had not told Magneto that she was pregnant. Eventually Magda arrived at Wundagore Mountain, where she gave birth to twins, Wanda and Pietro. She then ran away into the wilderness, where she presumably died.

While searching for Magda, Magneto employed a forgetful named George Odekirk to create a false identity, “Erik Magnus Lehnsherr,” for him. Eventually Magneto settled in Israel, where he became friends with the young Charles Xavier (see Professor X). They continually debated their different views on whether mutants could peacefully coexist with the rest of humanity.

SUPERIORITY COMPLEX
When their friend Gabrielle Haller was abducted by Baron von Strucker and his HYDRA agents, Magneto and Xavier rescued her. Magneto used his powers to make off with a cache of Nazi gold that Strucker had sought. Magneto decided that the only way to prevent humanity from oppressing the emerging race of mutants was for mutants to conquer the rest of the human race. Indeed, Magneto believed that mutants were superior to ordinary humans and deserved to rule them.

Magneto’s first step in his war against the human race was to seize a missile base at Cape Citadel, Florida. By now Xavier had founded the X-Men, who foiled Magneto’s takeover of the base.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- X-Men Vol. 1 #4-7, 11
  Magneto’s original Brotherhood of Evil Mutants battles the original team of X-Men.
- X-Men Vol. 1 #62-63
  Magneto’s unmasked face is revealed when he combats the X-Men in the Savage Land.
- Uncanny X-Men #161
  The story of how Magneto first met Charles Xavier in Israel.
- Classic X-Men #12
  Magneto’s captivity at Auschwitz and the death of his daughter.

FACTFILE
REAL NAME
Unrevealed, uses the name Erik Magnus Lehnsherr

OCCUPATION
Conqueror

BASE
Mobile

HEIGHT
6ft 2in

WEIGHT
190 lbs

EYES
Blue-grey

HAIR
White

FIRST APPEARANCE
X-Men #1, (September 1963)

POWERS
Mutant ability to manipulate magnetism and all forms of electromagnetic energy

ALLIES
Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, sometimes Professor Charles Xavier, formerly the X-Men, the New Mutants

ENEMIES
Professor Charles Xavier, the X-Men, the Avengers, the Fantastic Four

In the first X-Men comic, Magneto captured the Cape Citadel missile base, only to be defeated by the original X-Men in their initial battle.
Physically considerably younger today than his contemporaries from the World War II period,
Magneto resumed his battles against the X-Men, but eventually MacTaggart's tampering with
his mind took effect, and he became the X-Men's ally. During an extended absence from Earth by
Xavier, Magneto even took over as headmaster of Xavier's school, mentoring the New Mutants.
Around this time, Magneto, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch learned their true relationship.

**The House of Magnus**

Urged by her brother Quicksilver, the Scarlet Witch utilized her mutant power over probability to alter
history. As a result, Magneto led mutants in a successful war against the rest of humanity.
Magneto was the new monarch of Earth. His royal family was known as the "House of Magnus"
or "House of M" and was comprised of his son Quicksilver, his daughters the Scarlet Witch and
Polaris, and his grandchildren Thomas and William.

When Magneto next battled the X-Men, it was
as leader of the original **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants**. The other members were
Mastermind, the Toad, and Pietro and Wanda (Quicksilver and the **Scarlet Witch**), who felt
obligated to Magneto to save them from a mob. Neither Magneto nor Wanda and Pietro
realized that Magneto was their father.

After numerous clashes with the X-Men,
Magneto tried to force a superhuman being known as the **Stranger** to serve him. He little
knew that the Stranger was actually an alien with seemingly limitless powers who captured
Magneto and the Toad.

Weary of Magneto's crusade against
humanity, Quicksilver and the Scarlet
Witch quit the Brotherhood and soon joined the Avengers.

Magneto eventually escaped back to Earth
from the Stranger's planet and resumed his war on humanity, battling the X-Men,
Avengers, Fantastic Four, and
Defenders. He also formed several new versions of the Brotherhood.

Using his advanced knowledge of genetic
engineering, Magneto created a being called
Alpha the Ultimate Mutant. But Alpha turned
against Magneto and devolved him into a
powerless infant. Xavier turned the infant
Magneto over to his colleague Dr. Moira
MacTaggart, who began experiments to alter
the baby's mind. Davan Shakari, an alien Shi'ar
agent, later restored Magneto to his adult physical
prime. Hence Magneto is

**The Truce is Over**

In time Magneto's previous personality reemerged, and his war against humanity began
again. After he created an electromagnetic pulse that deactivated technology all over the world, the
United Nations gave him control of the island nation of Genosha, which was mainly populated
by mutants. Magneto hoped to turn
Genosha into base from which to conquer the world. However, the island
was devastated by Sentinels sent by
Xavier's evil twin, Cassandra Nova.

During a fit of madness, the Scarlet Witch used her powers to alter reality
so that Magneto ruled the world. She later restored the status quo, and also
deprived most superhuman mutants of their super-powers, including
Magneto. How long
Magneto will remain
powerless, however, remains to be seen.

TB
**Magnus, Moses**

First Appearance: Giant-size Spider-Man #4 (April 1979)

**Real Name:** Moses Magnum

**Occupation:** Terrorist, arms merchant

**Base:** Various

**Height/Weight:** Not known

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Moses Magnum can generate vibrational force, which he can use to bolster his own strength and durability or release outwards to cause earthquakes.

Once a noted arms merchant, Moses Magnum's operation was dismantled by Spider-Man and the Punisher. Narrowly escaping death, Magnum was found by Apocalypse, who offered the arms dealer power in exchange for help in fomenting chaos. Reconstructed by Apocalypse with the power to cause shifts within the Earth's crust, Magnum attempted to blackmail Japan but was foiled by the X-Men. Displeased, Apocalypse destabilized Magnum's abilities so that he would cause earthquakes simply by coming into contact with the Earth. Magnum tried to regain Apocalypse's favor through a show of power but was undone by the Avengers. He was last seen plummeting toward the center of the Earth.

**Magus**

First Appearance: New Mutants Vol. 1 #18 (August 1984)

**Real Name:** Magus

**Occupation:** Monarch

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** Variable

**Weight:** Variable

**Eyes:** Black

Magus is the leader of an unknown world in outer space populated by sentient "techno-organic" beings, a species with an organic structure resembling metal. Each child of the Magus must face him in a battle to the death, before they reach adulthood.

One of his sons, Warlock, fled to avoid combat and joined the New Mutants on Earth. The Magus came to Earth to search for Warlock, arriving in New York, where he fought three X-Men: Colossus, Nightcrawler, and Rogue. The X-Men managed to hurt the Magus. He warned them that unless Warlock was returned to him he would cause great destruction on Earth. The Magus departed and has not been seen since.

**Malus**

First Appearance: Spider-Woman #30 (September 1980)

**Real Name:** Dr. Karl Malus

**Occupation:** Former surgeon, now criminal scientist

**Base:** Los Angeles, California

**Height:** 5 ft 11 in

**Weight:** 155 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Advanced knowledge of genetic engineering, expertise in biochemistry, radiology, and surgery.

Fascinated with superhuman beings, scientist Karl Malus became involved with the criminal underworld to obtain funding for his research. Malus attempted to capture the original Spider-Woman. He restored the superhuman strength of Eric Josten (now known as Atlas) and enabled him to grow to gigantic size. Working for the Power Broker, Malus gave many clients superhuman strength. Later, he became the head of the criminal organization called the Corporation.
MAN-APe

First Appearance: Avengers #62 (March 1969)
Real Name: M'Baku
Occupation: Mercenary, renegade
Base: Mobile
Height: 7 ft
Weight: 355 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Special Powers/Abilities: Possesses superhuman strength, agility, and resistance to injury. He is a powerful fighter whose combat ability is based on that of gorillas.

MAN-Beast

Created by scientific accident, the Man-Beast was born when a wolf was placed inside the High Evolutionary's genetic accelerator. Despite creating an entire evil army using the same device, the Man-Beast was eventually defeated by Thor, placed in a shuttle, and exiled into space.

The Man-Beast sought revenge on the High Evolutionary when he landed on Counter-Earth—a world created by that being. There, he introduced the people of Counter-Earth to the concept of evil and even attempted to destroy the planet altogether. In the years since, the Man-Beast has gone into battle several more times, fighting both Adam Warlock and the Hulk. When he attempted to raise a second army, using the Legion of Light religious cult as a front, the Man-Beast went head-to-head with Spider-Man.

Repeated defeats have demoralized the Man-Beast, and he seems to have disappeared from view.

While T'Challa, the Black Panther, and king of the warriors of the African nation of Wakanda was away helping the Avengers in the US, M'Baku schemed to seize his throne. Reviving the outlawed White Gorilla cult, M'Baku killed a rare white gorilla, then bathed in its blood and ate its flesh, which gave him the power of the ape. Calling himself Man-APe, he battled Black Panther and his Avenger teammates both in Wakanda and in the US. Eventually defeated by Captain America, Man-APe did not try to return to Wakanda, where he would have faced the death penalty. Instead, he teamed with the Grim Reaper and the Lethal Legion to exact his revenge on the Avengers. But the Reaper's racist attitudes caused the group to split up.
Mandarin

Claiming to be a direct descendant of Genghis Khan, the Mandarin was born in China to a wealthy father who lost everything when the communists took over the country. A brilliant scientist, he embarked on a quest to gain personal power and explored the forbidden “Valley of Spirits.” There, he found a starship that had crashed centuries ago containing ten alien rings with amazing powers. Some rings could be used to seize control of another’s mind, rearrange matter, fire a disintegration beam, or create a vortex. Others could produce deadly gases and ice blasts, or discharge electricity, flames, bursts of blinding light and clouds of darkness. After mastering the extraterrestrial technology, the Mandarin conquered the villages that bordered the valley and began making plans to seize control of the entire world, often clashing with Iron Man and the Avengers. He once hired the Swordsman to place a bomb in Avengers Mansion. He also built a device capable of spreading hatred around the world and assembled a team of Super Villains to battle the Avengers. The Mandarin is currently residing in his castle, devising new plans for world conquest.

Mandrill

Jerome Beechman’s parents worked at the atomic testing grounds in New Mexico, where exposure to radiation caused mutations in their son. Jerome was born with animal-like fur on his body and an ape-like appearance. He grew up hated by his peers and his parents because of his freakish appearance.

When Jerome was ten, his parents abandoned him in the desert. While he met Neeka Sinclair, a mutant whose mother had also worked at the atomic testing grounds. Neeka too had been mistreated and abandoned. Jerome took the name Mandrill, and the two teamed up and traveled the American Southwest together, avoiding all human contact. Mandrill and Neeka formed Black Spectre, an organization of black women who hoped to overthrow the American government. This group was defeated by Daredevil.

After Neeka was taken into custody by S.H.I.E.L.D., Mandrill formed Fem-Force, an army of radical women under his control. Fem-Force teamed up with Magneto’s Mutant Force, but was eventually stopped by the Defenders.

Manslaughter

Manslaughter was born with mutant powers ideal for tracking and hunting. He impressed the Eternal known as the Interloper by successfully tracking him down in the Siberian wastelands. The Interloper agreed to help Manslaughter hone his powers but, concerned about the young man’s unstable personality, he did not train him fully. This was just as well, for Manslaughter later became a ruthless assassin for hire. Eventually he redeemed himself, sacrificing his life in the effort to destroy the Dragon of the Moon.
Ted Sallis was a research scientist on a project aiming to replicate the Super-Soldier formula that empowered Captain America in the 1940s. But he was betrayed to the sinister criminal think-tank known as AIM, who wanted his research. Fearing that his work would fall into evil hands, Sallis destroyed his notes and injected himself with the only sample of his serum. But while fleeing for his life, he crashed his car in the swampland surrounding his laboratory, and was seemingly killed.

**TRANSFORMATION**
Unknown to Sallis, the area in which he'd located his lab was close to the Nexus of All Realities, a mystical gateway that linked all of the myriad dimensions of existence. In some mysterious fashion, Sallis's serum combined with the ambient mystical energies of the Nexus, and caused the vegetation of the swamp that surrounded his almost lifeless body to reconstitute him as a mindless, shambling mass—the Man-Thing.

**FEELING THE BURN**
Possessing scant intellect of its own, the Man-Thing is instead empathetically attuned to his surroundings. While Ted Sallis's soul still resides within the great beast, in general the Man-Thing is mindless, reacting only to the emotions of those around him. Fear causes the Man-Thing great pain, and he will journey forth from his swampy home to put an end to any source of fear that causes him distress. Because of a quirk of chemistry in his make-up, any creature who feels fear in the Man-Thing's presence burns at his touch.
**MANTIS**

Born in Vietnam, Mantis was raised by the Priests of Pama, a pacifist sect of the humanoid alien Kree. The priests educated Mantis in the ways of peace and also in their defensive martial arts. She took the name Mantis after defeating many male opponents in martial arts competition.

When Mantis had completed her training at the age of 18, the priests sent Mantis to live among humans, removing her childhood memories of growing up at the temple, and implanting false memories of life as an orphan, struggling for survival on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City.

She eventually teamed up with the Swordsman, a costumed criminal, whom Mantis helped rehabilitate. When the Swordsman joined the Avengers, Mantis went with him to take up residence at the Avengers Mansion. She was also made a member of the team.

After her marriage to the eldest Cotati, an alien race of telepathic plant-beings, Mantis transformed into pure energy and left Earth.

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**MAN-WOLF**

First Appearance: (as Man-Wolf) The Amazing Spider-Man #124 (September 1973)

Real Name: John Jameson

Occupation: Former astronaut, pilot, security chief

Base: New York City

Height: 6'6" Weight: 350 lbs Eyes: Red Hair: White

Special Powers/Abilities: As Man-Wolf, superhuman strength, speed, agility, durability, and heightened senses.

The son of Daily Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson, John Jameson discovered a gem on the Moon. On Earth, this gem caused him to transform into a wolflike creature under a full moon. The Moongem contained the essence of Stargod, ruler of "Other-Realm," in another dimension. Man-Wolf journeyed to "Other-Realm" where he helped its people defeat their enemy Arisen Tyrk.

John later underwent radiation treatment, which destroyed the Moongem, curing him of being Man-Wolf. Since then he has worked as a pilot for the Avengers and as security chief for the Ravencroft asylum.

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**MARAUDERS**

The personal army of mutant eugenecist, Mr. Sinister, the Marauders are one of the most effective forces for the X-Men have ever faced. Mutants that fell short of the mark disgusted Mr. Sinister. He particularly loathed the Morlocks, mutants hiding from society in the tunnels beneath New York, and so the Marauders' first mission was to obliterate them. In large part they were successful; despite being opposed by both the X-Men and X-Factor, the Marauders killed most of the Morlocks while almost fatally injuring both Shadowcat (see PRIDE, KITTY) and Nightcrawler. The Marauders have gone head-to-head with the X-Men since then, even destroying the Xavier Institute. They are particularly feared because Sinister has created clones of each of the Marauders; if one falls a duplicate will replace them. The threat they pose looks set to continue for years to come.

**THE MARAUDERS**

Marrow

She is a young mutant who left her normal life behind to journey into the sewers controlled by the mysterious Morlocks. Marrow was one of the few survivors of the Mutant Massacre which decimated the Morlocks' ranks. Escaping to the dimension ruled by Mikhail Rasputin, Marrow became a member of Genie Nation, a radical mutant group dedicated to striking back at their human oppressors.

After a number of encounters with the X-Men, Marrow came to join with them in common cause. However, her fiery personality and natural savagery meant that she never fitted in at Xavier's School and she left under mysterious circumstances. More recently, she was recruited by the newly-reformed Weapon X program, who have boosted her powers so as to allow her to control her appearance.

Bony projections from her body can be broken off and used as vicious weapons.

Marrina

The Plodex alien life form who became known as Marrina hatched from an egg that had soaked in the Atlantic Ocean, giving her aquatic adaptations that surfaced when she assumed the humanoid forms of her adoptive guardians, the Smallwoods.

Her superhuman abilities allowed her to join Alpha Flight, and she later married Namor, the Sub-Mariner. Tragedy struck when, during her pregnancy, she turned into a monstrous leviathan. Namor was forced to kill her, but her alien biology may have preserved her in a coma-like state.

Marvel Boy

The name Marvel Boy has been adopted by five individuals. Martin Burns wielded the power of Hercules in the 1940s, Robert Grayson received cosmic bracelets from the Eternals of Urania in the 1980s, Wendell Vaughn used the name (and the bracelets) before becoming Quasar, and Vance Astrovitk took the identity before becoming Justice. The most recent is Noh-Varr of the Kree. When his ship crashed on Earth, he became the prisoner of Doctor Midas. He escaped thanks to Midas's daughter Oubliette and declared war on Earth. He has since been imprisoned by SHIELD.
Master Khan is worshipped as a god on the alien planet of K'un-Lun. The dominant life form on the planet is a sentient plant called the H'yloth, although humanoid life forms live there as well. Master Khan is a human, but has the magical powers of a sorcerer. He is the protector of the inhabitants of K'un-Lun, and his power comes from their worship. On Earth Khan was a scholar but also a student of the occult. Once on K'un-Lun, Master Khan became a mortal enemy of Iron Fist. Later Khan appeared in the midst of a battle among Wolverine, Namor, Namorita, and the H'yloth, which resulted in the banishment of Wolverine. MT

Death, Lord Chaos, Eternity, and Master Order—inimical beings all, each embodying a distinct abstract concept. Their origins are unknown and so are their powers, although many surmise that these are without limit. The "brother" of Lord Chaos, Master Order strives to maintain a cosmic balance with his sibling, intervening in mortal affairs on the rarest of occasions. Following the defeat of the would-be universe-destroyer, Tiannos, Chaos and Order implied that they were responsible for manipulating Spider-Man's destiny to ensure his intervention in the crisis at a critical moment. No one knows if this is truly the case. AD

A Hollywood actor given a second chance at life by demon Mephisto, Master Pandemonium appeared as a monstrous being with demons in place of arms and a star-shaped hole in his chest that represented the five fragments of his missing soul. Pandemonium identified the Scarlet Witch's twin sons as repositories of two of the soul fragments and absorbed them, apparently wiping the two children from existence. DW

Masters, Alicia

As a child, Alicia Masters was blinded in the same accident that took the life of her father, Jacob Reiss. The man responsible for the accident, Philip Masters, married her mother and adopted Alicia. She discovered that despite her handicap she had a talent for sculpting. When her step-father, as the notorious Puppet Master, fell into conflict with the Fantastic Four, Alicia, a pawn in his scheme, was rescued by Ben Grimm, the Thing. A strong relationship developed between them, and she found herself embroiled in many of the Fantastic Four's most dangerous adventures.

Perhaps her most shining moment was when she appealed to the humanity buried deep within the sky-spanning Silver Surfer and convinced him to rebel against his master, the world-devouring Galactus, in defense of Earth. In recent times, the romance between Alicia and the Thing has cooled, and she has dated other men. But it is only a matter of time before fate casts Alicia together with Ben Grimm once again. TB

Despite her blindness, Alicia Masters is a world-renowned sculptress who practices her art through touch. TB

Alicia had a powerful effect on the deep-seated emotions of the Silver Surfer. She convinced him to rebel against his master, the world-devouring Galactus, and fight for Earth by appealing to his inner goodness.
The Masters of Evil are perennial foes of the Avengers, assembling multiple times over the years, often with no link between the various groupings other than their name. The first Masters of Evil came about through the efforts of Nazi mastermind Baron Zemo.

DECADES OF VILLAINY

Zemo schemed to defeat his wartime nemesis Captain America by enlisting the most notorious enemies of Captain America's comrades in the Avengers. He gathered the Meltor to fight Iron Man, the Radioactive Man to fight Thor, and the Black Knight to battle both the Wasp and Giant Man (Henry Pym). Later, Zemo welcomed the Enchantress and the Executioner into the Masters of Evil. The team disbanded after Zemo's death.

A second Masters of Evil took its place, founded by the robot Ultron, in his cover identity as the Crimson Cowl. The team obtained blueprints of Avengers' Mansion from butler Edwin Jarvis and struck at the Avengers in their own home. The new Black Knight, Dane Whitman, turned on his teammates in the Masters of Evil and helped the Avengers scatter the villains.

The criminal mastermind Egghead organized a third Masters of Evil, hoping to take vengeance on Henry Pym but met defeat (and death) soon after. Helmut Zemo, son of the original Baron Zemo, brought together the fourth incarnation of the Masters.

THE DARKEST HOUR

Baron Zemo II gathered more than a dozen criminals to crush the Avengers through force of numbers. Their most infamous achievement was the siege of Avengers' Mansion. Doctor Octopus assembled a fifth Masters of Evil and fought the Guardians of the Galaxy. Baron Zemo II returned to organize a sixth team, the Thunderbolts, who masqueraded as heroes. Before long, most of the Thunderbolts had become heroes for real.

Justine Hammer, the new Crimson Cowl, assembled a seventh version of the team that included a staggering 25 members. These Masters of Evil failed in an attempt to blackmail the United Nations for one trillion dollars. DW
**Maximus**

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Maximus

**OCCUPATION**
Would-be conqueror

**BASE**
City of Atlan in the Blue Area of the Moon

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 180 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Black

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Fantastic Four #47, February 1965

Maximus possesses a genius-level intellect unhampered by sanity, and possesses the ability to overwhelm the thought-processes of others in close proximity, taking over their conscious minds.

Son of Agon and brother to Black Bolt, the young Maximus exhibited no outward sign of change after his first exposure to Terrigen Mists that make the Inhumans what they are. But secretly, Maximus exhibited a strong desire to rule, a desire he knew could never be fulfilled while his brother, Black Bolt, lived.

Black Bolt caught Maximus forging an alliance with the Kree, the alien race who were responsible for the creation of the Inhumans. Black Bolt's sonic scream destroyed the Kree warship, and also shattered Maximus' grip on sanity. Thereafter he became known as Maximus the Mad.

However, his desire for power only increased with his madness, and Maximus has devoted his entire resource to wresting control of the Hidden Land of the Inhumans from his noble brother in a coup d'etat. AD

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**Mayhem**

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Cloak and Dagger Vol 1 #1 (October 1983)

**REAL NAME**
Brigid O'Reilly

**OCCUPATION**
Former policewoman, vigilante

**BASE**
New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 4 in

**WEIGHT** 120 lbs

**EYES** Green

**HAIR** Green

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**
Skin constantly secretes a poisonous gas; this can cause paralysis if it gets in bloodstream and can serve as truth drug; Mayhem is also able to fly.

As a New York police detective, Brigid O'Reilly confronted the vigilante partnership Cloak and Dagger. Feeling that their approach endangered innocent lives, Brigid was initially hostile to them, but became more tolerant when she learned of their origins. Following a confrontation with several corrupt police officers while she was investigating a drug-smuggling operation, Brigid was killed by poisonous gas. However, the intervention of Cloak and Dagger led to her resurrection as a superpowered individual, enabling her to exact revenge. Since then, Brigid has adopted the alias Mayhem and become a vigilante, targeting New York drug pushers. AD

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Despite his valor, Maximus' attempt to destroy humanity failed utterly.

The poisonous gas produced by Mayhem's body is used in her fight against crime.
**Medusa**

A member of the Inhumans Royal Family on Attilan, Medusa was exposed to the mutagenic Terrigen Mist as a baby. She gained the ability to use her hair like extra limbs, controlling it with her mind.

Following the first coming of Triton, Medusa left Attilan and suffered amnesia in a plane crash. As she wandered through Europe, her powers caught the attention of the criminal called the Wizard. He brought her to America and made her part of the Frightful Four. When her second cousin Black Bolt, to whom she was betrothed, took the throne of Attilan, Medusa returned home to act as his interpreter. She also replaced Invisible Girl in the Fantastic Four during the time Sue Storm was estranged from her husband.

**Meggan**

Born to gypsies, Meggan grew up in a fur-covered form and considered herself a freak. Only later, after being taken in by Brian Braddock (Captain Britain), did she discover that she could consciously alter her appearance. She transformed herself from her furry form into a strikingly beautiful woman with long, golden hair. Not long after this, Meggan and Braddock started a relationship and founded the supergroup Excalibur, and the two eventually married. As Captain Britain’s wife, Meggan is the queen of Otherworld, assisting in the management of the dimensional realities that make up the Omniverse.

**Meltdown**

When he learned of his daughter’s burgeoning mutant abilities, Tabitha Smith’s father beat her, driving her to leave home and flee to Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters. It would be some time before she got there. Encountering the Beyonder on the way, they went on a series of cosmic adventures before falling in with the Vanisher’s gang of thieves, the Fallen Angels.

Perhaps Tabitha’s childhood explains her subsequent sickness. She oscillated between X-Factor and the Fallen Angels before becoming a member of the New Mutants where her attraction to Cannonball helped steady her. In recent years Tabitha has become a protege to Nathan Summers, joining him in an attack on the Weapone X facility and the Neverland mutant concentration camp. Now more settled and having greater control over her powers, Tabitha is maturing into a happy, stable and formidable young woman.
Mephisto

Mephisto is an extradimensional demon of immense power. He is not the Biblical Satan, and his realm is not the Hell of Scripture. However, Mephisto appears to Earthlings in the traditional form of the Devil, and often poses as Satan. By one account, Mephisto, like other rulers of hell dimensions, originated ages ago as a portion of a mass of dark mystical energy. Mephisto continually schemes to make bargains with mortals and gods to gain possession of their souls, which he confines to his netherworld. Mephisto especially covets the souls of heroes for their purity and has repeatedly sought to corrupt and enslave the soul of the noble Silver Surfer. Mephisto has also contends with Thor, Doctor Strange, Daredevil, the Fantastic Four, and many others. It was Mephisto, posing as Satan, who bonded the demon Zakkys to Johnny Blaze, turning him into the Ghost Rider.

Mephisto has a son, Blackheart, and a daughter, Mephisto P.S.

Mephisto can magically augment his strength to an immeasurable extent, rivaling even the possibly limitless power of the Hulk.

First Appearance: Doctor Strange, #84 (December 1968)

Real Name: Unrevealed

Occupation: Ruler of an extradimensional realm of the dead

Base: A hell dimension

Height: 6 ft 6 in

Weight: 310 lbs

Eyes: Variable, usually white

Hair: Variable, usually black

Mercado, Joy

Joy Mercado, formerly a top writer for NOW magazine, is among the elite investigative reporting staff of the Daily Bugle. She was partnered with staff photographer Peter Parker on a number of stories, including an assignment to England and Northern Ireland, where Spider-Man prevented the assassination of the British prime minister. Joy seemed suspicious of Peter's relationship with Spider-Man and, at one time, accused Peter of using Spider-Man to further his career.

Joy is an incurrigible flirt, but her relationship with Peter never progressed to anything more than friendship.

Mentallo

First Appearance: Strange Tales #141 (February 1966)

Real Name: Marvin Flumm

Occupation: Professional criminal

Base: Mobile

Height: 5 ft 10 in

Weight: 175 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Special Powers/Abilities: Possesses telepathic powers. Can read the thoughts of anyone within five miles, locate a particular brain pattern and project his own thoughts into the minds of others.

Marvin Flumm was born with telepathic powers. He went to work for SHIELD where his powers became more fully developed. Hoping to take control of SHIELD, Flumm stole a battle suit and telepathic-enhancing equipment and took the name Mentallo. Teaming with the Fixer (later known as Techno), Mentallo tried to take over SHIELD headquarters but the two were captured. They escaped and joined HYDRA.

While battling the Micronauts, Mentallo's mind was overloaded. Later, when Professor X tried to help him, the two battled on a psychic plane and Mentallo was overpowered by the Professor.

Mercado, Joy

First Appearance: Moon Knight Vol. 1 #33 (September 1989)

Real Name: Joy Mercado

Occupation: Reporter

Base: New York City

Height: 6 ft 10 in

Weight: 150 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blonde

Special Powers/Abilities: Normal human strength for a woman of her build who exercises regularly; has some skill at unarmed combat; accomplished writer and interviewer.
Mesmero

Mesmero started out as a party hypnotist, using his mutant powers to convince guests to surrender their valuables. He branched out into supervillainy when the Machinestrom recruited him to lead the robotic "Demi-Men" alongside a robot duplicate of Magneto. Mesmero, who didn't realize that his comrades were robots, hypnotized Polaris into becoming his partner until the X-Men crushed the Machinestrom's plot.

Mesmero later found work as a stage hypnotist and clashed with Spider-Man. He recently served as a field agent for the Weapon X program in exchange for treatments that augmented his hypnotic abilities. His powers let him entrance crowds into doing anything he wished, putting Mesmero's mind-control abilities in the same class as Professor X. Mesmero helped hide the locations of Weapon X installations, but his superiors abandoned him when his power levels dipped after the death of his mother.

Mesmero was one of the mutants who saw their abilities stripped by the Scarlet Witch during the Decimation event. Without his hypnotism, Mesmero finally forged a relationship with a woman that didn't rely on trickery. He has rededicated himself to starting a new life as an ordinary human.

Microchip

A former weapons engineer, Linus Lieberman became the Punisher's sidekick, putting his skills to work building the Punisher's arsenal. Calling himself Microchip, he became a close friend and confidante of the Punisher. Because he was the Punisher's assistant on many missions and the brains behind a number of the Punisher's operations, Microchip became a target of the Punisher's enemies. The most powerful of these enemies was the Kingpin, who had Microchip kidnapped and held prisoner, then cut off his finger and sent it to the Punisher in the mail. Microchip was finally killed by Sudden Death, a rogue S.H.I.E.L.D. agent.

The son of a demon who seduced a mortal woman, Merlyn may or may not be the sorcerer who aided King Arthur Pendragon during the rise of Camelot. Eventually, Merlyn returned to his "Star Home" in the interdimensional realm called Otherworld. With his daughter Roma, he created the Britaine Corps to safeguard all the parallel Earths of the multiverse. Though he has appeared to perish many times, ceasing authority of Otherworld first to Roma and later to Brian Braddock, Merlyn is a master manipulator, and it is uncertain whether his last demise was genuine.

For a time, the wizard Merlin guided the destiny of the British Isles. He could foretell what fate had in store, help it along, or even stave it off, for a time. Merlin enabled the birth of King Arthur Pendragon, led him to the throne and advised him. He also brought the Black Knight to Camelot to foil the plots of Moredre and Morgan-Le-Fay and prolong Arthur's reign. Sadly, destiny cannot be put off forever and eventually Arthur's reign ended. What happened to Merlin is unknown.

FACTFILE

REAL NAME Vincent (full name unrevealed)

OCCUPATION Professional criminal

BASE Mobile

HEIGHT 6 ft 10 in

WEIGHT 180 lbs

EYES Red

HAIR Green

FIRST APPEARANCE X-Men Vol. 1 #49 (October 1968)
MIMIC

The son of a research scientist, Calvin Rankin spilt a chemical over himself while exploring his father's laboratory. He became able to emulate the abilities of others, whether they be athletes, scientists, or even mutants. Naming himself Mimic, he sought to imitate the X-Men, but when he was eventually found out, Professor X invited Mimic to join the team.

Mimic's membership of the X-Men was short-lived—he was thought to have died battling the Hulk.

Mindless Ones

Dormammu and his sister Umar, master sorcerers, sought refuge in the Dark Dimension following their exile from the dimension of the Faltrax. There, they taught the wizard-king Olnar how to absorb other dimensions into his own, a trick that backfired when the Mindless Ones appeared in the Dark Dimension. These soulless creatures, many thousand strong, exist just to destroy anything that lies in their path.

The rampaging monsters killed Olnar and ran riot over the Dark Dimension until Dormammu and Umar imprisoned them behind a mystical barrier, where they remain to this day.

Mindworm

A mutant born with an oversized cranium and brilliant mind, William Turner was cursed with the need to absorb the emotions of others. Unable to understand or control his psychic hunger, he fed off his parents, causing their deaths. William's hunger continued into adulthood, when he took to feeding off the residents of his apartment block, until Spider-Man intervened. Before he could exact revenge, William had an epiphany, realizing his actions were motivated by guilt at his parents' deaths. After developing mental illness, William became homeless and was killed by a street gang.
Miracle Man

First Appearance: Fantastic Four #3 (March 1962)
Real Name: Unrevealed
Occupation: Stage magician
Base: New York, Cheemuza
Height: 6 ft 4 in
Weight: 220 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Master hypnotist, able to mesmerize people with a glance and make them see what he wants; occasionally telekinesis, animating objects, and restructuring matter.

A brilliant illusionist and stage magician, Miracle Man most likely had some mutant abilities. During a performance, he spotted the Fantastic Four in the audience and began taunting them about how much greater his powers were than theirs. Enraged, the Thing challenged him but was outdone by Miracle Man's abilities.

After escaping from prison following a crime spree, Miracle Man studied the mystical powers of the Cheemuza or the Silent Ones. Using his newfound powers, Miracle Man remained a constant and powerful foe of the Fantastic Four until he was shot dead by Scourge.

Miss America

Madeline was the ward of radio tycoon James Brunet. A scientist sponsored by Bennet claimed to have invented a device that gave them superpowers. Madeline tampered with the device during an electrical storm and gained the ability to fly.

Madeline chose to use her gifts in the service of her country. She became the costumed adventurer Miss America, fighting foreign spies and saboteurs alongside super-speedster the Whizzer. Miss America and the Whizzer joined the Liberty Legion at the invitation of Captain America's sidekick Bucky, then became members of the Invaders when the United States entered the Second World War. After the war, the Invaders changed their name to the All-Winners Squad.

Miss America and the Whizzer married. In 1949, the two took jobs at a government nuclear facility. Sabotage exposed them to dangerous levels of radiation, and Miss America's son, Nuklo, was born a mutant who was kept for decades in suspended animation.

Years later, Miss America gave birth to a stillborn child at the High Evolutionary's Wundagore Mountain. Madeline did not survive the stress of giving birth and was buried at the mountain's base.

The Invaders

Miss America, seen here with fellow Invaders the Sub-Mariner and the Human Torch, was one of the first female costumed adventurers. She was announced in the press as the female equivalent of Captain America, and she served as a public icon while aiding the Invaders in combat against Hitler's armies during World War II.
He's the leader of one of the world's most important Super Hero teams. He's also a brilliant scientist. Reed Richards is Mr. Fantastic. As leader of the super hero group, the Fantastic Four, Mr. Fantastic uses both his ability to stretch his body and his sharp scientific mind in his quest to help mankind.

A BRILLIANT STUDENT

This son of highly intelligent parents, Reed Richards was a child prodigy and a brilliant student. His father Nathaniel Richards was a wealthy physician; Reed's mother, Evelyn, died when he was seven years old.

Young Reed showed a genius for math, physics, and mechanics, which his father encouraged. Nathaniel guided his son's scientific studies. By the time Reed was fourteen, he was already taking and excelling in college-level courses. When he reached college age, Reed attended several universities, including Empire State University in New York.

It was there that Reed Richards met several people who would play a major role in his later life as Mr. Fantastic. Victoria Von Doom was a foreign student from the nation of Latveria. The scientific genius was assigned to be Reed's first college roommate, but Von Doom disliked Reed from the moment he met him and asked for a new roommate. Later, as Doctor Doom, he would become Mr. Fantastic's and the Fantastic Four's greatest enemy.

Replacing Von Doom as Reed's roommate was Benjamin Grimm, a former high school football star who, though very different in temperament, intellect, and personality, quickly became Reed's best friend.

In college, Reed began working on plans to build a starship that would enable him to travel to other solar systems. When he told his new roommate about this plan, Ben joked that if Reed could build the ship, Ben would pilot it. Reed could not only turn out to be true, but would also be the pivotal event in both their lives.

After transferring to Columbia University in Manhattan, Reed rented a room from a woman whose daughter, Susan Storms, immediately fell for Reed. One day she would be his wife, as well as his partner in the Fantastic Four.

A FATEFUL JOURNEY

Using money left to him by his father, Nathaniel, who arranged for the fortune to be given to Reed while Nathaniel was on an alternate Earth, Reed began developing his starship shortly after college. When his own funds began to run out, Reed got funding from the US Federal Government to complete the project.

However, shortly before Reed could complete the ship, the government threatened to cut off funding to the project. Desperate to prove that his starship would fly, Reed decided to take the ship up on a test flight himself. Ben argued against the idea, telling Reed that he thought the ship's shielding would be inadequate against the powerful cosmic radiation found in space.

Eventually, Reed convinced Ben to pilot the ship on the test voyage. By this time, Reed and Sue Storm were engaged and planned to come along on the flight, as did her younger brother Johnny Storm. The quartet tucked onto the launch pad, slumped onto the ship, and blasted off into space.

Before they could achieve hyperpace and a journey to another solar system, an unexpected solar flare shot intense levels of cosmic radiation at the ship. Ben had to be separated into go separate spaceships and sent inside, before the ship could be sent to the front of the spinning stars.

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**Mister Sinister**

A visionary doctor living in 19th-century London, Dr. Nathaniel Essex was recruited by the Eternal mutant warlord Apocalypse, his genetic structure enhanced so as to provide him with virtual immortality and superhuman physical attributes. Taking the name Mister Sinister, Essex dispensed with any pretense of human morality as he continued his forbidden experiments into the secrets of mutation over the course of the next century.

Sinister will do anything to further his knowledge of genetics, and he has played a hidden role in the upbringing of the Summers brothers, Cyclops and Hawkeye. He is also the guiding hand behind the Marauders, a band of killers comprised of mutants and augmented humans whom Sinister once sent into the Morlock tunnels to carry out the Mutant Massacre. **TB**

**Mockingbird**

Bobbi Morse began her career as a SHIELD agent, by striking up a romance with the Super Hero Hawkeye. The two eventually married and became founding members of the West Coast Avengers.

During a time-travel adventure to the Old West, Mockingbird allowed the abusive Phantom Rider to fall to his death, an action that drove a wedge between Mockingbird and Hawkeye. The two were reconciled when they mentored the Great Lakes Avengers.

Mockingbird later died at the hands of Mephisto, when she intercepted a power blast meant for Hawkeye. **DW**
MODOK
FIRST APPEARANCE Tales of Suspense #93 (October 1967)
REAL NAME George Tarleton
OCCUPATION Leader of AIM
BASE Various
HEIGHT 12 ft
WEIGHT 750 lbs
EYES Red
HAIR Brown
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Superhuman mental and psionic powers; computer-like brain; headband enabled him to teleport from one AIM base to another; possessed a hoverchair that could fly and was equipped with weaponry.

An agent for the subversive organization AIM (Advanced Idea Mechanics), Tarleton was mutated by AIM's bio-engineers into a living computer named MODOK, which stands for "Mental Organism Designed Only for Killing." MODOK soon turned on his creators and later used his superior mental powers to seize control of AIM. He began making plans for world conquest, but was often thwarted by S.H.I.E.L.D., Captain America, the Hulk and Iron Man. Disguised by his many failures, rebels within AIM finally managed to oust MODOK and later hired the Serpent Society to assassinate him. TD

Mojo
REAL NAME Mojo
OCCUPATION Ruler of Mojoworld
BASE The airborne Body Shoppe, Mojoworld
HEIGHT Unknown
WEIGHT Unknown
EYES Yellow
HAIR None
FIRST APPEARANCE Langshot #3 (November 1985)

Travels on robotic platform that moves on metal spiderlike legs; projects energy bolts from hands; his very presence can kill life nearby.

A literally spineless mass of yellow flesh, Mojo is ruler of Mojoworld, a bizarre, media-oriented planet. A manipulative tyrant, Mojo produces movies and TV shows to keep the masses amused. The need to maintain these entertainments' popularity has drawn him to Earth.

Mojo's first visit occurred when his slave, Longshot, tried to persuade the X-Men to help overthrow his master. Although they triumphed, Mojo's successor - "Mojo II, the Sequel" - proved to be even more tyrannical, and Mojo quickly reclaimed the reins of power. Since the X-Men are such crowd-pleasers, Mojo has repeatedly involved them in his entertainment programmes, but they are rarely willing participants. Frustrated by this, he created younger versions of the X-Men, the so-called X-Babies, but they proved no easier to work with.

Equipped with a sophisticated exoskeleton that enabled humanoid movement, Mojo II was less grotesque than his predecessor. A corrupt tyrant, he was not popular and eventually Mojo overthrew him.

Mole Man
REAL NAME Unknown
OCCUPATION Former nuclear engineer; ruler of the Subterraneans
BASE Subterranea
HEIGHT 4 ft 10 in
WEIGHT 165 lbs
EYES Brown
HAIR Grey
FIRST APPEARANCE Fantastic Four #1 (November 1961)

Ingenious inventor of weapons capable of seismic disturbance; dominating personality; heightened senses, including a radar sense that enables him to navigate in pitch darkness, or to sense the presence of objects, or people behind him.

Slumbered and ridiculed for his bizarre appearance, Mole Man turned his back on the surface world and sought a legendary underground kingdom. He eventually found an entrance to it on Monster Island, in the Bermuda Triangle - an underground world filled with advanced technical devices (left by a race known as the Deviants).

Mole Man also found a race of semi-human creatures, whom he enslaved. Sometimes in partnership with Red Ghost, Kala or the Outcasts, his deadly plots against the surface world have been thwarted by the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, Iron Man, and the Hulk.

Mole Man declared himself the sole ruler of the underground kingdom, which he named Subterranea. But Tyrannus, another man from the surface world, who also possessed Deviant technology, challenged Mole Man for control of Subterranea, leading to many epic battles between the two.

Mole Man as he appears in the Ultimates series.
**Molecule Man**

*First Appearance:* Fantastic Four #20 (November 1963)
*Real Name:* Owen Reece
*Occupation:* Atomic plant worker turned criminal
*Base:* Brooklyn, New York; later a suburb of Denver, Colorado
*Height:* 5' 7" in
*Weight:* 140 lbs
*Eyes:* Brown
*Hair:* Brown
*SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:* Possesses psionic ability to manipulate all forms.

Lab assistant Owen Reece inadvertently activated a machine that opened a "pinhole" into another dimension, exposing him to radiation that scarred his face and endowed him with the power to control matter. An embittered misfit, Reece used his powers to evil ends, but was defeated by the FANTASTIC FOUR. Uatu the Watcher imprisoned Reece in another dimension, but he eventually returned to Earth. During the first "Secret War," Reece fell in love with another superhuman, Volcana. The two retired to live peacefully together in a Denver suburb, but Volcana has since left him. **PS**

**Moon Boy**

*First Appearance:* Devil Dinosaur #1 (April 1978)
*Real Name:* Moon Boy
*Occupation:* Adventurer
*Base:* The Valley of Flame, located on an extra-dimensional planet
*Height:* 6' 2" in
*Weight:* 196 lbs
*Eyes:* Blue
*Hair:* Black
*SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:* Able to communicate with Devil Dinosaur and possibly other unrevealed powers.

Moon Boy grew up in the Valley of Flame on an unnamed extra-dimensional world, where tribes of ape-like humanoids coexisted with dinosaurs. His people called themselves the Small-Folk, and struggled for survival against the Hill-Folk and Killer-Folk. When Moon Boy saved a tyrannosaurus rex from the Killer-Folk, the red-skinned dinosaur became his constant companion, Devil Dinosaur. Moon Boy and Moon Dinosaur defended the Small-Folk and briefly served with the Fallen Angels team on Earth, before returning to their own world through a space warp. **DW**

**Molten Man**

*First Appearance:* Amazing Spider-Man #28 (September 1965)
*Real Name:* Mark Raxton
*Occupation:* Security guard for Osborn Industries
*Base:* New York City
*Height:* 6' 6" in
*Weight:* 225 lbs
*Eyes:* Brown
*Hair:* Gold
*SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:* Superhuman strength and durability. Metallic epidermis capable of producing flames and heat.

The stepbrother of Liz Allen, Mark Raxton worked as a laboratory assistant to Professor Spencer Smythe, creator of the Spider-Slayer robots. Envious of his employer's fame, Raxton stole his latest creation, a synthetic metallic liquid. The liquid spilled over him and absorbed into his system. He became the super-strong criminal Molten Man and clashed with Spider-Man. When Raxton's molten skin threatened to destroy him, Spider-Man saved his life. Molten Man then became an ally of the Wall-Crawler, and took a job as a security guard at the company owned by his stepfather's husband, Harry Osborn. **TB**

**Montesi, Victoria**

*First Appearance:* Darkhold #1 (October 1992)
*Real Name:* Victoria Montesi
*Occupation:* Occult investigator
*Base:* Rome, Italy
*Height:* 5' 11" in
*Weight:* 120 lbs
*Eyes:* Brown
*Hair:* Black
*SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:* She possesses the ability to sense when someone has accessed a page from the Darkhold tome.

For generations, the Montesi line has guarded the Darkhold book of black magic to prevent the rise of the Elder god Cthulhu. Victoria Montesi, daughter of Monsignor Victorio Montesi, grew up believing that her family's involvement with the Darkhold was just superstition, but her skepticism vanished when pages from the Darkhold became scattered around the world. To retrieve them, Victoria founded the Darkhold Redeemers with Louise Hastings and Interpol agent Sam Buchanan. She later learned that Monsignor Montesi was not her real father; unable to have children, he had used magic to ensure an heir. In reality, Victoria was Cthulhu's daughter, and was carrying Cthulhu himself in a demonic pregnancy. Fortunately, Doctor Strange prevented Cthulhu's birth into this world. **AD**

**Moon Knight**

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE

**Moon Dragon**

*First Appearance:* Iron Man Vol. 1 #54 (January 1973)
*Real Name:* Heather Douglas
*Occupation:* Adventurer
*Base:* Mobile
*Height:* 6' 10" in
*Weight:* 190 lbs
*Eyes:* Blue
*Hair:* None
*SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:* Telepathy; telekinetic levitation of objects; ability to fire mental blasts; trained martial artist.

Moon Dragon grew up on Titan after Thanos killed her parents (though her father was later resurrected as DRAX THE DESTROYER). An evil entity, the DRAGON OF THE MOON, tried to corrupt her, but she believed she had resisted him. As Moon Dragon, she traveled to Earth, where her haughty attitude won few friends. Moon Dragon joined the DEFENDERS, but the influence of the Dragon of the Moon sometimes turned her into a villain. She became a reservist of the AVENGERS, and later safeguarded the Mind Gem as a member of the Infinity Watch. **AD**
Moon Knight

A mercenary left for dead in the Egyptian desert, Marc Spector was found by followers of the Egyptian god Khonshu. They carried Spector to their temple and presented him to their god, who saved his life, at the same time bestowing upon him superhuman powers. Returning to the US with a statue of Khonshu, Marc adopted the role of crimefighter, calling himself the Moon Knight and assuming two more alter egos: those of millionaire Steven Grant and taxi driver Jake Lockley. Aided by his pilot friend, Frenchie, and his lover, Marie Leau, Marc fought crime for many years, battling against Midnight Man and Black Spectre, and alongside Spider-Man and the Punisher. But the strain of keeping up his various identities caught up with Marc. Eventually, exhaustion set in and he was persuaded to retire his alter egos and sell the Khonshu statue.

NEW MOON

Before long, Marc began to have strange dreams and felt compelled to travel to Egypt. There he was met by members of the cult of Khonshu who explained to him that being the Moon Knight was his destiny, and not one he could shirk. Reinvigorated, and equipped by Khonshu with a new costume and a selection of special weapons, Marc's life as the Moon Knight has begun anew.

Moonstar

Danielle "Dani" Moonstar is the granddaughter of Black Eagle, a Cheyenne chief. When Black Eagle was murdered by agents of the Hellfire Club member Donald Pierce, Dani joined forces with Professor Charles Xavier (see Professor X) to defeat Pierce. She then joined Xavier's New Mutants, at first being known as Psyche and later as Mirage and Moonstar. For a time Dani served as a Valkyrie in Asgard before becoming a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent and then a member of X-Force. Recently, she worked as a teacher at the Xavier Institute, but lost her mutant powers.

Moonstone

An arch manipulator, during her childhood Karla Sofen learnt how to use others to get what she wanted. Karla became a psychologist in adulthood, and tricked the original Moonstone, Loid Bloch, into giving up the gem that endowed him with superpowers. Using the gem for herself, she became a superpowered villain, driving General Ross to a nervous breakdown and serving with the Masters of Evil for a time. Although she attempted to reform, Karla relapsed into her old ways and eventually lost her Moonstone to Baron Zemo. The manipulator had herself been played.
Nobel Prize-winning biochemist, Dr. Michael Morbius discovered that he was dying from a rare blood disease which dissolved his blood cells. Morbius tried an experimental treatment in an attempt to cure himself which involved fluids made from the bodies of vampire bats combined with electric shock treatment. This potent combination transformed Morbius, giving him the superhuman powers and the overwhelming bloodlust of a vampire. He was not a true "undead" vampire, however, as he was still a mortal man. Morbius grew fangs and killed to satisfy his craving for blood. However, after drinking his victim's blood, his mind would return to normal and he became filled with guilt, remorse, and self-loathing. He often battled Spider-Man. MT

The illegitimate son of King Arthur PENDRAGON, Mordred was eventually made a knight of the realm, though evil grew in his heart. Mordred repeatedly tried to usurp the throne of England, but was frequently foiled by Sir Percy, the mysterious BLACK KNIGHT. Eventually, the two men slew each other, but Mordred's ally, the sorceress MORGAN LE FAY drew his essence to her side where she lay, imprisoned in the Netherworld.

Revived and sent into the modern world by the Nether Gods for their own purposes, Mordred frequently battled Dane Whitman, the descendant of Sir Percy, and his allies, the AVENGERS. TB

The half-sister of King Arthur PENDRAGON of Camelot, Morgan's father was a member of an ancient magical race that once inhabited Britain. After learning the arts of sorcery, Morgan plotted against King Arthur until MERLIN the Magician magically imprisoned her within Castle Le Fey. Although her body couldn't leave the castle, her astral form was free to travel to various time periods. She once tried to use Jessica Drew, the first SPIDER-WOMAN, to break Merlin's spell and later stole the Twilight sword, a weapon of monumental power, which she used to recreate a distorted version of Camelot where the AVENGERS briefly served as her knights. TB

The Morlocks were failed experiments by the Dark Beast who established their own outcast society in the tunnels beneath New York City. The MARAUDERS, organized by the ruthless geneticist MISTER SINISTER, slaughtered many Morlocks in what became known as the Mutant Massacre. Mikhail RASPUTIN, the brother of COLOSSUS, transported most of the survivors to the alternate dimension of "The Hill," where a second generation grew to adulthood. One of their number, named MARROW, founded the terrorist group Gene Nation. Other Morlocks resettled in Africa, where D'Gard led them until Marrow killed him. DW
**Mother Night**

First Appearance: Captain America #350 (August 1989)

Real Name: Susan Scarbo

Occupation: Agent of the Red Skull

Base: Red Skull's lab

Height: 5 ft 7 in

Weight: 130 lbs

Eyes: Green

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Expert hypnotist. Could generate illusions, make herself appear to be invisible, and force others to obey her will.

Susan Scarbo and her brother Melvin were stage hypnotists whose ambitions grew beyond show business. They turned to crime, Susan took the name "Suprema," and was enlisted by the Red Skull. Changing her identity to Mother Night, she took command of the Sisters of Sin, formerly led by the Red Skull's daughter Synthia (also known as Sin). In this role, Mother Night battled Captain America. When the Red Skull was captured by Magneto, Mother Night joined with the Skeleton Crew (Red Skull's main operatives) to try and free him. Mother Night was killed by the Winter Soldier.

**Moy, Dr. Alyssa**

First Appearance: Fantastic Four #5 (May 1998)

Real Name: Dr. Alyssa Moy

Occupation: Scientist and explorer

Base: Mobile

Height: 5 ft 9 in

Weight: 129 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: A scientific genius on a par with Reed Richards himself, she carries a universal skeleton key and drives a flying car.

Alyssa Moy knew Reed Richards before he founded the Fantastic Four. The pair became romantically involved and Reed once even proposed to her. They remained in contact after Reed's cosmic mutation and, in recent years, Alyssa has lent occasional support to the Fantastic Four who returned the favor by curing her of a mystical virus. Things did become a little strained when Sue Richards (Invisible Woman) learned of Reed's proposal all those years ago, but Alyssa is likely to remain a Fantastic Four ally for some time.

**Muggins, Mamie**

First Appearance: Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #139 (December 1974)

Real Name: Mamie Muggins

Occupation: Landlady

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 7 in

Weight: 140 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: White

Special Powers/Abilities: An uncanny ability to sense when the rent is due.

Mamie Muggins is an apartment superintendent in the Chelsea area of New York City, whose most notable tenant has been Peter Parker, better known as Spider-Man. Mrs. Muggins lives with her husband Barney, and was known for nagging Peter over his rent payments and interrogating him about the crashing sounds she heard coming from his residence. Her niece Candi lived across the hall from Peter, along with Candi's roommates Bambi and Randi. The trio often sunbathed on the building's roof, hampering Peter's ability to sneak in unnoticed through the building's skylight.

**Multiple Man**

After his parents died, Jamie Madrox gained the mutant power to duplicate himself and ran riot. The Fantastic Four subdued Madrox, and turned him over to Professor X so he could learn how to control his mutant talent. But Madrox wasn't comfortable around other people, and chose instead to work with Dr. Moira MacTaggart at her Muir Island complex.

Madrox became a member of X-Factor, making the first true friends of his life. After X-Factor was disbanded, Madrox sent his duplicates out into the world to experience all the possibilities life had to offer. Recently, however, he has opened a detective agency, X-Factor Investigations, in the heart of Manhattan's Mutant Town district.

Madrox has just one superhuman ability: when struck, he can create duplicates of himself. Each duplicate lasts as long as he wishes and embodies an aspect of his personality. He also has a special suit, which prevents duplication taking place.

Because each of his duplicates is a facet of his personality, Madrox can have problems when he has to make a quick decision.
**Mutant Liberation Front**

Ostensibly an extremist terrorist cell working forcibly to promote mutant rights, the Mutant Liberation Front most often functioned as the shock troops fighting for the corrupt goals of their various leaders. Initially formed by Strype, a clone of Cable from the future, the MLF staged assorted terrorist events which initially brought them into conflict with the New Mutants, and subsequently with Cable's X-Force unit.

When they were of no further use to Strype, this incarnation of the MLF was left to its own devices. Reformed by Reignfire, who had been infused with the DNA of the New Mutant Sunspot, and who seemed to be Sunspot himself. Again, the MLF clashed repeatedly with X-Force, and eventually they were defeated and the truth of Reignfire's identity was exposed.

The third incarnation of the MLF wasn't composed of mutants, but of humans in armored costumes who posed as mutants so as to increase tensions between humans and mutants. Based at the Last Stand compound of the right wing group Friends of Humanity in Oklahoma, the MLF were later destroyed by the Punisher and SHIELD.

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**Mutant X**

Alex Summers, alias the Super Hero Havok, a former X-Man on "mainstream" Earth (Earth-616), was seemingly killed in an explosion. At the same time on Earth of an alternate reality (Earth-1298), its own Havok was brutally killed by a Sentinel robot. The spirit of the Havok of Earth-616 took possession of the body of the Havok of Earth-1298 and thus returned to physical life.

In this "Mutant X" universe Havok became the leader of a mutant team called the Six, who were counterparts of various members of the X-Men.

Eventually, the Havok of Earth-616 returned to physical existence on his native Earth.
**Mys-Tech Board**

In the year 957, seven members of a Druid cult made a bargain with the demon Mephisto in exchange for immortality, they agreed to funnel souls into Mephisto's realm. Over the subsequent millennium, the mages acquired great wealth and became the board members of a London-based corporation named Mys-Tech. To pay their debt to Mephisto, the Mys-Tech board plotted to take over the world and kill vast numbers of innocents. Their assets included the Un-Earth, a model of the planet that operated like a voodoo doll, and the Warheads, mercenaries who could travel through wormholes to other dimensions or times. The board members eventually transformed themselves into beings of even greater power known as the Techno-Wizards. AD

**Mystique**

Mystique learned to use her mutant shape-shifting powers at a very early age. She quickly established her human Raven Darkholme identity. She hid her powers and evil intentions so well that, as Darkholme, she rose to a position of great power within the US Defense Department, giving her access to military secrets and advanced weaponry which she used for her own criminal purposes.

As Mystique, she organized the second Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, teaming with Avalanche, Blob, Destiny, and Pyro. The Brotherhood attempted to assassinate Senator Robert Kelly, a vocal enemy of all mutants. The X-Men stopped the assassination attempt, in the first of many clashes between the Brotherhood and the X-Men. The Brotherhood later changed its name to Freedom Force, giving up its criminal activity, and began working for the US government.

MOVEING WITH LIGHTNING-SPEED REFLEXES, MYSTIQUE NARROWLY AVOIDS THE PATH OF A GUIDED MISSILE!
Extended storylines and limited series were in vogue in the 1980s. The decade began with “The Dark Phoenix Saga” in X-Men and the first titles to star Moon Knight and She-Hulk. Ka-Zar the Savage, Dazzler and “The Court Martial of Yellowjacket” in Avengers took center stage in 1981. In 1982, Hercules, Vision and Scarlet Witch and Wolverine were all had limited series and “The Mystery of the Hobgoblin” began in Amazing Spider-Man. “The Trial of Reed Richards” in Fantastic Four and new series featuring Alpha Flight, Falcon, Hawkeye, the Thing and the New Mutants began in 1983. Jack of Hearts, Iceman, Prince Namor, Power Pack and West Coast Avengers appeared in 1984, as did Secret Wars, a 12-issue series that crossed over many other Marvel titles. Battle the Brave, Gargoyle, Longshot, Nightcrawler and Squadron Supreme were highlights of 1985. Along with X-Factor, Firestar and Elektra: Assassin, the New Universe was launched in 1986 with six titles, including Justice, Kickers, Inc., and Spitfire and the Troubleshooters. Spider-Man was married in 1987, and 1988 saw the first appearances of Excalibur, Speedball and Wolfpack. Damage Control, Nighthax: the Ultimate Ninja and Quasar were all introduced in 1989.
THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL (1982)
Marvel launches its first all-original graphic novel with a story that shows a hero and his final battle with cancer.

CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS #1 (1981)
Marvel's first crossover series featured its most popular Super Heroes battling for their lives.

WOLVERINE
AT LAST—IN HIS OWN MONTHLY SERIES!

THE WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #3 (1988)
Giant-Man guest stars when the High Evolutionary decides to genetically jumpstart the human race in storyline that crosses into other Avengers-related annuals.

Amazing Spider-Man #252 (1984)
Spider-Man returns from the Secret Wars with a new costume, which is later revealed to be an alien symbiote.

Wolverine Vol. 2 #1 (1988)
After a very successful limited series, Marvel's most popular mutant is finally awarded his own monthly title.
**Nth Command**

Nth Command was formed by the Roxson Corporation to gain total control of the world's energy supply. This was done by operatives, known as Nth Command officers, using devices called Nth projectors, that could transport material from one dimension to another. The sorcerer, Thomas Lightner, was hired to destroy Project Pegasus, so that the Nth Command could gain a monopoly on energy research. Lightner took control of the time-traveling cyborg, Deathlok, removed his organic parts, then reprogrammed him to serve Nth Command. Breaking into Project Pegasus with Deathlok, Lightner hoped to use an Nth projector to transport the entire facility to another dimension. He was stopped by the Thing, Quasar, Giant-Man, Thunderbird, and the Aquaman, etc.

**First Appearance:** Marvel Two-In-One #53 (July 1979)

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**Namora**

The Namora of "mainstream" Marvel Earth (Earth-616) was the cousin of Prince Namor the Sub-Mariner. Her mother was a surface human and her father an Atlantean.

Like Namor she had pink skin and possessed similar powers. She is considered the "mother" of Namorita, who is her genetically altered clone. Namora was murdered by Lyra of Lemuria.

Another Namora is a parallel Earth's female counterpart of Namor, but had blue skin. As queen of Atlantis, she conquered this alternate Earth before joining the Exiles, a team of interdimensional adventurers. She was finally slain by the Exiles' version of Hyperion.

**Powers:**
- Superhuman strength and durability and could breathe in air or underwater.
- Wings on Namora's heels enabled her to fly.

**First Appearance:** Exiles #46 (July 2004)
Prince Namor is the mutant son of a blue-skinned Atlantean princess and an American sea captain. He was raised in the underwater kingdom of Atlantis and grew up hating all surface dwellers. During World War II, Namor briefly sided with the Allies against the Axis Powers and joined the super-teams known as the Invaders and the Liberty Legion.

THE ALL-WINNER
After the war, Namor became a member of the All-Winners Squad, but returned to Atlantis when the Squad disbanded in 1949. He returned to the surface world in the late 1950s where he encountered a man called Destiny who removed his memory and sent him to New York where he lived as a derelict. His memory was restored by Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, but Namor turned against the human race when he learned that the city of Atlantis had been destroyed in his absence. During his first battle with the Fantastic Four, Namor fell in love with the Invisible Woman (who was called the Invisible Girl at the time) and offered to spare mankind if she became his bride. He later attempted to win her by buying a movie studio and offering the Fantastic Four a million dollars to star in a major motion picture when they briefly ran short of funds.

While traveling in the Arctic, Namor once stumbled upon a tribe of Eskimos who were worshiping a figure frozen in ice. In a fury, Namor hurled the figure into the sea. The ice melted to reveal Captain America, who was later picked up and revived by the Avengers.

TRAGIC LOVES
Namor eventually fell in love and married the Lady Dorma, but she was later murdered by one of his enemies on their wedding day. His second wife, Marrina, a member of another undersea race, died after being transformed into a monstrous creature.

After occasionally battling the Avengers, Namor made peace with them and even became a member of the team. He used the vast riches of the sea to form Oracle, Inc., a company that he uses to fight the pollution caused by major corporations around the world.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Fantastic Four #4: Namor regains his memory and declares war on the surface world.
- Fantastic Four Annual #1: Namor is reunited with the kingdom of Atlantis and invades New York City.
- Tales to Astonish #70-76: Namor seeks the sacred Trident of Neptune and proves that he is worthy to rule Atlantis.
- Marvel Feature #1: Hulk forms the Defenders.
- Avengers #126: Namor joins the Avengers.
**Namorita**

Half-human, half-Atlantean, Namorita was a clone of her mother, Namora, although she was an adult before she discovered this fact. Orphaned when she was still a child, Namorita was watched over by Namor, the Sub-Mariner and his friend Betty Prentiss. It was their love and support that carried Namorita through the tragic and traumatic loss of her mother. When she became an adult, they also helped and encouraged her to attend a US college.

Not long after starting college, Namorita became a member of the New Warriors, a team of young Super Heroes, with whom she fought against the Helions, Phobos and Terrax. The group provided Namorita with a certain amount of security and stability, but not all her time with them was happy: her first attempt to lead the team resulted in the kidnap of many team members’ families. They were eventually rescued and Namorita has continued as an active team member.

**Nebula**

Claiming to be the grand-daughter of the mad Titan Thanos, Nebula embarked on a career as a space pirate, hijacking Thanos’ old flagship Sanctuary II and attempting to conquer the fragmented Skrull Empire. Her ambitions were thwarted by the Avengers, but not before she inflicted catastrophic damage upon the planet Xandar. When Thanos was reborn, he denied any relationship to Nebula, who nevertheless almost succeeded in wresting the omnipotent Infinity Gauntlet away from him. She then attacked Nova, claiming that her father had been Zorr, a menace destroyed by the hero’s predecessor, Nova Prime. Nebula’s identity was also adopted for a time by Ravonna the Terminator. 

**Nekra**

Gemma Sinclair and Frederick Beechman were accidentally exposed to radiation at the Los Alamos Atomic Proving Grounds. As a result, Gemma’s daughter Nekra was born with chalk-white skin. An outcast, she teamed up with Beechman’s mutant son Jerome, who had ape-like features. As they grew older, they discovered their superhuman powers. As Nekra and the Mandrill, they attempted to conquer three African nations and later the United States.

Nekra became leader of a fanatical religious cult. Afterwards, she became the ally of the Avengers’ foe, the Grim Reaper. He killed her, but she was resurrected by Hellstorm. **PS**
**NEW MUTANTS**

Believing that his X-Men were dead, Charles Xavier (see PROFESSOR X) felt he had no choice but to begin again from scratch, and so his New Mutants were formed. A group of adolescents, they were charged with mastering their own powers at the same time as learning about themselves and fighting for Professor X’s cause of mutant-hero harmony. Life as a New Mutant was not always easy—some members died in action—but for the most part it was rewarding. Following their graduation from Xavier’s school, the New Mutants remained together to form X-FORCE, with some of them also becoming teachers at the Institute.

**MORE NEW MUTANTS**

With his school expanding, Professor X decided to divide his students into squads. The New Mutants was one of these teams and was placed under the tutelage of Danielle Moonstar. The line-up was PRODIGY (absorbs skills and knowledge from those nearby); Wind Dancer (creates winds upon which she is able to fly); Wallflower (pheromone release causes others to match her mood); Elixir (heals herself and others); Surge (projects electricity in power blasts or uses it to accelerate to superspeeds); and Icarus (flies on angel-like wings, healing ability, mimics sounds). Competition between these squads became as significant as their battles against more malevolent forces.
**New Warriors**

When his first vigilante partnership ended with the apparent death of the Super Hero Silhouette, Night Thrasher refused to hang up his costume. Evident of the Fantastic Four, Night Thrasher sought to establish his own quartet of heroes, bullying and exiling Nova, Marvel Boy and Firestar to join. When the Super Heroes Namorita and Speedball joined their support during a battle against Galactus' former herald, Terrax, this foursome became a sextet and the New Warriors was established.

From their base at Night Thrasher's New York penthouse suite, the New Warriors were to fight against and alongside Punisher, and to battle the White Queen (see Storm, Emma) and her Hellions, as well as the mutant Proteus. Over the years the team lineup has undergone regular changes, and as its members became adults it has become a part-time outfit. Despite this, the team is together it continues to be a force to be reckoned with. The current lineup consists of Namorita, Night Thrasher, Nova, and Speedball.

**N’Garai**

In the timeless past, the Elder God Gethon created the race of demons called the N’Garai and their ruler, Kierroh. Ages ago, the N’Garai returned to our dimension and for a period ruled the Earth, before being driven back and trapped within their extra-dimensional realm. Since then, they have been released onto the Earth again when one of the mystic caims that seal the passageway to their native dimension is disturbed. These caims are located on Sable Center in New York and on Magneto’s island in the Bermuda Triangle. They have frequently been combated by the X-Men, as well as Doctor Strange and the Hulk. Several demonic sorcerers have called upon the N’Garai, including Belasco and Kulan Gath.

**Nighthawk**

Kyle Richmond was a wealthy playboy who discovered he had a weak heart and took an experimental potion that dramatically increased his strength and reflexes, but only worked at night. Recruited into the Squadron Sinister by the Grandmaster, he later gave up crime and joined the Defenders until an explosion left him in a coma. He recovered and rejoined the Defenders.

On one alternate world, his adopted son Neil eventually took his identity and became the new Nighthawk. On another alternate world, Kyle Richmond is an African-American entrepreneur who lost his parents to a hate crime and uses high-tech weaponry, stealth and fighting prowess to get revenge on criminals. TD/MM

**Nightcrawler**

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE
Kurt Wagner is the son of Azazel, a mutant who resembles a demon, and the shapeshifting mutant Mystique. When Kurt was born in Bavaria, Mystique posed as an ordinary human and married a German baron, Eric Wagner. The local populace was horrified by newborn Kurt's demonic appearance: he had pointed ears, three fingers on each hand, two toes on each foot, and a tail. Pursued by a mob, Mystique threw the infant down a waterfall.

CIRCUS FREAK

Azazel saved the baby, who was raised by gypsy sorceress Margali Szardos. Kurt grew up in a Bavarian circus where Szardos was a fortuneteller. The circus performers accepted Kurt as part of their family. His best friend was Szardos's son Stefan, and Kurt fell in love with her daughter Jamaine. With his great agility, Wagner became the circus's star acrobat and trapeze performer. Audiences assumed that his inhuman appearance was merely a costume.

However, when Texas millionaire Amos Jardine bought the circus, he insisted that Wagner be exhibited as a freak. Outraged, Wagner quit the circus. Two nights later he battled Szardos's son Stefan, who had become a serial killer, and accidentally killed him.

Believing Wagner was a demon and responsible for the murders, a mob would have killed Wagner, but Charles Xavier (see Professor X) arrived and immobilized the crowd with his telepathic powers. Xavier recruited Wagner into his second team of X-Men, based in the US. Wagner taking the name “Nightcrawler.” In America he was reunited with Jamaine, now calling herself Amanda Sefton, and was reconciled with Margali Szardos, who had blamed him for Stefan's death.

After serving in the X-Men for years, Nightcrawler became a founding member of the British-based team Excalibur. He returned to the X-Men briefly, then left again to study to become a priest. However, he was never ordained and returned to the X-Men.

Nightcrawler has since learned the identities of his parents, and discovered that Mystique's foster daughter Rogue is his foster sister. He has also met his half-brothers Nils Styger, alias Abyss, and Kiwi Black. With them, Nightcrawler defeated Azazel, who had tried to use him as a pawn in conquering Earth. PS
Nightmare, who has battled Doctor Strange, is the ruler of the Nightmare World. He has a vast repertoire of powers, including the ability to project illusions, control dreams, and manipulate reality. His appearance is often described as a malevolent, skeletal figure with glowing eyes and a bony, angular physique.

Nightshade, known for her criminal mind, is a mastermind with a knack for outwitting even the most powerful adversaries. She is often found in the shadows, plotting and scheming to achieve her goals. Her body is illuminated with a eerie blue glow, hinting at her supernatural abilities.

Nitro is a powerful energy sustaining force, able to harness and control massive amounts of energy. His body glows with an intense blue light, and he can project explosive energy blasts from his body. Nitro's abilities are due to a unique combination of bioengineering and energy manipulation.

During the 1950s, Nomad became the “Butch” sidekick of the replacement Captain America active during that period. The two battled Communists until the new hero proved his worth and was accepted as a full-fledged hero.
**North Dakota**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Dakota North #1 (June 1986)
**REAL NAME** Dakota North
**OCCUPATION** Private investigator; former fashion model
**BASE** Mobile
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 7 in
**WEIGHT** 130 lbs
**EYES** Blue-gray
**HAIR** Auburn
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Adept hand-to-hand combatant and skilled gymnast; accomplished with various firearms.

The daughter of a US intelligence agent, Dakota North pursued a career as a model before establishing a highly successful private investigation firm named North Security. Branch offices across the globe, North Security rapidly gained a formidable reputation, taking on a multitude of cases that ranged from the mundane to the outright dangerous.

During one particularly difficult case, an international arms dealer who was attempting to gain possession of an experimental nerve gas pursued Dakota across Europe. However, Dakota survived this encounter and her organization is still thought to be going strong.

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**Nova**

Rhomann Dey was a Centurion of the Nova Corps, the space militia of the alien Xandarians. Mortally wounded, Dey transferred his powers to a student, Richard Rider. As Nova, Rider became a crimefighter on Earth. Nova later traveled into space and became one of the Champions of Xandar. Returning to Earth, Nova joined a team of young adventurers, the New Warriors.

Frankie Raye, who was to become the second Nova (see also Silver Surfer), was the stepdaughter of Phineas T. Horton, creator of the first Human Torch. Raye was exposed to Horton's chemical, which gave her powers similar to the Torch's. Horton hypnotized her into forgetting him and her powers. Raye later became the girlfriend of Johnny Storm, the second Human Torch. She regained her memories and her powers and became the new Herald of Galactus. She was killed by the alien Morg, but in an alternate timeline she is Galactus' herald at the death of the universe.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Richard Rider
**OCCUPATION** Adventurer
**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 9 in
**WEIGHT** 145 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** Brown

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Nova Vol. 1 #1 (September 1976); as Frankie Raye in Fantastic Four #154 (November 1973)

The first Nova has superhuman strength and durability and the power to fly at supersonic speed. The second Nova could manipulate cosmic energy as stellar fire. She could project stellar energy, had nearly total invulnerability, and could survive unprotected in space.

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**Northstar**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #120 (April 1979)
**REAL NAME** Jean-Paul Beaubier
**OCCUPATION** Member of Alpha Flight
**BASE** Tamato Island, British Columbia, Canada
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in
**WEIGHT** 185 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** Black
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Can redirect the kinetic motion of his body's molecules, giving him flight and superspeed.

Jean-Paul and his twin sister Jeanne-Marie (Aurora) were adopted separately. Jean-Paul joined a terrorist group and became a champion skier, then joined Alpha Flight as Northstar. One of the first Super Heroes to come out as gay, he later joined the X-Men. He was killed by a HYDRA-brained Wolverine and resurrected as a HYDRA drone. Northstar then attacked the SHIELD helicarrier but was taken into custody. Recent manipulations of the timstream have created duplicates of Northstar and the other original Alpha Flight members.

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**Notes**

Nova initially operated solo, but he has also worked with heroes like Doctor Strange, the Hulks and Wolverine. Nova has been a member of the New Warriors, the Champions of Xandar and the Nova Corps.
Oculus

FIRST APPEARANCE: Fantastic Four #303 (April 1962)
REAL NAME: Unrevealed
OCCUPATION: Absolute Monarch of an unnamed world in the Iniverse
BASE: Castle Oculus
HEIGHT: 6' 4" 4" in
WEIGHT: 290 lbs
EYES: Black
HAIR: Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Gem in place of his right eye draws energy from power crystals. Fires beams of concussive force, heat, and light from his gem-eye and hands. Can fly and form force-fields.

Oculus and his brother Wildblood were children of the Iniverse, a dimensional plane that exists between the subatomic particles of matter. Like all their kind, they were tested by the Gem Guild to see if they possessed the ability to manipulate the power gems that supplied their world with energy. Oculus had the gift and joined the Guild. He grew in power until he ruled his entire world. When Wildblood escaped to Earth, soldiers sent by Oculus to capture him also kidnapped Sue and Franklin Richards. Oculus intended to use Franklin's psionic abilities for his own ends, but Mr. Fantastic arrived with the rest of the Fantastic Four to rescue his wife and son. TB

Ogun

FIRST APPEARANCE: Kitty Pryde and Wolverine #2 (December 1984)
REAL NAME: Ogun
OCCUPATION: Assassin
BASE: Japan
HEIGHT: 5 ft 9 in
WEIGHT: 146 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: A master martial artist and expert swordsman. As a spirit, Ogun can possess the bodies of others, and is immune to physical harm.

A legendary sorcerer and warrior who may have been born as early as the 17th century, Ogun trained Wolverine in the martial arts. Originally a man of integrity, Ogun was eventually corrupted by the dark sorceries that kept him alive and invulnerable to harm, and he turned to the path of evil. As revenge against his former pupil, Ogun mentally enslaved Kitty Pryde, training her and sending her to kill Wolverine. But Wolverine ultimately freed Kitty; and together they slew Ogun's physical form. However, Ogun survived as a spirit, bound to the demon mask he once wore, and now can possess other beings of weaker will and employ them as puppets in the material world. TB

Omega Red

REAL NAME: Arkady Rossovich
OCCUPATION: Crime lord
BASE: Crime lord
HEIGHT: 6 ft 11 in
WEIGHT: 425 lbs
EYES: Red
HAIR: Blonde
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Possesses enhanced strength and mutant healing factor; body secretes deadly pheromones; has carbonadium coils implanted in arms.

Omega Red is the product of the Russian KGB's attempt to create a Soviet super-soldier. The test subject, former serial killer Arkady Rossovich, gained mutant powers after receiving carbonadium implants and genetic treatments, though complications required him to drain the life-energy of victims to survive. Placed in suspended animation by the Soviets, Omega Red reemerged after the fall of Communism and sought a carbonadium synthesizer to stabilize his condition. He currently leads New York's Red Mafia. DW

Onslaught

REAL NAME: Not applicable
OCCUPATION: World-conqueror
BASE: New York City
HEIGHT: 10 ft
WEIGHT: 900 lbs
EYES: Red
HAIR: None

ONSLAUGHT

DURING A TECIOUS BATTLE BETWEEN THE X-MEN AND MAGNETO'S ACOLYTES, PROFESSOR X SUCCEEDED IN TEMPORARILY SHUTTING DOWN MAGNETO'S BRAIN. IN THE PLACE WHERE THEIR MINDS TOUCHED, XAVIER'S OWN DARK FEARS, DOUBTS AND FRUSTRATIONS COMBINED WITH MAGNETO'S ANGER AND LUST FOR REVENGE, TO FORM A NEW BEING—ONSLAUGHT.

This creature lay dormant in Xavier's mind for some time, only manifesting itself when the Professor's own frustrations came to the fore. When Onslaught finally took over the Professor's body, the X-Men quickly realized what had happened. However, they were unable to prevent Onslaught's capture of Franklin Richards, the son of Reed and Sue Richards, and a mutant with reality-altering powers. Inevitably, Onslaught's activities came to the attention of the Fantastic Four and the Avengers. Although Xavier was eventually freed and Onslaught was destroyed, the cost was significant—many Super Heroes were catapulted to a pocket universe, only returning to the Earth several months later. AD

Omni

FACTFILE

REAL NAME: Not applicable
OCCUPATION: World-conqueror
BASE: New York City
HEIGHT: 10 ft
WEIGHT: 900 lbs
EYES: Red
HAIR: None

FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men #15 (May 1996)

By trapping Franklin Richards inside his body, Onslaught could tap into the boy's power to restructure reality.

Onslaught possessed Xavier's mental abilities combined with Magneto's powers of magnetism. He was able to induce illusions, amnesia, or paralysis, and manipulate magnetic fields. He also had powers of telekinesis and astral projection.
Osborn, Liz

Liz Allan, a high school classmate of Peter Parker's, married Harry Osborn (Green Goblin II) and had a son with him, whom they named Norman Osborn II. Liz had a keen business brain, and after Harry's tragic death she became the major shareholder of the multinational corporation Osborn Industries. However, she lost control of the company after the original Norman Osborn's shocking return from the grave. Liz had a brief relationship with Foggy Nelson, but is now busy raising her son.

Guy Smith believed his parents died in a house fire (which was later proven to not be true) and was raised as an orphan. His mutant powers began to emerge in his early teens and he became extremely sensitive to his surroundings. After trying drugs and later martial arts to deal with this extreme sensitivity, he came to the attention of Professor X. The professor designed a special costume for him that allowed him to control his senses, and he began calling himself Mister Sensitive. When he joined the mutant team X-FORCE (later called X-STATIX), he changed his code name to Orphan.

Osborn-Maker

FIRST APPEARANCE X-Factor Vol. 1 #30 (July 1993)

REAL NAME Peter (last name unrevealed)

OCCUPATION Warrior

BASE Mobile

HEIGHT 7 ft 1 in

WEIGHT Unrevealed

EYES Unrevealed

HAIR Unrevealed

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Carries an arsenal of guns; armored battlesuit protects against most damage.

Never seen out of his armored battlesuit, the Orphan-Maker was once a mutant child named Peter. Peter was subject to the cruel experimentations of Mister Sinister, who planned to kill the boy when he had no further use for him. The cyborg known as Nanny saved Peter and indoctrinated him in her philosophy of rescuing mutant children from threats both real and imaginary. As the first of Nanny's "Lost Boys and Girls," Orphan-Maker abducted young mutants and killed their parents, clashing with X-FACTOR and Generation X.

Overmind

FIRST APPEARANCE Fantastic Four #113 (August 1971)

REAL NAME Gron

OCCUPATION Conqueror

BASE Various

HEIGHT 10 ft

WEIGHT 750 lbs

EYES Black

HAIR Red

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Possesses vast psionic powers. He can lift up to 70 tons, read the minds of others and manipulate matter through the power of his mind.

Gron led the interplanetary conquerors known as the Eternals to victory as they enslaved a thousand worlds. But they finally faced defeat when they attacked the enormous world Giganus. Selecting Gron to be the sole survivor of their race, the Eternals transferred their mental energies to him, transforming him into the Overmind. After gestating for centuries, the Overmind tried to carry out the dread prophecy of the Eternals. "From Beyond the Stars Shall Come the Overmind—And He Shall Crush the Universe!" But his designs on conquest were foiled by the Fantastic Four. Since then, the many minds that make up the Overmind have begun to fragment, leaving him mentally unstable.

The Overmind's existence was prophesied throughout the galaxy. "From Beyond the Stars Shall Come the Overmind—And He Shall Crush the Universe!"
Page, Karen

Karen Page’s relationship with Matt Murdock spawned happiness but also much mutual heartache. Matt hired her as his secretary, but their relationship only blossomed when he told her about his secret identity. This happiness was not to last. In the middle of wedding preparations, Karen asked Matt to give up his Daredevil alter ego. When he refused she ended the engagement and entered a long vicious cycle of self-destruction. Embarking on a career as an actress, things went badly. As his TV work dried up she became involved in the porn industry and fell prey to heroin addiction. At her very lowest ebb, Karen told a dealer Matt’s secret identity in exchange for drugs. Fortunately, Matt is a man with a forgiving heart. After helping her kick the habit, their relationship continued intermittently until she was killed—just the latest of Matt’s lovers to fall at Bullseye’s hand.

Paladin

The for-hire adventurer Paladin is infamous for his arrogance and his “anything for money” attitude, yet his considerable charm has gotten him far in life. Little is known about Paladin’s origins. On an early mission, he teamed up with Daredevil to pursue the Purple Man. He later became romantically involved with the Wasp. Paladin has allied with Captain America and Spider-Man to hunt foes, but he won’t hesitate to abandon his partners if he’s not getting paid. Other heroes dislike his methods, but many have grown to respect him. Paladin has frequently accepted employment with Silver Sable’s Wild Pack.

FACTFILE

REAL NAME
Karen Page

OCCUPATION
Sometime secretary, actress and radio personality

BASE
New York City

HEIGHT 5 ft 7 in
WEIGHT 123 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Blonde

FIRST APPEARANCE
Daredevil #1 (April 1964)

Efficient secretary skills and an ability as an actress and presenter. Some aptitude for street fighting, having battled alongside both Daredevil and Black Widow.

Powers

Spells, enhanced strength, stamina, and reflexes; carries a nerve-scrambling stun gun; costume deflects most small arms fire and goggles permit vision in darkness.
**Pantheon, The**

*Making a secret stand for human rights*

The Pantheon is a family of long-lived superhumans who style themselves after the Greek gods of old. Centuries ago, Vali, their patriarch, bartered with the alien race known as the Troyans for the secret of eternal youth. Afterwards, now known as Agamemnon, he fathered several children and adopted others, creating an organization of superhuman operatives bolstered by non-enhanced doctors, scientists and technicians.

**ENTER THE HULK**

Agamemnon feared that mankind would destroy or despoil the Earth, so he and his clan moved in secret to prevent potential disasters before they could reach fruition. The Pantheon's existence first became known to the world at large when it moved to recruit Bruce Banner, the incredible Hulk, to its ranks. At that time, the Hulk's fragmented psyche had been somewhat restored, giving him the intellect of Banner with the massive strength and power of the Hulk. Wanting to make amends for the destruction he'd caused to the world while he was no more than a rampaging brute, the Hulk agreed to joining Agamemnon's cause, and eventually came to function as the Pantheon's field leader.

**The Pantheon at War**

But things went wrong when the Troyans returned to Earth, and the truth about Vali's deal with them came out in exchange for the secret of bestowing his godly attributes and extended lifespan on his offspring, Vali had promised to give the best of them up to the Troyans to use as they saw fit. A vast battle ensued, in which the Troyans were repelled and Agamemnon was taken into custody by the Pantheon. He responded by summoning the Endless Knights, massive zombie warriors whose ranks included dead former members of the Pantheon itself, and commanding them to destroy the Pantheon's base, the Mount. Though the Pantheon survived this attack, its ranks were decimated, and the Hulk left, having gone through another psychological shift that changed the nature of his transformations. Since then, the Pantheon has gone back underground. It is presumed to have returned to covertly interfering in the affairs of man whenever the future of mankind is imperiled. TB
PARKER, Aunt May

It may not have always been easy, but May Parker’s life has certainly been eventful. Following a difficult childhood, May found love with Ben Parker, their marriage being further enriched when they became guardians to Ben’s nephew, Peter. Sadly, their life together ended prematurely when Ben was shot dead by a burglar. The years that followed would be testing.

Concerned for his aunt’s health, Peter kept the knowledge of his super-powered alter ego from her. However, his secrecy left May feeling lonely and did not protect her from danger. She was repeatedly kidnapped—the Green Goblin, Doctor Octopus and the Beetle (see MILES-4) all held her hostage.

It was only when May discovered the truth that the pair rediscovered their old closeness. Although physically frail, May’s spirit is indomitable—she remains a bastion of strength, continuing to support Peter through his darkest days.

PARKER, Uncle Ben

Although never rich, his wisdom and kind-heartedness earned Ben Parker the respect of everyone he met. A carnival Barker in his youth, Ben grew up in the same neighborhood as May Rieley, for whom he harbored deep feelings. Love did not come easily to the pair, though—Ben was forced to compete for May’s attentions with the glamorous Johnny Jerome. It was only when May learnt that Johnny was a petty crook that she finally accepted Ben into her life.

Throughout their time together, Ben and May were to struggle financially, and these monetary straits only worsened when they adopted Ben’s nephew, Peter, as their own. In spite of these pressures, however, Peter brought considerable joy into their lives. Tragically, however, that joy was to be cut short, when Ben was killed by a burglar’s bullet.

The memory of his kindly uncle inspired Peter to use his newfound spider powers to do good in the world, and so Ben Parker’s spirit lives on.
Parker, Mary Jane

The Webslinger's wife and one true love

Mary Jane was the daughter of Philip and Madeline Watson. Her mother was a drama student who dreamed of being an actress, while her father was an aspiring novelist. They met and fell in love at college, and married as soon as they graduated, with Philip taking a teaching job to support his family while he worked on his first novel. The couple had two daughters, Gayle and Mary Jane, and Madeline put her acting career on hold to stay at home and care for the girls.

UNSETTLED YOUTH

Frustrated with his inability to complete his novel, Philip began switching jobs, hoping each new location would spark his creativity. As a result, Mary Jane was constantly changing schools and having to make new friends. To cope with this, she developed an extroverted personality and became a bit of a class clown. The marriage of Mary Jane's parents was never happy, and they eventually called it quits. But Madeline and the girls had a good relationship with Philip's elderly sister, Anna Watson, who lived next door to the Parker family, and kept in touch with her after the split.

FIRST MEETING

Gazing out of her Aunt Anna's window, Mary Jane first saw Peter Parker when she was 13 years old. She later discovered that he was secretly Spider-Man when she spotted him sneaking out of his Aunt May's house. Aunt Anna kept trying to get them together, but the outgoing Mary Jane didn't want anything to do with the bookish, sensitive boy who hid behind a mask. When they eventually met, however, she discovered that she was attracted to Peter after all. Feigning indifference, she flirted with his rival Flash Thompson and dated Harry Osborn (see Green Goblin), his best friend and roommate.

SPIDEY'S BRIDE

Mary Jane became a close friend of Gwen Stacy, who was dating Peter at the time. When Gwen tragically died, Mary Jane comforted Peter. Peter eventually proposed to her, but she declined and left town. However, she returned a few years later and they resumed their relationship. Peter proposed again, and this time Mary Jane accepted.

Mary Jane tried to get used to Peter's double life, but being married to Spider-Man put a lot of strain on the marriage. The couple separated for a while after Peter rescued Mary Jane from a stalker, who had taken her hostage and faked her death. Although Mary Jane has always wanted to be an actor, she has worked mainly as a professional dancer and as a fashion model. However, she did land a small role on a soap opera called Secret Hospital.
Patriot

Elijah Bradley is the grandson of Isaiah Bradley, the long-rumored "black Captain America" of World War II, whose mind had been reduced to that of a child by the super-soldier serum that empowered him. Eli possessed no inherent superhuman abilities of his own, but when Iron Lad sought out his aid to battle his future self, Kang the Conqueror, Eli resorted to using the designer drug MGH to give himself superhuman powers.

Alongside Iron Lad, Patriot became a founding member of the Young Avengers, determined to carry on in the tradition of the original Avengers Super Hero team, who had by that time been disassembled.

When his fellow Young Avengers teammates learned that Eli was using dangerous drugs to empower himself, they managed to convince him to give them up.

At the present time, Patriot still leads the Young Avengers, relying on his own intelligence and natural athletic skills rather than artificially induced superpowers.

Payback

Eddie Dyson was a rookie police officer in the NYPD when he discovered his squad were taking payment to the local mob. He sought the Punisher's advice who persuaded him to expose their corruption to Internal Affairs. The mafia took revenge and killed Dyson's family. Dyson became Payback to avenge his family's death.

At first, he blamed the Punisher for their murders, but the two made peace when the Punisher helped Payback kill Steve Ventura—the mobster responsible for the family's death.

Dyson retired for a short time, but he was attacked by Vigil and became Payback again. He fought Vigil, Heathen and the Trust with Lynn Michaels then fled for the Midwest with her and her father.

Pendragon, King Arthur

King Arthur, who ruled England in the 6th century, is one of history's most celebrated figures. The son of Uther Pendragon, Arthur grew up in the care of Sir Ector, with the wizard Merlin as his tutor. When Arthur pulled an enchanted sword from a stone and anvil, he became the king of all Britons, with his rule centered on his court at Camelot.

After breaking the sword in battle, Arthur received the mystical Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake.

Arthur had a son, Mordred, by his half-sister, and married Guinevere. When an affair between Guinevere and Lancelot became known, Arthur sentenced both to execution, though Lancelot rescued Guinevere. Morgan le Fay allied with Mordred and raised armies against Camelot, and Arthur died while striking a mortal blow against Mordred. In the Otherworld realm of Avalon, Arthur awaited his return, and reappeared in modern times to battle the Neckerom. The mystical Pendragon spirit has been used to empower the warriors known as the Knights of Pendragon.

FACTFILE

REAL NAME: Arthur Pendragon
OCCUPATION: King of the Britons
BASE: Avalon, Otherworld

FACTFILE

REAL NAME: Edward "Eddie" Dyson
OCCUPATION: Unknown, former vigilante
HEIGHT: 5 ft 10 in
WEIGHT: 170 lbs
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Brown

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Skilled in both unarmed and armed combat and uses a wide range of firearms.
After her mutant powers emerged, Kara Killgrave joined Beta Flight, Alpha Flight's training group. The group later split up, and Kara, whose code name was Persuasion, went home to her mother, taking teammates Laura Dixon and Golblyn with her. When Beta Flight reformed, Persuasion was left out of several key missions, and left the team in anger. But she rejoined to battle Eilam, the Sorcerer, and has served well, sometimes taking a leadership role. She hopes to graduate to become a full Alpha Flight member. AD

Petrovich, Ivan

FIRST APPEARANCE Amazing Adventures Vol. 2 #1 (August 1970)
REAL NAME Ivan Petrovich
OCCUPATION Chauffeur BASE Mobile
HEIGHT 6 ft 5 in WEIGHT 300 lbs EYES Brown HAIR Brown
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Does not possess superpowers, but is a skilled hand-to-hand combatant, a reliable chauffeur and steadfast ally of the Black Widow.

After the devastating siege of Stalingrad during World War II, Russian soldier Ivan Petrovich had been searching the city without success for his lost sister. As he was walking through the city's ruins he heard a woman's cries from a burning building. As the woman died in the fire, she let her baby fall into his arms. Petrovich decided to raise the girl as his own. She was Natasha Romanova, who eventually became the Black Widow, Russia's top spy. Petrovich, feeling responsible for Natasha, accompanied her to America as her chauffeur. He lived with the Black Widow and Daredevil while the two heroes struck up a romance in San Francisco. His son Yuri Petrovich briefly served as the fourth Crimson Dynamo. He remains in good health, despite his age. DW

Phalanx

Every race feeds in its own way but the Technarchy's method is particularly convoluted. A techno-organic race, the release of their transmode virus converts organic matter into Phalanx, a collective intelligence lifeform. Members of the Technarchy then feed on the Phalanx, draining away their life energy.

While experimenting on Adam Warlock, a member of the Technarchy, human scientists obtained a strain of the transmode virus and injected it into humans, hoping to create a new generation of sentinel robots. Their experiment quickly got out of control. Transformed into Phalanx, their subjects began assimilating other humans.

Fortunately, the Phalanx found mutants to be somewhat indigestible. After capturing a number of younger mutants the Phalanx drew the ire of the X-Men and were almost destroyed. The survivors fled into space where they went on to threaten the Shi'ar Empire. AD
Phantom Eagle

**First Appearance**: Marvel Super-Heroes #16 (September 1968)

**Real Name**: Karl Kaufman

**Occupation**: Pilot

**Base**: Mobile

**Height**: 5 ft 11 in

**Weight**: 175 lbs

**Eyes**: Blue

**Hair**: Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Although he had no superhuman powers, Phantom Eagle was an extraordinary pilot, exceptionally skilled in aerial combat.

When World War 1 broke out, ace flyer Karl Kaufman wanted to use his skills against the Germans, but he feared reprisals against his German parents. So he donned a costume and mask and took the name Phantom Eagle. He became one of the greatest aerial warriors of the war, winning many dogfights, and then joined the Freedom's Five, a team of costumed heroes who assisted the Allies. Kaufman's identity was discovered by a German pilot, who killed him and his parents. The ghost of the Phantom Eagle hunted the pilot down and killed him.

Phantom Rider

The greatest vigilante in the Wild West, that's what people said about Carter Slade, the Phantom Rider. Originally a schoolteacher, Carter was shot and seriously wounded by a ruthless land baron. His life was saved by a Comanche Indian called Flaming Star, who recognized that the young man was destined for great things. When Carter had made a full recovery, Flaming Star provided him with a white horse and a cloak covered with a phosphorescent dust. Styling himself the Phantom Rider, Carter began a one-man battle against injustice.

Not knowing that the Phantom Rider was his brother, Marshall Lincoln Slade teamed up with him to battle the Reverend Reaper. A vicious gunfighter, the reverend was set on taking control of Bison Bend, the town Carter was dedicated to protect. Their final confrontation resulted in the death of both the reverend and Carter Slade. Finally discovering the truth about his brother, Lincoln decided to follow in his footsteps.

In more recent times, Lincoln's descendant, Hamilton Slade, has become a modern day Phantom Rider.

Phastos

**First Appearance**: Eternals vol. 2 #1 (October 1985)

**Real Name**: Phastos

**Occupation**: Technologist, weaponsmith

**Base**: Rhine Valley, Germany

**Height**: 6 ft 3 in

**Weight**: 410 lbs

**Eyes**: Brown

**Hair**: Bald (black beard)

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Able to fly and levitate objects; virtually invulnerable, super-strong, and projects cosmic energy from eyes or hands; ingenious inventor; hammer fires energy bolts.

Phastos is an Eternal, a nearly immortal race created thousands of years ago by the alien Celestials. Being a weaponsmith, Phastos was mistaken for the Olympian god Hephaestus (Vulcan) during the days of ancient Greece (see Gods of Olympus). Phastos is more reticent than his fellows, having a melancholy spirit and an ambivalence toward fighting. When Apocalypse tried to incite a new war with the Deviants, the Eternals decided to go public as Super-Heroes. In his new identity, Phastos adopted the codename Ceasefire.
Phobius

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Marvel Two-In-One #71 (January 1974)

**REAL NAME** Unknown

**OCCUPATION** Interrogator, servant

**BASE** Unknown

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 9 in

**WEIGHT** 122 lbs

**EYES** Green

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/AbILITIES** Possesses the ability to psionically stimulate the fear centers of a person's brain in order to implant terrifying phobias; also wielded an energy whip.

Phobius was the chief interrogator of a gang known as Macstrom's Minions. His role was to instill terror in victims to further his master Macstrom's list for scientific knowledge, particularly in the field of genetics. He also used his powers to protect Macstrom's base. Macstrom thought highly enough of his servant to create clone bodies for him to take over when Phobius was slain during clashes with the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, and Quasar. Phobius was also defeated by Sersi, who turned him into a rat. Phobius' whereabouts are unknown since he helped revive Macstrom after the scientist had been killed by Quasar. ED

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**Phobos, Professor**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** The Incredible Hulk #235 (April 1981)

**REAL NAME** Professor Pieter Phobos

**OCCUPATION** Teacher

**BASE** Russia

**HEIGHT** Unrevealed

**WEIGHT** Unrevealed

**EYES** Unrevealed

**HAIR** Grey

**SPECIAL POWERS/AbILITIES** Possessed telepathic abilities artificially derived from draining the energies of superhuman mutants. Wore battle armor.

Professor Phobos was appointed by the Russian government to head the secret Super Soldier School, training the Russian mutant siblings Darkstar, Ursa Major, and Vanguard. Phobos secretly drained their power to give himself psionic abilities and turned against his government. Phobos teamed with Bruce Banner to imprison two Russian superhumans, Sergei the Presence and the Red Guardian. Sergei was the father of Darkstar, Ursa Major and Vanguard, who all intervened, calling Phobos a traitor. In the ensuing battle, the Hulk and Ursa Major apparently crashed Phobos to death. PS

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**Photon**

Monica Rambeau was working as a lieutenant in the New Orleans Harbor Patrol when she was struck by extradimensional energy from an "energy disruptor" weapon being developed by a South American terrorist. This exposure gave Rambeau her superpowers.

Dubbed "Captain Marvel" by the media, she tried to put her new abilities to good use. Early in her career she met Spider-Man who introduced her to the Avengers. They agreed to help train her to use her powers more skillfully. In time she became a valuable member of the Avengers, and was even their leader for several stints.

When Genis-Vell (see Captain Marvel) the son of Captain Marvel, wanted to use his father's name, Rambeau gladly gave up the name and became Photon. Later, Genis-Vell changed his name to Photon, forcing Rambeau to change her super hero name yet again, this time to Pulsar. MT

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**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Monica Rambeau

**OCCUPATION** Avenger

**BASE** New Orleans; New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 8 in

**WEIGHT** 145 lbs

**EYES** Black

**HAIR** Black

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man Annual #16 (1982)

Photon can turn into any type of energy, including light, electricity, microwave, radio waves, ultraviolet waves, gamma rays, or lasers. She can travel at the speed of light and fire blasts of whatever type of energy she becomes.
The man who would become Piecemeal was an operative from the Commission on Superhuman Activities sent to spy on the Red Skull. The Skull captured him, intending to make him into a living symbol of his criminal organization, the New World Order. Imbued with the properties of members of the Order, and with memories of his previous life erased, Piecemeal became enthralled with being alive. He began using his powers to absorb the life-experiences of others, until the Hulk seemingly ended his menace.

Born a prince on the alien world of Laxidazia, Pip was exiled from the court for befriending a tribe of trolls. Missionaries from the Universal Church of Truth came to Laxidazia to convert the natives. When the trolls resisted, the Church began exterminating them. Pip was captured and placed on a Death-Ship where he met Adam Warlock. They became friends and later overthrew the Church. Warlock called upon Pip to help stop Thanos from using the Infinity Gems to control reality and later gave him the Space Gem as a reward, making him a member of the Infinity Watch. The Watch disbanded after losing control of the gems and Pip was last seen in New York City with Warlock and Gamora.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Samuel Smithers
**OCCUPATION** Professional criminal, formerly a gardener
**BASE** A submarine in the Atlantic Ocean

**POWER**

- Height: 9 ft
- Weight: 190 lbs
- Eyes: Green
- Hair: Dark gray

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Strange Tales #113 (October 1963)

Plantman: Plantman's projector weapons allow him to control plants, animating their limbs to attack a victim; and manipulate plants so they look like duplicates of humans.

**REVENGE**

Not long after Smithers lost his job, a bolt of lightning struck his experimental plant ray-gun, charging the device with the power to control and animate plant life. Smithers put on a costume and, taking the name Plantman, sought revenge on the man who had fired him, but was stopped by the Human Torch, who destroyed the plant-gun. Undeterred, Plantman built a second, more powerful weapon, and tried to kill the Human Torch, but his plan failed. Later he joined the international crime syndicate, the Maquis. Creating plant duplicates of himself, Plantman battled the X-Men, the Avengers, Sub-Mariner, Triton, and SHIELD, among others.

**CHARACTER KEY**

1. Plantman
2. Porcupine
3. The Eel
4. The Scarecrow

**CRIMEWAVE**

Plantman created a copy of himself, a simuloid, over which he had total control, in order to take part in the Crimewave. This criminal society included the Cowled Commander (Brian Muldoon, a police commander), Eel, Porcupine, Scarecrow, Viper, and various unnamed others. They aimed at creating chaos in New York City to bring about the introduction of a tougher police force and were repeatedly fought by Captain America, Falcon and Redwing. Plantman captured Falcon and Captain America and brought them to the Cowled Commander to be killed. The heroes managed to escape and defeat the Crimewave, Plantman losing his fight against Falcon and Redwing. After their demise, the Crimewave were sent to prison.
Polaris

While her green hair marked her as a mutant, Lorna Dane had no idea growing up that she had been adopted—and that her true father was Magnetov, the mutant master of magnetism! But when her mutant powers manifested, she found herself at the center of an all-out war between the X-Men and the demonic Mesmero for control of her abilities. Falling in love with the X-Man Havok, Lorna desired nothing more than to retreat into seclusion and live a normal life. But fate would not let her be, and time and again she was pulled to the center of mutant strife as Polaris, mistress of magnetism. Over the years, her magnetic powers have taken a toll upon the electromagnetic energies in her brain, driving Lorna half out of her mind. Nevertheless, she reluctantly continues to fight for Professor Xavier’s dream of co-habitation for mutants, first alongside X-Factor and today as a member of the X-Men. TB

As the years have gone by, Polaris’ mutant magnetic powers have had a detrimental effect on her mental stability, interfering with the electrical impulses in her brain.

Porcupine

FIRST APPEARANCE Tales to Astonish #48 (October 1963)
REAL NAME Alexander Gentry
OCCUPATION Weapons designer/criminal
BASE New York City
HEIGHT (with ballest) 6 ft 7 in WEIGHT (With ballest) 305 lbs
EYES Blue-gray HAIR Brown
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Battle suit fired quills, laser beams, bombs, gases, and other weapons. Belt jet enabled him to fly.

As a weapons designer for the US government, Alexander Gentry invented a battle suit inspired by a porcupine. It was covered in razor-sharp quills that he could fire at opponents, and quill-like tubes through which other weapons could be fired. Believing the government would not pay him enough for the suit, Gentry used it to become a criminal, the Porcupine, but his criminal career was a failure. Captain America agreed to buy the battle suit from Gentry if he would help the Avengers to defeat the Serpent Society. Gentry agreed, but was fatally impaled on his own quill during the battle. Though Gentry died believing his life had been a failure, Captain America honored the deceased Porcupine as a hero. PS

Potts, Virginia “Pepper”

FIRST APPEARANCE Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #45 (September 1963)
REAL NAME Virginia Potts
OCCUPATION Former executive aide to Tony Stark
BASE Mobile
HEIGHT 5 ft 4 in WEIGHT 110 lbs EYES Green HAIR Red
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES No special powers, but is intelligent and extremely quick-witted.

“Pepper” Potts became Tony Stark’s secretary early in the industrial magnate’s career. She was promoted to that position after she impressed Stark by noticing an accounting error that would have cost the company a lot of money. Stark valued Potts as a confidante, entrusting her with the secret of his identity as Iron Man, but didn’t realize that she harbored a secret infatuation with him. Potts eventually married Stark’s chauffeur, Harold “Happy” Hogan, though they later divorced. Potts’ feelings for Stark had never quite died, and since her divorce there have been brief attempts between the two to kindle a romance. DW

Powderkeg

FIRST APPEARANCE Captain Marvel Vol. 2 #1 (December 1965)
REAL NAME Frank Scorina
OCCUPATION Prisoner
BASE The Big House
HEIGHT/WEIGHT/EYES Unrevealed HAIR Red
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Socrates nitro-glycerine through skin, when body strikes object with sufficient force the chemical ignites, causing an explosion.

Powderkeg was a member of the Masters of Evil during Doctor Octopus’ ill-conceived turn as leader. Following the failure of the group’s attempt to invade Avengers Mansion and their subsequent demise, Powderkeg began running a protection racket in the neighborhood where Ben Grimm (see Thing) grew up. The villain’s treatment of a pawnbroker soon drew the attention of Grimm, who made short shrift of Powderkeg’s operation. Currently an inmate in the experimental penitentiary The Big House, in which all the prisoners have been shrunk to reduce costs, Powderkeg was recently involved in an unsuccessful attempt at a mass breakout. A O
Dr. James Power is the inventor of the matter/antimatter converter, a comparatively inexpensive means of producing energy. Learning of Power's invention, an alien Kymellian named Adlyre Whitemane ("Whitey") grew concerned, since a similar device had destroyed the Kymellian homeworld. Another alien race, the Z'mar, or "Smarks," intending to utilize the converter as a weapon, abducted Dr. Power and his wife Margaret. The dying Whitemane bestowed superhuman powers upon the Powers' young children, Alex, Jack, Julie and Katie, who rescued their parents. The children continued to operate under the name Power Pack.

Curtiss Jackson was once an agent of the Corporation, a criminal organization run along the lines of a business firm. After he encountered Dr. Karl Malus, Jackson formed his own company, Power Broker, Inc., which claimed that it could give any client superhuman strength. He was responsible for empowering numerous heroes and villains, including US Agent, Demolition Man, and most of the wrestlers on the UCWF circuit. Hunted by the criminal-killing Scourge, Jackson tried to use the process upon himself; but wound up so musclebound that he cannot move without outside aid.

Princess Zarda lived on Utopia Island, where her people, the Utopians developed a culture of peace, fellowship, and learning. It is believed that the Utopians are the result of genetic experimentations performed by the Inhumans. Thus, while the rest of humanity was still in its early stages of development, the Utopians had developed an advanced civilization. When humans developed the atomic bomb, the Utopians felt threatened, built a spaceship and left Earth. Princess Zarda remained behind as their emissary on Earth. She took the role of Power Princess and moved to Capital City.

A member of the alien Xandarians, Rieg Davan was a Syfon warrior in the elite Nova Corps. He was sent to Earth to locate Centurion Nova-Prime Rhomann Dey. Davan's starship crash landed on Earth. He was found and brainwashed by the Condor, a costumed criminal. As the Condor's accomplice Powerhouse, Davan battled Nova, the young Earthman who had inherited the deceased Dey's powers. Eventually Davan recovered his memory and with Nova and other heroes journeyed to Xandar. As the Champions of Xandar, they helped the Xandarians defeat the invading Skrulls.

Davan later perished in combat defending Xandar against a successful invasion by the forces of the space pirate Nebula.

The name Powerhouse has since been used by a criminal mutant Earthwoman who also has the power to drain energy from other living beings through touch to amplify her own. She has battled Spider-Man and Wolverine, among others.

Alex Power of Power Pack also used the name Powerhouse when he temporarily possessed the superhuman powers of his siblings.
Professor James POWER, father of Alex, Julie, Jack, and Katie, invented an antimatter generator that siphoned energy from an alternate dimension. Aelfyre “Whitney” WHITEMANE, a member of the alien Kymelian race, arrived on Earth to prevent the machine being used, knowing it had the potential to wipe out entire planets. A rival species, the SNARKS, attempted to steal the device.

SECRET SUPER HEROES
Whitemane suffered fatal injuries in the ensuing struggle, but before dying he bestowed one of his abilities on each of the four Power children. They became the superheroic Power Pack, and adopted the identities of Gee (Alex), Lightspeed (Julie), Mass Master (Jack), and Energizer (Katie). Hiding their dual identities from their parents, the Pack dealt with extraterrestrial threats and employed Whitey’s intelligent spacecraft, the Smartship Friday. Power Pack aided the MORLOCKS during the Mutant Massacre, and fought APOCALYPSE’S horsemen during the Fall of the Mutants. Franklin RICHARDS, using the name Tattletales due to his ability to perceive possible futures, became an unofficial member of the team, as did KOFI, a Kymelian relative of the late Whitemane.

ENERGY SWAPPING
Power Pack’s powers often switched from one member to another. After one such incident, the children adopted the names of Destroyer (Alex), Molecule (Julie), Counterweight (Jack), and Starstreak (Katie). The team and helped the Kymellians relocate to a new world. Alex even appeared to transform into a Kymelian, though this was revealed to be a pseudoplasma duplicate planted by Technoem a domineering Kymelian.

Alex joined the NEW WARRIORS, stealing the energies of his brother and sisters to become Powerpax and then Powerhouse. He restored his siblings’ powers when he left the New Warriors.

Power Pack is again active, with Alex going by the name of Zero-G. The team recently fought off a squad of Snark invaders.

Despite their youth, the Power Pack members combine their abilities to defeat some of the strongest villains.

FACTFILE
CURRENT MEMBERS
ZERO-G
(Alex Power, leader) Ability to control the gravity of himself or other objects.
LIGHTSPEED
(Julia Power) Flight, super-speed.
MASS MASTER
(Jack Power) Can compress or disperse his body’s mass.
ENERGIZER
(Katie Power) Can absorb and release energy.
BASE
Bainbridge Island, Washington

EXPERT SECONDARIES
Power Pack Vol. 1 #1

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Power Pack Vol. 1 #1
Power Pack debuts, launching a popular 62-issue series.
- Power Pack Vol. 2 #1-4
The heroes return—now a few years older—in a limited series that pits them against their perennial enemies, the Snarks.
- X-Men and Power Pack #1-4
Power Pack returns to its roots in a limited series that guest-stars such famous mutants as Cyclops, Beast, and Wolverine.

FIRST APPEARANCE
Power Pack Vol. 1 #1
(August 1984)

POWER PACK
1. Mass Master
2. Energizer
3. Lightspeed
4. Zero-G
**Pratt, Agent**

*First Appearance*: Incredible Hulk Vol. 3, #40 (July 2002)

*Real Name*: Agent Pratt

*Occupation*: Agent for clandestine organisation, BASE Mobile

*Height/Weight/Eyes*: Unrevealed

*Hair*: None

*Special Powers/Abilities*: Body able to regenerate itself as a result of H Section Programming. Injection of Hulk blood endowed him with Hulk-like powers.

When he first met Bruce Banner, this ruthless operative was posing as an FBI agent. In truth he belonged to the sinister, clandestine organisation Home Base. After forcing Banner to change into the Hulk, Pratt obtained a sample of his blood, but a police officer matched it and, plunging it into Pratt's own bloodstream, caused him to explode. Pratt's H Section Programming enabled his body to regenerate itself, and he soon returned to taunt Banner again. This time the Hulk emerged to tear Pratt's body apart. AD

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**Prester, John**

*First Appearance*: Fantastic Four Vol. 1, #54 (September 1966)

*Real Name*: Prester John

*Occupation*: Traveler, BASE Traveler

*Height/Weight/Eyes*: 6 ft 1 in, 210 lbs, Blue

*Hair*: Red

*Special Powers/Abilities*: Skilled swordsman; a weapon called the Evil Eye allowed him to fire energy blasts, generate force fields, and rearrange matter.

Prester John, monarch of a 12th-century Christian kingdom in Asia, came to the aid of Richard the Lion-Heart during the Crusades. He then traveled around the world before discovering the fabled isle of Avalon. While he was there, a plague struck Avalon and left him the sole survivor. Prester John entered a period of suspended animation seated in the Chair of Survival. After reawakening in the modern era, Prester John has crossed paths with Super Heroes including the Fantastic Four and Cable. He carries the powerful Stellar Rod, a weapon refashioned from the Evil Eye. DW

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**Princess Python**

*First Appearance*: Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, #22 (March 1965)

*Real Name*: Zeeda DuBois

*Occupation*: Snake charmer, professional criminal

*Height/Weight/Eyes*: 5 ft 8 in, 140 lbs, Green

*Hair*: Red-brown

*Special Powers/Abilities*: Can control her trained rock python; sometimes carries an electric prod.

Princess Python is a snake charmer who possesses an uncanny rapport with her pet rock python. She has trained the snake to attack on her command. Princess Python served with the Circus of Crime as well as its second incarnation, the Masters of Menace, before going on to pursue a solo career. She was disillusioned when her original python died in a pool of acid during a scheme to extort money from Iron Man, but has since acquired several replacements. Princess Python briefly joined the mercenaries of the Serpent Society. However, she deserted her teammates during a mission to assassinate Madok, and as a result the Serpent Society expelled her after brainwashing her to remove Society secrets from her memory. DW

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**Presence**

*First Appearance*: Defenders Vol. 1, #52 (October 1977)

*Real Name*: Sergei Krylov

*Occupation*: Supervillain

*Height/Weight/Eyes*: 6 ft 6 in, 200 lbs, Yellow

*Hair*: None

*Special Powers/Abilities*: Body produces lethal radiation which can be harnessed as light, energy blasts, force fields, enhanced strength, or telepathy.

Sergei Krylov, a nuclear physicist who became an important player in Russian politics, sought to further increase his power by subjecting himself to experimental radiation. He succeeded in bestowing himself with radioactive energy deadly to unprotected persons in his presence, and which could also be used to control the minds of others. The Presence used his powers to brainwash Dr. Tania Belinsky (the RED GUARDIAN) into becoming his partner. Driven by his megalomania, he became a foe of the Defenders and Quasar. His children are Darkstar and Vanguard. DW

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**Pretty Persuasions**

*First Appearance*: New Warriors Vol. 1, #4 (October 1990)

*Real Name*: Heidi F. Franklin

*Occupation*: Professional criminal

*Height/Weight/Eyes*: 5 ft 6 in, 120 lbs, Brown

*Hair*: Black

*Special Powers/Abilities*: Can manipulate the pleasure centers of the brain, particularly in men, and create whips and other weapons from solidified psionic energy.

A former exotic dancer, Heidi Franklin gained the ability to influence the sexual drives of others through her association with GeneTech, a sinister genetic research facility in Long Island, New York. She also became capable of transforming psionic energy into a selection of different weapons. Under the name Pretty Persuasions, Franklin joined with other psionically-gifted individuals to form Psionex, GeneTech's villainous enforcement squad. The group frequently battled the New Warriors and later became a squad of crime-fighting New York vigilantes. DW
**Proctor**

The man who came to be called Proctor was actually the Black Knight of an alternate Earth. While serving as a member of the Avengers, he met and fell in love with the Serri of his world. He became her “gann josin,” a mate that was forever bound to her by a mental link that allowed them to share their powers, thoughts and souls. His Serri eventually became mentally unstable, destroying their world and rejecting Proctor.

Desperate for revenge, Proctor and his companions used a gateway into alternate dimensions and journeyed across the multiverse. They were on a quest to kill every alternate world version of Serri, along with every world and Avenger that had ever befriended her. They gathered and rescued all the alternate-Avengers that they deemed worthy of life.

After defeating the Black Knight of the real Earth, Proctor was slain by this world’s Serri.

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**Prodigy**

Prodigy is a mutant and a member of the second team to go under the name of New Mutants. He has the ability to instantly absorb skills and knowledge of those close to him, but a mental block prevents him from retaining any of this knowledge once the subject is out of range.

Prodigy asked Emma Frost to help remove this block, so that he could remember everything he learned from his knowledge absorbing, and thus become the smartest man on Earth. Although Moonstar objected to this plan, Emma agreed to help him, and Prodigy gained all the knowledge of his professors, plus knowledge that allowed him to cure all known diseases, end poverty, and work for world peace.

However, his great power, originally a force for good, eventually led to death and destruction. It was only then that the whole thing was revealed to be just an illusion created by Moonstar and Emma Frost to show Prodigy why he was better off leaving his mental block in place. Eventually, Prodigy lost his mutant powers.
Widely considered the most powerful mutant on Earth, Charles Xavier has dedicated his life to the ideal that humans and mutants can coexist peacefully. His father Brian died when Charles was a child. Kurt Marko, his father’s research partner, married Charles’s mother Sharon, but only valued her for her fortune. Charles became a rival of his stepbrother Cain (who one day gained the powers of the Juggernaut), and saw both his mother and stepfather die in separate incidents.

**FIRST LOVE**

Xavier attended graduate school at Oxford University, England, where he fell in love with Moira MacTaggart; however, their relationship ended when Charles joined the US Army. Following his tour of duty, Xavier traveled the world. At a clinic for Holocaust survivors in Israel, he befriended the man who would become Magneto. Magneto and Xavier teamed up to fight Baron von Strucker, but Magneto’s ruthless methods made it clear that the two had incompatible philosophies concerning the use of violence. Xavier left Israel, leaving behind Gabrielle Haller, not realizing that Haller was pregnant with his child (the boy, David, would grow up to become the mutant Legion). A roadside caused by the villainous alien Lucifer, left Xavier a paraplegic.

**THE X-MEN**

As Professor X, Charles Xavier founded Xavier’s School for Gifted Youngsters in Westchester County, New York to train mutant children in the use of their powers. Xavier identified potential students with the machine Cerebro, which amplified his telepathic powers and allowed him to pinpoint mutants from afar. His initial Super Hero team, the X-Men, consisted of Cyclops, Angel (see Archangel), Marvel Girl (see Jean Grey), Iceman and Beast, who sought to improve the image of mutants by selfless deeds.
The X-Men repeatedly faced off against Magneto, who had dedicated himself to subjugating humanity through his powers as the master of magnetism.

Professor X founded a second team of X-Men, whose members included NIGHTCRAWLER, COLOSSUS, STORM, BANSHEE, and WOLVERINE. The new X-Men helped Xavier battle Shi’ar emperor D’ken and the Imperial Guard. Xavier then fell in love with the new Shi’ar empress, Lilandra. He entered into the Shi’ar equivalent of marriage with Lilandra, and adventured with the STARJAMMERS.

Back on Earth, Xavier organized a third grouping of students, the NEW MUTANTS, but fell under the influence of the alien BROOD. To prevent his transformation into a Brood Queen, Xavier shifted his consciousness into a clone body with fully-functional legs. After suffering injuries as a result of a hate crime, Xavier reunited with Lilandra to recuperate among the Shi’ar, leaving Magneto to run the academy in his absence. Xavier again lost the use of his legs battling THE SHADOW KING, and brought together a fourth team of young mutants, GENERATION X.

The relationship between Magneto and Xavier took a turn for the worse, culminating in a terrible moment when Magneto ripped the adamantium from Wolverine’s skeleton. Enraged by Magneto’s brutality, Xavier mind-wiped his former friend, unwittingly creating a powerful psionic being known as ONSLAUGHT. All of Earth’s heroes united to destroy Onslaught, leading to the apparent deaths of the AVENGERS and the FANTASTIC FOUR. In the aftermath, Xavier briefly lost his telepathic powers and became a prisoner of the US government. Later he uncovered a SERKIL plot to infiltrate the X-Men, and trained a promising group of Skrull mutants calling themselves IDEOS K.

**Transitions**

Xavier’s genetic twin, the sinister CASSANDRA NOVA, had died in Sharon Xavier’s womb yet somehow maintained her life essence. Nova re-entered Xavier’s life with spectacular malevolence, orchestrating the devastation of the mutant nation of GENOSHA, and taking mental control of Xavier. In Xavier’s guise, she outed him as a mutant to the world, and incited the Shi’ar Imperial Guard to attack the XMansion. Xavier’s students helped free him from Nova’s influence, and Xavier regained the use of his legs through the actions of academy student XORN (actually a Magneto impostor in disguise). Xavier later founded the X-CORPORATION, stepping down as head of the academy. He lost the use of his legs when the Magneto impostor revealed himself, and left for Genosha to help the real Magneto rebuild that island’s shattered society.

An artificial lifeform calling itself DANGER tracked down Xavier on Genosha, intent on killing him. During the battle, it became clear that Danger was the self-aware consciousness of the X-Mansion’s Danger Room training center, a fact that Xavier had known but suppressed in order to continue exploiting Danger in order to hone his students’ combat skills.

Xavier later helped Magneto’s daughter, the SCARLET WITCH to recover from a mental breakdown, although he was unable to prevent her altering reality to “cure” more than 98 percent of the world’s mutants.

**Essential Storylines**

- Giant-Size X-Men #1: Professor X recruits new bunch of X-Men to replace the originals, welcoming new future favorites as NIGHTCRAWLER and STORM.
- New X-Men #118-120: The “Imperial” storyline sees Professor X’s genetic twin, Cassandra Nova, impersonating Xavier to imperil the Shi’ar empire.
- Astonishing X-Men #7-12: A failure from his past returns to haunt Professor X, as he confronts the self-aware consciousness of the X-Men’s Danger Room.
**Proteus**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Uncanny X-Men #125 (September 1979)

**REAL NAME** Kevin MacTaggart

**OCCUPATION** None  BASE Muir Island, Scotland

**HEIGHT** Inapplicable  **WEIGHT** Inapplicable

**EYES** Inapplicable  **HAIR** Inapplicable

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Able to warp reality. Made of psionic energies, he must inhabit a host body, which burns up over time.

The son of Moira MacTaggart, Proteus grew up a prisoner in his mother's Mutant Research Facility on Muir Island, where a special energy field prevented his mutant power to alter reality from consuming his body. When his cell was breached during an attack by Magneto, Proteus escaped into the world, shifting from host-body to host-body as each wore out. Only the intervention of the X-MEN and Proteus' vulnerability to metal stopped him. Proteus was later reconstituted by the terrorist group AIM and resumed his deadly travels. TB

**Prowler**

**REAL NAME** Hobie Brown

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5'11"  **WEIGHT** 170 lbs

**EYES** Brown  **HAIR** Dark brown

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #78 (November 1969)

While working as a window washer, mechanical genius Hobie Brown invented gadgets to make his job easier, including wrist-mounted, high-pressure sprayers. When his boss dismissed his ideas, Brown quit in frustration. He turned to crime, refashioning his contraptions into climbing gear and miniatured weapons, and adopting the costumed identity of the Prowler.

Seeking recognition rather than profit, Brown intended to return what he stole as the Prowler under his real identity. Almost immediately, he came into conflict with Spider-Man, though the two later put aside their differences and became allies.

A second Prowler appeared when the villainous Cat Burglar stole Brown's costume and worked with Belladonna to commit a string of crimes. Brown resumed his role as the original Prowler, joining the team of reformed criminals called the Outlaws, but suffered a severe spinal injury at the hands of El Toro Negro.

A third Prowler, medical student Rick Lawson, briefly adventured while Brown recuperated in the hospital, but Brown had since regained the role he created. DW

**Proudstar**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** New Mutants #16 (June 1984)

**REAL NAME** James Proudstar

**OCCUPATION** X-Force Team member  **BASE** San Francisco

**HEIGHT** 7'2"  **WEIGHT** 350 lbs

**EYES** Brown  **HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Superhuman strength, speed, endurance, agility and reflexes; also able to fly.

Like his Native American brother (the original Thunderbird) James Proudstar was born a mutant. When his brother died on an X-MEN mission, James blamed Professor Xavier, and joined the Hellions. He left, disenchanted, to discover that his tribal community had been destroyed. Reconciling with Xavier, James joined the New Mutants, taking the name Warpath when they reformed as X-Force.

He has since learned that the man who caused his tribe's destruction is dead. AD
Pryde, Kitty

As a schoolgirl in Deerfield, Illinois, Kitty Pryde began suffering intense headaches. They were a sign that her mutant power to "phase" through solid matter was about to emerge. Emma Frost, the White Queen of the Hellfire Club, visited Kitty's parents to recruit her as a student. Professor X and three of his X-Men soon followed, trying to convince Kitty's parents to let her attend his "School for Gifted Youngsters."

After the White Queen kidnapped the visiting X-Men, Kitty helped Cyclops and Phoenix (see Grey, Jean) rescue them. Kitty entered Xavier's school and joined the X-Men. She and fellow student Colossus fell in love, and Kitty briefly adopted the codenames Sprite and Ariel. During an adventure in Japan, where Wolverine taught her martial arts, she chose the name Shadowcat, which she uses today.

Pryde later became a founding member of the original Excalibur, a British-based team of adventurers. She also worked for the law enforcement agency S.H.I.E.L.D. for a short time.

After Excalibur disbanded, Pryde rejoined the X-Men. She left to pursue college studies in Chicago but soon returned to the X-Men once more. PS

Pryor, Madelyne

Mr. Sinister was obsessed with obtaining the spawn of a union between Jean Grey and Scott Summers (see Cyclops), but it was only after Jean's death that he achieved his goal. Using stored genetic material, he successfully cloned Jean. He named his creation Madelyne Pryor, providing her with false memories, and manipulated Scott Summers into marrying her. Their relationship resulted in a son—Nathan Summers (see Cable)—but when the real Jean Grey was resurrected, Scott left Madelyne. Insanely jealous, Madelyne began to lose her grip on reality, and her journey towards madness accelerated when Sinister kidnapped Nathan. As Madelyne's mutant powers began to emerge, so did her thirst for vengeance, and she transformed herself into the Goblin Queen.

She was killed in a showdown with the X-Men, during which she tried to sacrifice her son. The machinations of the vile Mr. Sinister had once more resulted in desperate unhappiness. AD

Psycho-Man

The Psycho-Man was chief scientist of Traan, a planet in an alternate reality known as the "microverse." He traveled to Earth to conquer the planet by means of his "psycho-ray," but was thwarted by the Fantastic Four's Human Torch and Thing, the Black Panther, and the Inhumans' Royal Family. The Psycho-Man's true size and appearance are mysteries; on Earth he remained tiny while encased in a human-sized suit of body armor. He continues to clash with the Fantastic Four, both on Earth and within the microverse. PS

Most of Madelyne's abilities stem from her status as a clone of Jean Grey. She possesses vast psionic powers including telepathy and telekinesis. Madelyne is able to generate energy and manipulate it so that she can fly, project powerful force blasts, create force fields that act as shields.

The Psycho-Man can operate suits of armor for larger than himself—or his foes.
Psylocke

James Braddock, Sr. was an inhabitant of Otherworld who came to Britain and fathered three children, James Jr., Brian and Elisabeth. Brian became the hero Captain Britain, a role Betsy later briefly took over at the behest of the British government agency R.C.X. Blinded and nearly killed by the villain Slazymaster, Betsy was abducted by Mojo, who gave her new artificial eyes. She was rescued by the New Mutants and joined the X-Men as Psylocke. Surrounded by the minds of Psylocke and the Japanese assassin Kannon into each other’s bodies. Discovering that her new body was dying, Kannon had the crimelord Matsuo Tsurayaba kill her. Elisabeth survives in Kannon’s original body. Psylocke sacrificed her telepathy to defeat the X-Men’s enemy, the Shadow King. Subsequently, she gained telekinetic abilities. While with the X-Treme X-Men, Psylocke was seemingly slain by their enemy Vorgas. Psylocke returned, however, and after a spell with the X-Men, joined the Exiles. PS

Puck

In 1939, Eugene Judd discovered the Black Blade of Baghdad and released the evil sorcerer imprisoned inside. Although he managed to entrap the sorcerer in his own body, extending his life considerably, Judd found that he had been reduced to the height of a dwarf. Decades later, Judd was invited to join Beta and then Alpha Flight, the Canadian team of Super Heroes. Given the codename Puck, in recognition of his diminutive size, Judd became a key team member.

Puma

Puma is the heir to a long tradition of mystical champions, created by a Native American tribe through a program of selective breeding and shamanistic magic. Raised to oppose the omnipotent Beyonder, Thomas Fireheart donned the mantle of the Puma and kept his fighting skills sharp by becoming a mercenary, where he often fought (or aided) Spider-Man.

Fireheart enjoys vast wealth as the head of Fireheart Enterprises (a multinational that supplies Puma with high-tech weaponry and vehicles), but struggles for control over his animalistic Puma persona.
Punisher

War hero turned vengeful vigilante

Marine Captain Frank Castle was a decorated hero during the Vietnam War. Winner of the Bronze and Silver Star, and recipient of four Purple Hearts, Castle was an exceptionally skilled combat veteran. Then came the event that changed his life. While on leave in New York, Castle took his family for a picnic in Central Park. There they witnessed a mob murder. The mobsters then killed Castle's wife and two young children.

One-Man Army

With his whole world destroyed, Castle deserted from the Marines and dropped out of sight for a few months. When he resurfaced, it was as a vigilante named the Punisher, who conducted a one-man, anti-crime campaign throughout New York City.

Equipped with an arsenal of weapons, the Punisher took his vengeance on the mob gang who had killed his family, but he didn't stop there. He vowed to kill all criminals of every kind.

The Punisher has devoted his life to destroying organized crime, drug dealers, street gangs, muggers, killers, or any other criminal element. His actions have brought him into conflict with several costumed heroes, such as Spider-Man (with whom he has also cooperated), and Daredevil, who strictly opposes Punisher's lethal methods.

Weapons and Enemies

To carry out his one-man war on crime, the Punisher uses machine guns, rifles, handguns, shotguns, knives, grenade launchers, armor-piercing bullets, and explosives. His weapons are customized with tactical scopes, night-vision scopes, silencers, and tripods. Among those he has battled are the Italian and Russian Mafia, the Japanese Yakuza, Chinese Triads, drug cartels, biker gangs, and corrupt cops.

Essential Storylines

- Marvel Preview #2
  Marine captain Frank Castle takes his wife and two children for a picnic in New York's Central Park. There, they witness a mob killing, after which the mobsters kill Castle's wife and children.
  Traumatized, Castle takes vengeance against the killers and continues his one-man vigilante campaign against all criminals as The Punisher.
- The Punisher Vol. 1 Welcome Back, Frank (tpb)
  After a long absence, the Punisher returns to the streets of Manhattan to take on Mi Giuochi and her crime family.
**Puppet Master**

Born in the Balkan country of Transia, Phillip Masters moved to the US at a young age. A talented biologist, he became the research partner of Jacob Reiss. Resentful of Reiss's success, Masters killed his partner during Masters's botched robbery of their lab, triggering an explosion that blinded Reiss's daughter, Alicia. Masters later married Reiss's widow and became Alicia's stepfather (see Masters, Alicia). Learning he could control others with his clay sculptures, Masters became the Puppet Master, one of the earliest enemies of the Fantastic Four. He also teamed up with the villains Brood, Mad Thinker, and Doctor Doom. To his horror, his daughter Alicia fell in love with the Thing, though in time the Puppet Master was reconciled to their relationship. The US government recruited the Puppet Master to run their Sunshine City project, where mind-controlled criminals safely served out their prison sentences.

**Purple Man**

Born in Yugoslavia, Zebediah Killgrave was a spy who attempted to steal an experimental nerve gas. Firing his gun at Killgrave, a guard hit a canister of the gas, stored in liquid form. The chemical spilled over Killgrave, permanently dying his hair and skin purple. It also gave him the power to compel others to obey his commands.

Killgrave turned to crime and became known as the Purple Man. He was repeatedly defeated by Daredevil, one of the few people able to resist his power—he forced the crimefighter Jewel to become his servant for months.

Inasmuch as the Purple Man could have anything he wanted just by asking for it, he decided to give up crime. However, the Kingpin and Doctor Doom exploited the Purple Man's abilities for their own ends. The Purple Man attempted to compel the mutant Nate Grey, alias X-Man, to help him conquer the world, but Grey defeated him.

The Purple Man has a daughter, Kara Killgrave, who has purple skin and similar powers. She became the adventurer known as the Purple Girl and Persuasion.
Dr. Henry Pym, a brilliant scientist, discovered a rare group of subatomic particles which became known as “Pym Particles.” When ingested through a serum (and later through a gas and a capsule) the particles could either shrink a person down to the size of an ant, or increase a person’s size to 10, 25, even 100 feet in height.

ANT AND WASP

Undertaking a study of ants, Pym also developed a cybernetic helmet which allowed him to communicate with and control ants. Developing a costume to go along with his size changing ability and helmet, Pym reduced himself to the size of an ant and fought evil as Ant-Man. Pym and his future wife Janet Van Dyne were founding members of the Avengers as Ant-Man and the Wasp. Later, Pym decided to use his size-changing power to grow rather than shrink, and he began fighting crime as the costumed hero Giant-Man. Eventually, Pym realized that changing his size was putting too great a strain on his body and he stopped.

A TROUBLED MIND

When Janet was kidnapped by Attuma and then the Collector, Pym decided to help the Avengers rescue her by using his growing power once again. He donned a new costume and became Goliath. While experimenting with unknown gases, an accident changed Pym’s personality and gave him amnesia. He claimed that he had murdered Henry Pym and assumed the identity of Yellow Jacket. During this time, Pym married Janet, later regaining his memory, but the two were eventually divorced due to his tendency toward domestic violence.

Thunderstrike #1 (1993)

After briefly replacing Thor, Eric Masterson is given his own enchanted mace, a new name and a new monthly title to face the menace called Bloodaxe.
INcredible HULk #388 (1991)
The Hulk learns that one of his former partners is slowly dying from a deadly disease when he confronts the assassin called Speedfreak.

SPider-MAN 2099 #1 (1992)
A new universe set in a possible alternate future begins when a genetic experiment turns a corporate scientist into a reluctant Super Hero.

FANTastic FOUR #416 (1996)
As "Onslaught" draws to a climax, the title that spawned the Marvel Universe ends its first run, only to be relaunched in "Heroes Reborn."

AVENGERS Vol. 3 #4 (1998)
Though the volume has changed, some traditions live on as the Avengers change their lineup once more.

AVENGERS FOREver #1 (1998)
When Immarnus decides that Rick Jones is a threat to all existence, Avengers from the past, present and future are forced to team up with Kang the Conqueror to save him.
Quasar

Wendell Vaughn attended SHIELD academy with Kenjiro Tanaka, and upon graduation found himself in the middle of a raid by AIM terrorists. Vaughn drove off the AIM agents by donning quantum-band bracelets worn by the 1950s Marvel Boy. As the new Marvel Boy, Vaughn became a member of SHIELD's Super-A gent program, later calling himself Marvel Man before settling on Quasar.

Vaughn later learned that he had been chosen by the cosmic entity Eon to become the new Protector of the Universe, replacing the late Captain Mar-Vell. Quasar also became a member of the Avengers, but could not prevent the villainous Maelstrom from killing Eon. When Ego the Living Planet threatened to devour Earth, Quasar proved his worth by absorbing the entity into his quantum-bands. Quasar exiled himself into space to prevent Ego's release, but he has returned to aid the Avengers and the Fantastic Four.

Quasimodo

Quasimodo originated as a sentient computer created by the Mad Thinker. Endowed with a grotesque face that appeared on a screen, Quasimodo longed for a more human form. However, despite promising to fulfill his wish, the Thinker abandoned him. The Silver Surfer took pity on Quasimodo and transformed him into a mobile, humanoid creature, but the ungrateful Quasimodo fought the Surfer, who rendered him immobile. Eventually Quasimodo regained his mobility, and has since battled such champions as Spider-Man, the Beast, the Vision, and the original Captain Mar-Vell.

Xanaxes

Xanaxes' Council of Elders sent Qnax on a mission to obtain the Sphere of Ultimate Knowledge, telling him the Sphere was needed to save the planet. Arriving on the homeworld of the Watchers, Qnax encountered the Hulk, who was also searching for the Sphere. They fought and Qnax was hurled into space. Exiled from Xanaxes for this failure, Qnax travelled the cosmos as a gladiator for hire. He eventually discovered that the Council of Elders wanted the Sphere in order to dominate Xanaxes. Dismayed by this, Qnax returned home, hoping to bring justice to his people.
The son of Magneto, Pietro and his twin sister Wanda, the Scarlet Witch grew up never knowing their father's identity. Their mother, Magda, had fled from Magneto after witnessing his mutant powers in action, and gave birth to her twin offspring in the hills of Wundagore Mountain. The children were raised by the gypsy family of Django Maximoff. But at maturity, when their mutant powers first showed, Pietro and Wanda were persecuted as demonspawn.

**THE BROTHERHOOD**

In one attack, Wanda was surrounded by villagers who intended to burn her at the stake. Rescue came in the form of Magneto himself, who had been scouring the globe for mutants to recruit into his Brotherhood of Evil Mutants. Using his magnetic powers to scatter the frightened villagers, Magneto convinced Wanda and Pietro to join him and his Brotherhood.

Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch engaged in a series of battles with the X-Men. However, they only remained with the Brotherhood because of the debt they felt they owed Magneto. When the first incarnation of the Brotherhood was dissolved, Pietro and his sister went into seclusion, vowing never again to use their powers for evil.

Hearing that the Avengers were looking for new members, Pietro and Wanda resumed their costumed identities, and were accepted as members. But all did not remain well for long. Quicksilver, overprotective of his sister, did not approve of her marriage to the android Vision, causing a rift between them.

Quicksilver was later injured during a mission and nursed back to health by Crystal of the Inhumans. The two were married and had a daughter, Luna. Since then, Quicksilver has worked with the Avengers, served with the mutant team X-Factor, as well as leading the Knights of Wundagore for a time. TB
Radioactive Man

First Appearance: Journey into Mystery #98 (June 1963)
Real Name: Dr. Chen Lu
Occupation: Former scientist; criminal
Base: Mobile
Height: 6'6"
Weight: 310 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: None
Special Powers/Abilities: Manipulates radioactivity given off by body; emits radiation as heat or blinding light and can incinerate a city block. Hypnotic abilities; superhuman strength.

Dr. Chen Lu was a nuclear physicist in the People's Republic of China. After T'orak stopped China invading India, the Chinese government asked his top scientists to find a way to defeat the Thunder God. Lu exposed himself to massive doses of nuclear radiation, which transformed his body. As Radioactive Man, he traveled to New York and battled Thor, but was defeated. Baron Zemo then enlisted him in his Masters of Evil. Eventually he changed his ways and joined the Thunderbolts, a team of reformed villains.

Rage

First Appearance: Avengers #326 (November 1990)
Real Name: Elvin Daryl Haliday
Occupation: Student
Base: Ostridge School for Boys
Height: 6'6"
Weight: 450 lbs
Eyes: Brown
Hair: None
Special Powers/Abilities: Exposure to alien radiation granted him the ability to fly and to understand the language of birds.

Twelve-year-old Elvin Haliday plunged into Newtown Creek to escape a vicious gang of racist thugs. The chemicals in the water caused the boy's body to grow, almost overnight, into that of an adult with superhuman strength.

Although Elvin could have used his new powers for all kinds of nefarious activities, his only relation, the devout Granny Staples, convinced him to follow a more heroic path. Elvin slipped from this road just once—when Granny Staples herself was murdered. A member of various Super Hero teams, including the Avengers and the Warriors, Elvin has since hung up his cloak and returned to school.

Rasputin, Mikhail

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men #84 (January 1982)
Real Name: Mikhail Rasputin
Occupation: Cosmonaut
Base: The Hill, in an unspecified dimension
Height: 6'5"
Weight: 255 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Manipulates matter on a subatomic level. He uses this power to fire destructive blasts, warp reality, and teleport through space and between dimensions.

During a spaceflight, Soviet cosmonaut Mikhail Rasputin was pulled into another dimension. There he fell in love with and married a princess. Her father, however, was a tyrant and Rasputin got involved in a civil war. During a battle another dimensional rift was opened and Rasputin used his powers to close it, but a backlash effect from closing the rift killed hundreds of people, including his beloved wife. Overcome with grief, he exiled himself to the desert where he was found by Sunfire and Iceman, who helped bring Rasputin back to Earth.

Ravonna

In the 41st century of an alternate future, Kang had conquered all of Earth except the small kingdom of Princess Ravonna, who refused his offer of marriage. Kang's army ultimately overwhelmed Ravonna's kingdom.

But when Kang refused to execute Ravonna, his commander Baltag rebelled against him. Kang then joined forces with Ravonna and the Avengers to defeat Baltag. The grateful Ravonna fell in love with Kang. When the vengeful Baltag fired a blast at Kang, Ravonna pushed Kang out of the way, and the blast struck her instead. Kang placed Ravonna in suspended animation. To restore her to life, Kang played a game with the alien Grandmaster, who gave Kang temporary power over life and death when Kang won. However, Kang wasted this short-lived power in an unsuccessful attempt to kill the Avengers.

After this point different timelines diverge, in which Ravonna leads different lives. In one timeline Kang saves Ravonna from Baltag's attack, but she becomes the ally and consort of Kang's own future counterpart, Immortus.

In another timeline the Grandmaster revives Ravonna, who seeks vengeance on Kang. She assumes a number of identities, including Nebula, the Tempest, and the Terminatrix. A future counterpart will take the name Revelation.

Ravonna was willing to sacrifice her life to save her lover Kang the Conqueror.

FACTFILE
Real Name: Ravonna Lexus Renelayer
Occupation: Princess
Base: Originally an unnamed kingdom on 41st century Earth in an alternate future
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 142 lbs
Eyes: (as Ravonna) Brown, (as Nebula) Terminatrix Red
Hair: (as Ravonna) Red-brown, (as Nebula) Terminatrix Blonde
First Appearance: Avengers #23 (December 1965)

As Terminatrix or Revelation: has enhanced durability, speed and agility, is a formidable hand-to-hand combatant, and uses highly advanced technology.

Ravonna was willing to sacrifice her life to save her lover Kang the Conqueror.
**Rawhide Kid, the**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Rawhide Kid Vol. 1 #1 (March 1956)
**REAL NAME** Johnny Bart
**OCCUPATION** Gunfighter
**BASE** The American Old West
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 10 in
**WEIGHT** 185 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** Red

The Rawhide Kid learned to handle a six-shooter thanks to his adoptive father, a Texas Ranger, after his real parents were killed by Cheyenne warriors. When his adoptive father died in a rigging duel, the Rawhide Kid took revenge on the killers and then wandered the West astride his horse Nightwind, keeping one step ahead of the sheriff who suspected the Kid of murder. By means of time travel, the Rawhide Kid occasionally crossed paths with modern-era Super Heroes. AD

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**Reavers**

The cyborg mercenaries known as the Reavers originally operated from an underground complex in Coote’s Creek, located in Australia’s Northern Territory. They exploited the teleportation mutant Gateway in order to commit robberies around the world until the X-Men forced them from their base. Ex-Headhunter member Donald Pierce reorganized the team, bringing in Cole, Maccon, Reese, and Lady Deathstrike. The new Reavers nearly killed Wolverine, and launched a failed attack on Moira MacTaggart’s Muir Island laboratory. A squad of Sentinels nearly destroyed the Reavers, though most members survived due to their half-machine physiologies.

The Reavers later won a contract from the psionic entity the Shadow King to kidnap Rogue of the X-Men, but failed to capture their quarry. Pierce chose to remake the Reavers into a grassroots anti-mutant movement, and sawed many citizens with his hateful propaganda. Recently, Pierce’s group clashed with the latest incarnation of the New Mutants. During the battle, Reaver member Josh Foley discovered that he had mutant healing powers, and later joined the New Mutants under the code name Elixir. DW

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**Reaper**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** New Mutants Vol. 1 #97 (March 1990)
**REAL NAME** Pantu Hurageb
**OCCUPATION** None
**BASE** Unknown
**HEIGHT/WEIGHT/EYES/HAIR** Unrevealed

Not to be mistaken for the demon raised to battle Blade, nor for an adversary of the Phantom Rider, the Reaper otherwise known as Pantu Hurageb was a mutant in the Mutant Liberation Front. The work was hazardous and during his time there, Reaper lost a hand and a lower leg, both of which were replaced by artificial limbs. Following Reaper’s incarceration in the mutant concentration camp Neverland, Nathan Summers (Cable) tried to prise the camp’s location from his mind, causing him severe brain damage and robbing him of the power of speech. AD

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**Red Ghost**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #13 (April 1963)
**REAL NAME** Ivan Kragoff
**OCCUPATION** Villain
**BASE** Mobile
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in
**WEIGHT** 215 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** White, balding

Russian scientist Ivan Kragoff was consumed with envy by the achievements and powers of the Fantastic Four. Determined to beat them to the Moon, he designed his spacecraft to maximize exposure to cosmic rays, hoping to duplicate the freakish accident that had created his rivals.

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**FACTFILE**

**KEY MEMBERS**
- DONALD PIERCE (LEADER)
- Adamantium-enhanced body, enhanced strength; morphing cyborg limbs emit energy blasts.
- BONEBREAKER: Cyborg strength, tank tracks, built-in weaponry.
- PRETTY BOY: Extendible cyborg limbs and capture coils; reprograms the personalities of others.
- SKULLBUSTER: Cyborg strength, robot legs; uses machine guns, grenade launchers.
- SKULLBUSTER/CYLLA: Cyborg strength, reflexes; wrist claws, thermite launchers.
- LADY DEATHSTRIKE: Augmented strength, reflexes; talons extend from fingertips.
- COLE, MACON, AND REESE: Cyborg strength, reflexes; bionic scanners and tracking devices.

**BASE** Mobile

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #229 (May 1988)

**KEY**
(from left to right): Skullbuster, Bonebreaker, Pretty Boy

Kragoff’s experiment succeeded: while he gained the ability to become intangible, his three ape companions became more intelligent and obtained powers of strength, magnetism, and shapeshifting. Now known as the Red Ghost, Kragoff and his super-ape companions became formidable adversaries to the Fantastic Four, clashing with them repeatedly and even creating problems for the Avengers and Spider-Man. AD
Red Guardian

Alexi Shostakov's life was destined to be radically different from that of his wife, Natasha Romanoff. A talented athlete and test pilot, Alexi came to the attention of the KGB, the Soviet secret service, which was eager to recruit new agents. The KGB faked Alexi's death and trained him to become a top operative codenamed Red Guardian. At the same time they coached his wife Natasha, keeping Alexi's survival a secret from her, and turning her into a secret agent codenamed Black Widow.

It was at this time that Alexi and Natasha's paths began to diverge. While she became disillusioned with her KGB masters and defected to the USA, Alexi remained loyal and increasingly ruthless and vindictive. The pair were to meet one more time, in China, but their reunion was short-lived; just minutes after revealing his identity to Natasha, Alexi was shot and killed. AD

Red Raven

Raised by a lost tribe of Inhumans known as the Bird-People, on a hovering island in the Atlantic, Red Raven was a heroic member of the World War II-era Liberty Legion. After the war, he placed himself and his people into suspended animation to prevent aggression between them and humanity. Later, the Angel (see Archangel) discovered Red Raven, who made it appear that his island had been destroyed to ensure the privacy of the Bird-People. His daughter Dania has also assumed the identity of Red Raven. DW

Red Wolf

The first Red Wolf is believed to have tamed the first horse and conquered the American plains for the Cheyenne. The second was Johnny Wakeley, a Cheyenne orphan who forged peace between his people and the US Cavalry. The current Red Wolf is Will Talltrees, a Cheyenne who grew up on the Cheyenne Reservation, in Wolf Point, Montana. After his family was murdered by businessmen, he begged the gods for the power to avenge them. The Wolf Spirit Owayodaa heard his prayers. Following the legend of previous Red Wolves, Talltrees later trained a wolf until they almost thought of one. TD

Red Skull

See opposite page

Redeemer

After joining the military as a demolitions expert, Craig Saunders' world came crashing down when he failed to defuse a bomb in an airport terminal, causing the death of two civilians. Desperate, he joined a new paramilitary team called the Hulkbusters, but their effort to defeat the Hulk also ended in disappointment. Taking advantage of Saunders' despair, the Leader persuaded him to become the Redeemer and integrated Saunders' body into a formidable yellow combat suit. Sadly, redemption was not to be his—Saunders died during his very first confrontation with old greenskin. AD
Johann Schmidt was born in a German village. His mother died giving birth to him and, after failing to drown the newborn child, Johann's father committed suicide. The orphaned Schmidt became a beggar and thief, though he sometimes took menial jobs. Schmidt was working as a bellboy in a hotel when Adolf Hitler, the dictator of Nazi Germany, paid a visit there.

**A PERFECT NAZI**

Recognizing in Schmidt's eyes a hatred of all humanity that mirrored his own, Hitler decided to turn him into "the perfect Nazi." Hitler oversaw Schmidt's training, presented him with a skull-like head mask, and named him "The Red Skull." As Waffen-SS and 1st SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler, the Red Skull underwent a wide range of missions for the Third Reich, especially acts of terrorism.

It was in order to have an American counterpart to the Red Skull that the US government gave "super-soldier" Steve Rogers the identity of Captain America. Shortly before America entered World War II, the Red Skull first battled his greatest enemy, Captain America. During the war the Red Skull commanded numerous military missions. He rose to become one of the most powerful men in the Third Reich, feared even by Hitler.

During the fall of Berlin, Captain America fought the Skull in Hitler's bunker. A bomb caused a cave-in that seemingly killed the Skull. However, an experimental gas kept the villain in suspended animation for decades.

**BACK FROM THE DEAD**

In the 1950s, the Skull was impersonated by Communist agent Albert Malik—the real Skull later had him killed. Eventually the original Red Skull was found and revived. With Hitler dead, the Skull was determined to become master of the world. However, his bid for global domination has repeatedly been thwarted by Captain America.

At one point the effects of the experimental gas wore off, and the Skull aged and died. The Nazi genetic engineer Arним Zola transferred the Skull's consciousness into a body cloned from Captain America. By accident, his own "dust of death" caused the Skull's new head to resemble a living red skull.

Although the Red Skull has seemingly died on numerous occasions, he always returns to continue his decades-long war against Captain America and the free world. PS
### Revanche

**First Appearance:** X-Man #17 (February 1992)

**Real Name:** Kannon

**Occupation:** Assassin

**Base:** Japan

**Height:** 5'11"

**Weight:** 155 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black, (Braddock's body: Brown)

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Martial arts; (as Revanche) telepath; manifested psychic energy in form of Samurai swords.

Kannon was a Japanese assassin and the lover of crime lord Matsu'o Tsurayaba. When Kannon was mortally injured, Tsurayaba made a deal with Spiral, who transferred Kannon's mind into the body of Elisabeth Braddock, Psylocke of the X-Men. Spiral also transferred Braddock's mind into Kannon's body. Gaining Braddock's memories and powers, Kannon claimed to be the real Psylocke and called herself Revanche (French for "revenge").

**Before joining X-Factor Investigations, Julio Richter led an unsettled life. As a boy he saw his father, a black market arms dealer, murdered by the mutant clone, STRYFE. Julio developed mutant powers himself, and was captured and used by the Right to cause mayhem in San Francisco. Freed by X-Factor, he was caught up in the ideological turf war between Nathan Summers and Professor X, but now looks forward to a straightforward life as a private investigator.**

### Rhino

**First Appearance:** Amazing Spider-Man #41 (October 1966)

**Real Name:** Alex O'Hearn (possibly an alias)

**Occupation:** Criminal

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6'5"

**Weight:** 710 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** The Rhino possesses the strength and enhanced durability of his namesake due to his protective suit, which is bonded to his body.

A career criminal, the man who would become the Rhino was selected for experimentation by a group of spies because of his low intelligence. After months of chemical and radiation treatments, he was given his protective suit, which resembled a rhinoceros' hide. He was sent to abduct astronaut John Jameson, but was foiled by Spider-Man. The Rhino has subsequently used his strength in a number of criminal endeavors. Believing himself to be trapped within his costume, the Rhino is subject to periodic bouts of insanity. TB

### Right, The

**First Appearance:** X-Factor #17 (June 1987)

**Members and Powers:**
- Cameron Hodge (commander): Brilliant planner; made immortal through a mystical pact
- Anti-Monitor: Genius-level geneticist
- Other unnamed operatives and soldiers

**Base:** Mobile

The Right is a secret organization dedicated to preserving human freedoms by the eradication of mutantkind.

Cameron Hodge, a former public relations director for X-Factor, founded the Right using X-Factor's own profits. Hodge's double-dealing soon became all too obvious, and he engaged his former colleagues in combat, clashing with both X-Factor and the New Mutants. Agents of the Right wear armored battlesuits equipped with built-in machine guns and flight jets. Their battlesuits have facemasks that bear a distinctive "smiley face" design.

### Richards, Franklin

**See Opposite Page**

### Ricochet

**See Opposite Page**

### Ringer

**First Appearance:** Defenders Vol. 1 #51 (September 1977)

**Real Name:** Anthony Davis

**Occupation:** Professional criminal

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 5'8"

**Weight:** 145 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black, later dyed blonde

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Weapons included constructing rings, freeze rings, and explosive rings; could condense solid rings from air.

The Ringer was a second-tier villain throughout his short career. Although he developed a gimmick centered around ring weapons, he suffered humiliating defeats at the hands of crime fighters, including NightHawk II and Spider-Man. After his release from prison, the Ringer joined other criminals at the Ohio-based "bar with no name" to discuss the threat of the villain-killer known as the Scourge of the Underworld. Unknown to the criminals, the Scourge was also in the bar at the time. The Scourge shot everyone in the bar and left Ringer for dead. DW

### Riordan, Dallas

**First Appearance:** Thunderbolts #1 (April 1997)

**Real Name:** Dallas Riordan

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5'1"

**Weight:** 150 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Red

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Expert swordsman and adept hand-to-hand combatant.

The granddaughter of Paulette Breeze and one-time lover of the original Citizen V, for a time Dallas Riordan was to bear the Citizen V mantle herself. Working as the assistant to the New York mayor, Dallas served as his liaison to the Thunderbolts until Baron Zemo discredited the team and caused Dallas' own reputation to be called into question. Invited to become the new Citizen V, Dallas' career as this costumed crusader was cut short when she was crippled in battle. Now wheelchair-bound, Dallas can only walk when she merges her consciousness with her lover, Erik Josten, the Super Hero, Atlas. AD

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Richards, Franklin

Son of Reed and Sue Richards of the Fantastic Four, Franklin Richards was once one of the most powerful mutants on Earth. Before his birth, strange energies flowing through Sue's body nearly killed both mother and baby until Annihilus' Cosmic Control Rod suppressed them. Agatha Harkness acted as Franklin's nanny in his earliest years. The boy soon began to exhibit immense psionic powers. Using his ability to see possible futures, he became a member of Power Pack under the name Tattle Tale. Nathaniel Richards, his grandfather, later raised him in a realm outside of time, where he became the adult adventurer Pá-Lord, and founded the Fantastic Force before Hyperstorm erased his adult form from existence. When the Avengers and the Fantastic Four seemingly perished fighting Onslaught, Franklin temporarily took them to a "Counter-Earth" of his own creation. He used his powers to restore Galactus to life and return his sister Valeria to his mother's womb, but lost his powers in the process. Recently, Doctor Doom banished Franklin to Hell, causing psychological trauma that persisted long after his rescue.

Ricochet

When Spider-Man was falsely accused of murder, a $5 million reward was placed on his head and he was forced to adopt a new identity in order to find the real killer. Instead of temporarily assuming one new persona, he created four: Ricochet, Dusk, Hornet, and Prodigy. After clearing his name, Spider-Man discarded these identities and their costumes, but they were considered to be a part of Spider-Man's past. Ricochet, along with other former Super Heroes called the Black Marvel, who gave them to four teenagers and formed a new super-team called the Slingers. One of the members was Johnny Gallo, a troubled youth who had grown apart from his father after his mother was killed in a car accident. Johnny literally leaped at the chance to use his mutant powers in the Slingers, but like the other members of the team, he was disillusioned when it emerged that the Black Marvel had obtained the costumes from Mephisto. Nevertheless, the Slingers battled to save the Black Marvel's soul from Mephisto and won, although the battle claimed the life of the Black Marvel. The Slingers then disbanded and Gallo moved to Los Angeles. He joined a group of former teenage heroes who were adjusting to civilian life and trying to dissuade other teenagers from becoming costumed heroes.
**Riot Squad**

The Riot Squad came into being when the villainous Leader detonated a gamma bomb on the town of Middletown, Arizona. Amazingly, a few residents survived, mutated by gamma radiation in the same manner as the Hulk. These five took the codenames Jailbait, Hotshot, Ogress, Omnibus, and Soul Man, and became the Leader's elite guards. Charged with protecting the Freehold base, where the Leader gave sanctuary to those suffering from radiation sickness, the team fought the Hulk on several occasions.

During an attack on the Freehold base by HYDRA, Soul Man was killed, and with the Leader also presumed dead, Omnibus took control of the Riot Squad. His teammates later put him on trial after he orchestrated terrorist bombings in an effort to gain more power. Despite his protestations that he had been under the control of the Leader when he committed the crimes, they found him guilty and banished him to the Arctic. The Trojans later decimated Freehold despite the efforts of Riot Squad. The team is likely to continue as a mercenary outfit. DW

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**Gloria Munoz**

Gloria Munoz had a lonely childhood. Her parents divorced when she was 12 and she left home at 16. Forced to fend for herself, Gloria developed a cold, distant personality and her first encounters with the mutant group, X-Force did not endear her to them. However, she became romantically involved with Warpath, even falling in love with him, before betraying him to the Deviant known as Sledge. After making amends for her misdeeds, Gloria was invited to join X-Corporation’s Hong Kong office, but she wasn’t there long.

While investigating the trade in mutant body parts, Gloria was killed by the U-Men, a group of humans seeking mutant body parts to graft onto themselves. AD

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**Robertson, Joe**

Joseph "Robbie" Robertson, editor in chief of the *Daily Bugle*, grew up in Harlem alongside the brutal Lonnie Thompson Lincoln (TOMBSTONE). While working as a newspaper reporter in Philadelphia, Robertson saw Tombstone kill a man, but, intimidated, kept silent about the murder for nearly two decades. After years with *New York’s Daily Bugle*, he finally gathered evidence of the murder and Tombstone’s other crimes, only for Tombstone to break his back in retaliation. Robertson recovered and testified against Tombstone in court, receiving a jail sentence of his own for withholding evidence. He resigned from the *Daily Bugle* when Norman Osborn (the GREEN GOBLIN) purchased the newspaper, but later returned to the job. His son Randy attended college with Peter Parker, and Robertson is believed to have guessed that Peter Parker is SPIDER-MAN. He remains one of the few people who can keep *Daily Bugle* publisher J. Jonah Jameson under control. DW
**ROCK**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** The Incredible Hulk vol. 1 #343 (May 1988)

**REAL NAME** Samuel J. Larquette

**OCCUPATION** Warrior  
**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT** 6 ft  
**WEIGHT** Unrevealed  
**EYES** Brown  
**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Able to shape his rock-like exoskeleton into any form he imagines.

A former explorer, Sam Larquette became a member of the Hulkbusters at a time when the Hulk had been separated from Bruce Banner. Later recruited by would-be world conqueror the Leader, Larquette received treatments that enabled him in a rocklike substance responsive to his mental commands. As Rock, he went into action against the Hulk alongside his fellow operative Redeemer. The stone projections Rock created by reshaping his exoskeleton proved to be one of the few things capable of puncturing the Hulk's tough skin. The Rock has since worked alongside the U-Foes and the Riot Squad. OW

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**ROCKET RACER**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man #172 (September 1977)

**REAL NAME** Robert Farrell

**OCCUPATION** Student  
**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 10 in  
**WEIGHT** 160 lbs  
**EYES** Brown  
**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Rides jet-powered, skateboard-type machine on which boots are magnetically attached; mini-rockets on gloves can tear holes in three-inch thick steel.

The eldest of seven children, Robert Farrell became responsible for his younger siblings when his mother died. Robert was a scientific prodigy, and when he realised he couldn't earn enough to support his family, he turned to a life of crime. He developed a superpowered skateboard which was cybernetically controlled by crude walkman device, and, wearing a weapon-equipped costume, became the Rocket Racer. Repeated defeats at the hands of Spider-Man and several brushes with the law, including a short jail sentence, convinced Robert to reform. He has since gained a scholarship to Empire State University and even assists Spider-Man from time to time. AD
The daughter of the sorcerer Merlin, Roma appeared to a man named Brian Braddock as the Goddess of the Northern Skies and gave him the Amulet of Right. The amulet's mystical energy turned him into Captain Britain and Roma became one of his advisors. Roma was imprisoned by the Adversary but was freed by Colossus, Madelyne Pryor (see Pryor, Madelyna), and Forge, who all died but were brought back to life by Roma. Roma was then seized by the sentient computer, Mastermind, but was freed by Captain Britain. MT

Born to an aristocratic Kree family (see Kree), Ronan was automatically accepted into the Accuser Corps when he came of age, and was in charge of bestowing justice across the Kree Empire. Rising to the position of Supreme Public Accuser, mighty Ronan became the third most powerful person in the Empire and was responsible for punishing the Fantastic Four when they defied an Earth-based Kree Sentry. The foursome humiliated Ronan, so, when the Kree leader decided to let matters lie, Ronan tried, and failed, to wrest control of the Empire. Ronan has since resigned himself to working with his superiors for the betterment of his people. AD

General Ross comes from a long line of military officers. During wartime action his troops gave him the nickname "Thunderbolt," since he "struck like a thunderbolt" when he took them into combat. As the officer in charge of the experiment that turned Bruce Banner into the Hulk, General Ross became obsessed with capturing the Hulk by any means necessary. For a time, he possessed the electrical form of Zzzax, and he later sacrificed himself to destroy the mutant Nevermind. Restored to life, he has won back his position as Air Force general, and is trying to forge an improved relationship with Bruce Banner. DW

The first leather-masked Rose was Richard Fisk, the son of criminal Kingpin. Fisk believed that his father was an honest businessman. When he learned the truth, he tried to ruin his father's empire and became a member of Hydra. Fisk eventually joined forces with his father and became the Rose but was killed by his mother. The second Rose was a police officer seeking revenge on the Kingpin. The third and current Rose is Jacob Conover, who wrote for the Daily Bugle. He was given the identity as a reward for saving the life of crime lord Don Fortunato. Conover was captured by Spider-Man and is currently in prison. TD
Arnold Roth became friends with Steve Rogers when they were growing up in the 1930s. During World War II, Roth served in the US Navy and realized that Captain America was his friend Steve. While Captain America spent years in suspended animation, Roth aged normally. Learning of Roth's friendship with Captain America, Baron Helmut Zemo (see Baron Zemo I) imperiled Roth and his life partner, Michael. Later, the Red Skull captured Roth. Captain America and Roth remained friends. Roth worked as the Avengers' publicist and managed Steve Rogers' costume shop before dying from bone cancer.

Margaret Allegra “Rigger” Ruiz is the armory specialist of Code: Blue, a SWAT team designated to deal with superpowered criminals. Bodybuilder Rigger has come face-to-face with these superhumans on a regular basis and her experiences have been many and varied. The strongest member of Code: Blue, Rigger has rescued hostages from the Wrecking Crew, been driven mad by the Super Villain Dementia, and posed as a slave during a mission to Asgard. During this last assignment, Rigger also flirted with Fandral the Dashing, an Asgardian noble—life is never dull in Code: Blue. AD

The mercenary nicknamed “the Russian” accepted a job from crime boss Ma Gucci to kill the Punisher. After a brutal fight, the Punisher smothered the Russian, later taunting Ma Gucci by showing her the Russian’s severed head. A secret paramilitary agency then resurrected the Russian, giving him an enhanced body with boosted olfactory senses, three hearts, and a toughened skeleton. This new body required regular injections of female hormones. The Russian apparently died when he was caught in the explosion of a nuclear warhead on Grand Nixon Island. DW

A mendacious individual, General John Ryker was involved in US President Kennedy's assassination, dropped gamma bombs on US troops in the Gulf, and was desperate to learn the secret behind the Hulk. Ryker’s obsession with old Greenskin was driven by a need to find a cure for his cancer-ridden wife. However, when she found out what he was doing, Ryker fled. In his drive to understand the Hulk, Ryker tormented Banner and many others. Vagrants from across America were taken to Ryker's research facility where they were subjected to agonizing tortures. Realizing that success lay in the mental rather than physical manipulation of his test subjects, Ryker began using his soldiers. He transformed one man—Private Tibbetts—into a corrupted version of the Hulk, codenamed Flux. Definitely driven, certainly insane, he may have disappeared for the time being but Ryker is certain to return. AD

A human guinea pig faces a painful death by gamma radiation.
SHIELD (Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-Enforcement Division; later changed to Strategic Hazard Intervention, Espionage and Logistics Directorate) is a counter-terrorism, intelligence, espionage, and peace-keeping organization. SHIELD runs covert as well as military operations, and works with governments and their military forces around the world.

SHIELD'S FORMATION

SHIELD was established to counter the threat posed by the technologically advanced neo-fascist subversive organization known as HYDRA. The identity of SHIELD’s founders remains classified, as does the identity of its first executive director, who was assassinated by HYDRA operatives.

SHIELD's second and longest-serving leader was Nick Fury, a Colonel in the US army, who had also been a top CIA operative. Other important SHIELD members include Timothy “Dum Dum” Dugan, Valentina Allegra De Fontaine, and Jasper Sitwell.

For many years, SHIELD's headquarters was the Helicarrier, a huge flying aircraft carrier that was kept airborne at all times. It carried a squadron of jet fighters and an ICBM. The Helicarrier was destroyed, but SHIELD maintains its many regional headquarters throughout the world. SHIELD also keeps close ties to the Super Hero community and has called upon Captain America, the Avengers, and the Fantastic Four for help; other allies have included Mockingbird, Quasar, and Anthony Stark (Iron Man). In addition to battling global terrorist and military threats, SHIELD has saved the world many times from extraterrestrial invasion and infiltration. As well as its human operatives, SHIELD also employs LMDs, Life Model Decoys. These are incredibly lifelike androids which are sent into extremely dangerous situations to help avoid human casualties.

ALLIES AND ENEMIES

Over the years SHIELD's main adversaries have included HYDRA, AIM, ZODIAC, the Corporation, the Yellow Claw, the Viper, the Red Skull, Centurions, and Doctor Demonicus. SHIELD provided intelligence and technical support to the Avengers and the Fantastic Four during the Kree-Skrull War, when a battle of the aliens took place very close to Earth.

The subversive terrorist organization HYDRA, dedicated to world domination, is one of SHIELD's most dangerous threats.
**Sabretooth**

A vicious, psychotic killer, little is known about the early life of Victor Creed, the mutant called Sabretooth, save that he apparently came from an abusive background. His healing ability having kept him alive and youthful for decades, he first acquired the alias Sabretooth in the 1960s, when he did work for the CIA.

**Bitter Feud**

Like Wolverine, Sabretooth's abilities were enhanced by the top-secret Weapon X project, and while the two men share much history in common, they are the bitterest of enemies. Sabretooth routinely returns to stalk and defeat Wolverine on the latter's birthday each year. And because of his enmity for Wolverine, Sabretooth has been pulled into the X-Men's orbit time and again, sometimes in partnership with other villains such as Mister Sinister, sometimes on his own. But while there is still some humanity left within Wolverine's heart, Sabretooth's soul is as black as pitch, and he is about as irredeemable an individual as has ever existed. TB

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**Sabra**

First Appearance: Iron Fist Vol. 1 #14 (August 1977)

Real Name: Ruth Bat-Seraph

Occupation: Police officer; Israeli government agent

Base: Jerusalem, Israel

Height: 5'11" in

Weight: 240 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities:

- Wrist bracelets equipped with neuro-frequency stimulators that shoot "energy quills"
- Cape has a device that neutralizes gravity, enabling flight
- Superhuman strength

When Ruth Bat-Seraph's mutant powers emerged in childhood, the Israeli government sent Ruth and her parents to live at a special kibbutz, where she was trained in the use of her powers. She became the first member of the Israeli government's "Super-Agent" program, and was given a cover identity as a policewoman.

Terrorists killed her son, and so have become her particular enemies.

Sabra has also worked for the Paris branch of Professor X's X-Corporation.

The name "Sabra" is the Israeli word for both a native-born Israeli and for a sweet, prickly pear.

*PS*

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**Sage**


Real Name: Unrevealed, goes by "Ilsa"

Occupation: Member of New Excalibur

Base: England

Height: 6'1" in

Weight: 155 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities:

- Able to remember everything she sees and hears; can "jump start" the mutant abilities of others
- Possesses limited telepathy

Born in Eastern Europe, the mysterious woman codenamed Sage rescued an injured Professor X from Afghanistan and became one of his first mutant recruits. Rather than joining the original X-Men team, Sage became a spy within the Hellfire Club, where she worked as an advisor to Black King Sebastian Shaw.

When she tricked the mind-controlling Elias Began into losing a wager, a vengeful Began scarred her face. Rescued by Storm, Sage joined the X-Men and most recently became a member of New Excalibur.

*DW*
SALEM'S SEVEN

The seven children of Nicolas Scratch lived in the isolated village of New Salem, where witches and warlocks held sway. When Scratch's mother, Agatha Harkness, left the village to become the governess of Franklin Richards, Scratch put her on trial for treason, magically transforming his offspring into Salem's Seven to act as guards. They failed to stop the Fantastic Four from rescuing Harkness, but over time became the de facto rulers of New Salem. Salem's Seven later burned Harkness at the stake, but her spirit led the Vision and the Scarlet Witch to New Salem. In the battle that followed, Vertigo lost control of the town's magical forces and Salem's Seven perished. The Scarlet Witch later met their spirits in a supernatural realm, where she defeated them a second time.

SALEM'S SEVEN
1. Brutacus
2. Hydron
3. Vakume
4. Vertigo
5. Thorn
6. Reptilla
7. Gazelle

FIRST APPEARANCE
Fantastic Four vol. 1 #196
(September, 1977)

SASQUATCH

Inspired by his colleague Bruce Banner's metamorphosis into the Hulk, Dr. Walter Langkowski used gamma radiation to transform himself into a giant, hairy, muscle-bound creature similar to the Bigfoot of Canadian legend. Taking the name Sasquatch, he became a member of Alpha Flight. Despite many trials, including the discovery that his monstrous form was that of the Great Beast Tanaroq, Sasquatch's resolve has never wavered, and he remains a pillar of the Canadian super-group.

HEIGHT 10 ft
WEIGHT 2000 lbs
EYES Red
HAIR Orange

FIRST APPEARANCE
Uncanny X-Men #120
(April 1978)

The half-human daughter of the demon known as "Satan," for a time Satana was forced to live as a succubus, draining the spirits of humans to survive. Rebelling at this, Satana became estranged from her father, began establishing real, meaningful friendships with humans, and started to appreciate what human society had to offer. Learning that Dr. Stephen Strange was trapped in the form of a werewolf and realizing this would have untold consequences for humanity, Satana determined to rescue him. She traveled to the astral realm where Strange's soul was held prisoner, and freed him. The price was her own life, but Strange has vowed never to forget her sacrifice.

REAL NAME Satana Hellstrom
OCCUPATION Hero Base Mobile
HEIGHT 5 ft. 7 in
WEIGHT 120 lbs
EYES Black with red highlights
HAIR Red
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Levitation and limited spellcasting: could feed on human souls and project bolts of "soulfire."
With the ability to change his body into grains of sand and reshape it at will, Sandman has proven to be a dangerous and slippery foe for SPIDER-MAN, the FANTASTIC FOUR, and the HULK. Born William Baker in one of the rougher areas of New York City, he had a bad start in life. His father abandoned him and his mother when William was three years old, and the boy grew up in poverty. He quickly learned to steal and cheat.

**A LIFE OF CRIME**

William was kicked out of high school for taking money to throw a big football game, but soon found work with a protection racket. He took the alias “Hint Marko,” and became a success in New York's crime underworld.

After an arrest and a jailbreak, Marko headed south. He was on a beach near a military testing site in Georgia when a nuclear reactor’s steam system exploded, knocking him unconscious. Marko woke to find that his body now had the properties of sand. Revelling in his new ability, he called himself Sandman and set out on a major criminal career.

Sandman battled Spider-Man (his main nemesis), and many other super heroes. He joined the WIZARD, TRAISTER, and MEDUSA to form the FRIGHTFUL FOUR and teamed up with five more of Spider-Man’s foes to form the Sinister Six.

**GOOD OR EVIL?**

When Sandman teamed up with HYDRO-MAN, an accident caused the two to merge into a mud creature. After he was finally freed, Sandman decided to give up crime, even becoming a probationary member of the AVENGERS and helping them defeat the sorceress Morgan Le Fay. But Wizard brainwashed Sandman into believing that his rejection of crime was a put-on, and he rejoined the Sinister Six. Another member, VENOM, betrayed Sandman; his bite causing Sandman's sand grains to wash away, casting up on various New York beaches.

For a long time it was believed that Sandman was dead, but the scattered sand particles of his body managed to find each other, and the super villain Sandman was reborn. MT
SAURON

FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men #59 (August 1969)
REAL NAME: Dr. Karl Lykos
OCCUPATION: Geneticist, hypnotist
BASE: New York City, Savage Land
HEIGHT: 7 ft, WEIGHT: 200 lbs
EYES: Red, HAIR: None
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Drains victims' life force into his own body. Uses eye contact to hypnotize and induce hallucinations.

As a boy, Karl Lykos was on an expedition to Antarctica with his father when he was bitten by a prehistoric pteranodon from the nearby Savage Land. Thereafter, he had to feed off the life energy of others to survive. As an adult, Lykos worked with Professor Charles Xavier on "Project Mutant" but was later transformed into an evil half-human, half-pteranodon creature after draining life energy from the mutant Havok. He took the name Sauron, after the evil one in J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings,' and became an enemy of the X-Men.

SCARLET CENTURION

In one version of the year 3000, Earth is a utopia founded centuries earlier by Nathaniel Richards, father of Reed Richards (Mister Fantastic). However, this paradise does not suit everyone. One distant descendant of Richards, a man sometimes known as the Scarlet Centurion, feels suffocated by his surroundings. Learning that one of his ancestors has built a time machine, the Centurion recreates this device and wreaks chaos across multiple realities and time zones.

FACTFILE
REAL NAME: Nathaniel Richards
OCCUPATION: Conqueror
BASE: Mobile
HEIGHT: 6 ft 3 in, WEIGHT: 220 lbs
EYES: Brown, HAIR: Brown, later gray
FIRST APPEARANCE: Avengers Annual #2 (September 1969)

The original Scarlet Centurion's son, Marcus Kang, shared his father's title, and wielded a deadly halberd.

ARRIVING IN ANCIENT EGYPT, THE CENTURION USED HIS KNOWLEDGE AND guile to become the pharaoh Rama-Tut, until the Fantastic Four forced him back to the future. Since then, he has adopted various names in ongoing efforts to dominate and rule—Kang the Conqueror and Immortus are both names that have belonged to him.

The one-time ruler of 30th century Earth, the Centurion has twice led armies to the 20th century, only to be defeated by the Fantastic Four and the Avengers. With his travels having resulted in the creation of a series of alternate realities and versions of himself, it is hard to say where the Scarlet Centurion is now.

SCARLET SPIDER

FIRST APPEARANCE: (as Scarlet Spider) Spider-Man #52 (November 1994)
REAL NAME: Ben Reilly
OCCUPATION: Adventurer
BASE: New York City
HEIGHT: 5 ft 10 in, WEIGHT: 165 lbs
EYES: Hazel, HAIR: Brown
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Super strength and agility, able to adhere to surfaces; "spider-sense" alerted him to danger. Wore web-shooters that projected artificial webbing.

At the dawn of World War II, Captain "Happy Sam" Sawyer (so named because he rarely smiled) recruited Nick Fury and First Attack Company into a special squad. Named the Howling Commandos, they took on the toughest missions. Sawyer also commanded the Maulers and the Deadly Deuce. After the war, he rose to the rank of General. He was killed in an operation against Baron Strucker and HYDRA.

Professor Miles Warren, the criminal known as the Jackal, created a clone of Peter Parker, alias Spider-Man. He endowed the clone with Parker's memories and pitted him against Spider-Man in battle. Seemingly killed, the clone later revived and wandered America for years, calling himself Ben Reilly. In New York, he became a costumed hero, the Scarlet Spider. The original Green Goblin manipulated Parker and Reilly into believing that Reilly was the real Spider-Man, with Reilly even adopting Spider-Man's costumed identity. Ultimately, the Goblin killed Reilly, and Parker reclaimed his identity.

SAWYER, General

FIRST APPEARANCE: Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #1, May 1952
REAL NAME: Samuel "Happy Sam" Sawyer
OCCUPATION: Adventurer
BASE: The Pentagon
HEIGHT: 6 ft 2 in, WEIGHT: 220 lbs
EYES: Blue, HAIR: Gray
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Happy Sam Sawyer was a career military man and an expert at strategy.

For a short time, the second Scarlet Centurion ruled the Earth alongside his father.

SCARLET SPIDER

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Wanda Maximoff is the daughter of Erik Magnus Lehnsherr also known as the mutant criminal Magneto and the twin sister of Pietro Maximoff, the former Avenger Quicksilver. Wanda's mother ran away from Magneto while she was pregnant and, fearing her husband would exploit her unborn children, gave her twins up for adoption.

SOCIAL OUTCAST
The twins were raised in the eastern European country of Transia by a gypsy couple and Wanda soon learned that she could cause strange things to happen. After accidentally making a house to burst into flame, she was about to be stoned as a witch when Magneto arrived and saved her. Not realizing that he was their real father, Wanda and Pietro took on costumed identities and joined his war against humanity. After many battles with the X-Men, the twins abandoned Magneto and later joined the Avengers in return for full pardons for their past crimes. Over her brother's objections, Wanda became attracted to the synesthesoid called the Vision and began a long romance with him. They were eventually married and set up house in New Jersey.

TROUBLED SOUL
Wanda also began to study real magic, combining it with her natural mutant abilities. She eventually grew powerful enough to defeat the dreaded Dormammu, the sorcerer supreme of an alien dimension. However, her increased power came at a terrible cost and she began to lose her grip on reality. She conjured up imaginary children and repetitively experienced temporary bouts of insanity. After attempting to bring a new golden age to humanity by seizing mental control of every computer on Earth, the Vision was disassembled by the US government. Dr. Pym and the Black Panther later rebuilt him, but he no longer possessed human emotions, including the ability to love. His relationship with Wanda disintegrated and rapidly ended in divorce.

The Scarlet Witch recently suffered yet another severe mental breakdown and launched a terrifying attack on her fellow Avengers that resulted in the destruction of the Avengers mansion and a number of tragic deaths. She later used her powers to warp reality and permanently remove the mutant gene and powers from most of the mutants on earth, including herself.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
* Avengers: The Yesterday Quest (tpb)
  The Scarlet Witch learns her true origins.
* The Vision and Scarlet Witch 11-12
  The Vision and Scarlet Witch leave the Avengers and move to the suburbs.
* Avengers: Avengers Disassembled (tpb)
  The Scarlet Witch goes mad and attacks the Avengers, killing many of her former comrades.
* House Of M (tpb)
  The Scarlet Witch restructures reality and eliminates most of the mutants on Earth.
**Schemer**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man #83 (April 1970)

**REAL NAME** Richard Fisk

**OCCUPATION** Criminal mastermind

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 2 in  
**WEIGHT** 175 lbs  
**EYES** Blue  

**HAIR** Reddish blond  
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Had the normal strength of a man who engages in regular moderate exercise; was a cunning criminal strategist.

Richard Fisk was devoted to his father Wilson—until he learned that Wilson Fisk was the Kingpin. Psychologically shattered, Richard secretly became a criminal leader himself, the Schemer, to take revenge on his father. As the Schemer, Richard disguised himself with a face mask that made him look like much older. Subsequently Richard became head of a Las Vegas branch of HYDRA. Still later, Richard took on two new mask identities, the original Rose and the Blood Rose. Ultimately Richard was shot dead by his own mother, Vanessa.

**Scourge**

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE

**Scratch, Nicholas**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four #185 (August 1977)

**REAL NAME** Nicholas Scratch

**OCCUPATION** Warlock

**BASE** New Salem, Colorado

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 3 in

**WEIGHT** 166 lbs  
**EYES** Blue  
**HAIR** Black with white streaks

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Nicholas Scratch possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of magical incantations and lore and a wide array of sorcerous abilities.

The son of Agatha Harkness, the witch-woman who became governess to Franklin Richards, Nicholas Scratch grew up to be leader of the witches of New Salem. Scratch convinced his followers that Agatha had betrayed their existence to the outside world, and that she must be executed for this act of treason. When Agatha and Franklin were abducted, the FANTASTIC FOUR came to the rescue. Scratch and his most devoted followers, Salem's Seven, vainly sought revenge on the Fantastic Four and Agatha. He is now a servant of the demon Dormammu.

**Scorpion**

Dr. Farley Stillwell had developed a method of giving animals the attributes of other creatures. When newspaper editor J. Jonah Jameson found out, he asked Stillwell to test it out on a human guinea pig, a private investigator named Mac Gargan. Stillwell's amazing procedure gave Gargan the strength and agility of a scorpion. Stillwell also provided him with a specially designed mechanical tail.

Nothing comes without a price and the cost to Gargan—now calling himself the Scorpion—was the loss of his sanity. Contracted to put an end to SPIDER-MAN, it was only by his wits that the walkcrawler defeated the hugely powerful, and vengeful Scorpion. Since then, Scorpion has become an assassin-for-hire, his intermittent attempts to defeat Spider-Man being repeatedly foiled.

In recent times, Scorpion became the latest Super Villain to merge with the Venom symbiote. Although Scorpion has dispensed with his tail, this development has made him more deadly than ever.

The Scorpion's steel-mesh costume is bulletproof. Each hand is equipped with pincers.
Scourge

The original Scourge was the brother of the criminal known as the Enforcer. Outraged by his brother's criminal behavior, Scourge got a gun, disguised himself as an old woman, and gunned down the Enforcer. He then became obsessed with traveling the country ruthlessly exterminating criminals after criminals, all while disguised. Each time he shot someone, Scourge shouted "Justice is served!"

The original Scourge was captured by Captain America, but before Cap could turn him over to the authorities, Scourge was shot by an unseen assailant, who also shouted "Justice is served!" who then became the new Scourge. Over the years, each Scourge has been assassinated by a following Scourge to keep him from talking.

Scourges relied on the resources of a private detective named Domino, who kept track of Super Villains around the world. Over the years, the various Scourges killed countless villains including Miracle Man, the Wraith, Jaguar, Hammer, and Avril, the Human Fly, and the Cheetah.

Researchers at the Life Foundation laboratories tried to replicate the process that had given rise to Carnage by bonding five workers with alien symbiotes. One of the subjects, a mentally fragile woman named Donna, found that the process drove her further into madness. The five test subjects sought out Venom for help in controlling their symbiotes, but Donna killed her fellow hybrids.

Sometimes adopting the code name Scram, she has struggled to adjust to her new life and become a more sympathetic figure.

Scourge

FACTFILE

ANGEL (Tom Halloway)
Financed Scourges of the Underworld

SCOURGE I
Gunned down the Enforcer, started killing criminals around the U.S.

SCOURGE II
Killed Scourge I to keep him from talking

SCOURGE III
Leaving the group, he became an agent of the Red Skull.

SCOURGE IV
Killed Scourge II, then went after Priscilla Lyons who left the group

SCOURGE V (Priscilla Lyons)
Left Scourges, incurring their wrath

CAPRICE (Scourge VI)
Master of disguise, espionage, brainwashing, interrogation

BLOODSTAIN (Scourge VII)
Master of armed and unarmed combat

DOMINO (Darsiane)
Encyclopedic knowledge of every costumed hero, villain, organization

FIRST APPEARANCE
Iron Man #154
(May 1969)

Scream

FIRST APPEARANCE
Venom: Lethal Protector #4 (May 1993)

REAL NAME
Donna (full name unrevealed)

OCCUPATION
Villain
BASE
Mobile

HEIGHT 5 ft 11 in
WEIGHT
130 lbs
EYES
White
HAIR
Red

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES
Symbiote provides enhanced strength, speed, and stamina. Scream's prehensile hair can shape itself into deadly weapons.

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FIRST APPEARANCE
Iron Man #154
(May 1969)
Sentinels
Enormously powerful, mutant-hunting robots

FACTFILE
MARK V MODEL
HEIGHT 20 ft
WEIGHT (including fuel) 7,400 lbs
MAX. GROSS 2,000 lbs
FLIGHT RADIUS 400 miles
MAX. LEVEL AIRSPEED (sea level) 800 mph
SERVICE CEILING 10,000 ft
MAX. RATE OF CLIMB 450 ft per second

FIRST APPEARANCE
X-Men #14
(November 1965)

The Sentinels were created by Dr. Bolivar Trask to combat superhuman mutants. Trask had concluded that a superhuman mutant race was evolving that would conquer the rest of humanity. He organized the team of scientists and engineers who built the first Mark 1 models.

TAKING OVER
However, despite being programmed by Trask to protect humanity, the Sentinels decided to take control of the human race. They kidnapped Trask, and the lead Sentinel, the Master Mold, ordered him to create a Sentinel army to conquer the planet. Professor X's mutant team the X-Men battled the Sentinels and, realizing that not all mutants were threats to humanity, Trask lost his life destroying the Master Mold and other Sentinels.

Trask's son, Larry, blamed mutants for his father's death and oversaw the creation of the Mark II Sentinels. However, once the Sentinels recognized that Trask was a mutant himself, they turned against him.

The government then seized the Sentinel designs, and Dr. Steven Lang built the Mark III Sentinels; but both he and they were destroyed battling the X-Men.

After mutant terrorists tried to assassinate Senator Robert Kelly, the President initiated "Project: Widewake." Shaw Industries constructed Sentinels to combat mutant threats to national security.

Xavier's evil twin, Cassandra Nova, used Mega-Sentinels to devastate Genosha, a nation with a large mutant population. She also devised microscopic "nano-Sentinels," which attacked the bloodstream of various mutants.

Recently, the government created Sentinel Squad One, headed by Dr. Valerie Cooper and James Rhodes (War Machine) for defense against superhuman threats.

The Sentinel Base: A created syringe known as Prime Sentinels that could pass as ordinary humans.

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- X-Men Vol. 1 #14-16
  Dr. Bolivar Trask creates the original Sentinel robots. He introduces them on live TV—and they promptly capture him.
- X-Men Vol. 1 #85-89
  Larry Trask's Mark II Sentinels capture and imprison mutants.
- Uncanny X-Men #141-142
  The Sentinels rule North America in the "Days of Future Past" storyline set in an alternate reality.
Robert Reynolds was once the great Superhero known as Sentry, but all memory of his exploits were erased from the world—and from his own mind. Then, one night, memories began seeping back into his mind from his library. Reynolds drank the serum it contained. A strange energy surged through his body, and he was transformed once again into the Superhero Sentry. He recalled that he had a mortal enemy called the Void and sensed that the Void was about to become a threat once again. Enlisting the help of heroes who had fought alongside him in the past, including Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four, the Sentry set out to battle with the Void.

**SERSI**

A member of the Eternals, Sersi inspired the legend of Circe in Homer's Odyssey, and mixed with other historical characters, such as Merlin and King Arthur Pendragon. She has a reputation as a flirt, but she has proven her value during Eternals' struggles against the Deviants. At Captain America's request, Sersi joined the Avengers, but under the influence of Proctor, wound up battling her teammates. Seeking penance, she departed for an alternate reality with her lover the Black Knight. The two fought Loki for control of the Infinity Gems, and Sersi became a member of Heroes for Hire upon her return to mainstream Earth.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Sersi

**OCCUPATION**
Adventurer

**BASE**
New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 0 in

**WEIGHT** 140 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Black

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Strange Tales Vol. 1 #108 (June 1963)

Sersi has vast, advanced transmutational powers.

**FACTFILE**

**KEY MEMBERS**

- **COBRA** (Klaus Voorhees) Super-flexible
- **SIDEWINDER** (Seth Voelker) Interdimensional travel
- **ANAconda** (Blanche Szlitski) Elongates limbs; amphibious
- **ASP** (unrevealed) Energy field; fire venom-bolts
- **BLACK MAMBA** (Tanya Sealy) Veils elements; projects inky clouds of Darkforce
- **BUSHMASTER** Tail crushes his enemies
- **COTTONMOUTH** (Quincy Vickar) Bionic jaws
- **RATTLER** (Gustav Krueger) Bionic tail generates sonic shockwaves

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Captain America #310 (October 1985)

Though it rarely mixes business with romance, the Serpent Society has often made an exception in Captain America's case.

**Serpent Society**

Formerly based in an abandoned mental asylum in New York State, now in a secret location, the Serpent Society is a criminal organization whose members base their costumed identities on snakes. Originally founded by Sidewinder, the Society treats crime like a business. The leader assigns specific members to each job and supplies them with a detailed plan. A percentage of the fee paid for each job is allocated to administration costs, overhead and legal fees. Members can take outside jobs, but they must pay the Society a set percentage for each job. In exchange for these fees, each member receives group health insurance, free legal representation and a place to reside. Membership of the Society has changed over time.

**Serpent Society**

1. Death Adder
2. Rattlesnake
3. Cottonmouth
4. Diamondback
**Shadow King**

Amahl Farouk was the first evil mutant ever encountered by Charles Xavier (Professor X), the man who would one day form the X-Men. Farouk was a criminal lord in Cairo, Egypt, who used his mutant gifts of telepathy and telekinesis to carve out an underworld empire for himself. But Xavier, believing that mutants had a duty to use their powers for good rather than evil, opposed Farouk, and the two engaged in a psychic duel. The battle ended with Farouk being defeated and his human body slain. Despite the loss of his physical form, Farouk survived on the astral plane and he became the Shadow King, a malevolent possessing spirit who was drawn to pain and suffering. As well as having powers of telepathy and telekinesis, the Shadow King is able to inhabit the psyches of others, bending them to his will and using them as his puppets. A constant danger to the X-Men, whom he hates because of their association with Xavier, the Shadow King has been defeated, but never destroyed, and he remains an omnipresent threat to the realization of Xavier's dream of peaceful coexistence between mutants and normal humans.

**Shalla-Bal**

Shalla-Bal is a member of an alien race, the Zenn-Larians. She was separated from her lover, Norrin Radd, after he made a bargain with the world-eater Galactus, who had threatened to destroy Zenn-La. Radd offered to become the Silver Surfer and serve Galactus if he would spare Zenn-La, and Galactus agreed. For years the Silver Surfer traveled the universe, scouting out uninhabited planets for Galactus to consume. When the Surfer eventually decided to abandon Galactus and remain on Earth, Shalla-Bal became caught up in his struggle with Mephisto.

Then Galactus returned to consume Zenn-La in revenge for the Surfer's betrayal. After the Surfer endowed Shalla-Bal with the power to restore life to Zenn-La, she was declared Empress, and she remains to this day.
Shaman

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #120 (April, 1979)

Real Name: Michael Twoyoungmen

Occupation: Medicine man, Super-hero, BASE: Mobile

Height: 5 ft 10 in, Weight: 175 lbs, Eyes: Brown, Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Vast magical powers. Able to fire energy bolts, change his appearance, control the elements, and teleport. Powers are focused through the use of his medicine pouch.

Michael Twoyoungmen was a Canadian surgeon who embraced his heritage as a Native American medicine man after his wife's death from cancer. The spirit of his grandfather trained him in the use of magic, and he helped deliver Narya, the daughter of the Northern Goddess.

Twoyoungmen and Narya took the codenames of Shaman and Snowbird and joined the Canadian team of super heroes Alpha Flight. Shaman's daughter Elizabeth is known as Talisman, an identity that was briefly assumed by Shaman himself.

Shanna the She-Devil

First Appearance: Shanna the She-Devil #1 (December, 1972)

Real Name: Shanna O'Hara Plunder

Occupation: Vet and adventurer, BASE: Savage Land

Height: 5 ft 10 in, Weight: 140 lbs, Eyes: Hazel, Hair: Red

Special Powers/Abilities: Trained veterinarian specializing in wild animals; extraordinary gymnast and athlete; superb hunting and foraging skills.

Now living in the Savage Land with her husband and young son, for many years Shanna O'Hara eschewed human contact. The daughter of an American businessman, Shanna was raised in the US and worked in a New York zoo. Furious when a sniper casually killed most of the zoo's big cats, she chose to return the surviving animals to Africa and live with them in the wild. Life was not always easy. Shanna lost her friends and father to criminal organizations and was forced to team up with Daredevil to defeat them. Before finding contentment in a new family.

Shang-Chi

Shang-Chi was born in China, the son of a powerful international criminal named Fu Manchu. Trained in the mental and martial arts from a young age at Fu Manchus's retreat, Shang-Chi was a brilliant pupil but grew up unaware that his father was a ruthless criminal.

When Shang-Chi was nineteen, his father sent him away on a mission of assassination. Believing his father was a good man, the boy assumed that his father's enemies must be evil and so went willingly. But when Shang-Chi's mother revealed to him the truth about his father, Shang-Chi felt betrayed, and vowed to destroy his father and take down his criminal empire. A cat-and-mouse game of hunter and hunted between Shang-Chi and Fu Manchu began. Eventually it was revealed that Shang-Chi had a twin brother, who was his clone.

Shang-Chi is the greatest living master of kung fu. He is also highly skilled in many other martial and physical disciplines. Although he has no superhuman powers, Shang-Chi has defeated superpowered enemies.

Shang-Chi as he appears in the Ultimates series.

Shaper of Worlds

First Appearance: The Incredible Hulk #155 (September, 1972)

Real Name: Unrevealed; perhaps inapplicable

Occupation: Reality manipulator, BASE: The known universe

Height: 5 ft 10 in, Weight: 56 lbs, Eyes: Blue, Hair: None

Special Powers/Abilities: Restructures pockets of reality, and rearranges the molecular structure of objects and living beings. Can teleport himself, and perceive the dreams and imagination of others.

The Shaper of Worlds originated in the Skrull empire as a Cosmic Cube, an object which can alter reality according to the thoughts of whoever holds it. In time the Cosmic Cube developed sentience, and took the form of a Skrull with a metallic truncheon and tractor treads as the lower body. The Shaper wants to use his vast powers to restructure reality, but has little creative imagination. So he seeks out those who can supply dreams and imaginative concepts with which he can work.
Born a hundred years in an alternate future timeline of the extra-dimensional planet Mojoworld, Shatterstar was genetically engineered to serve as a warrior in the arenas. He escaped and joined the rebel Cadre Alliance, which was trying to overthrow the government of Mojoworld. Shatterstar later traveled back in time to Earth and joined with Cable to become a founding member of X-Force. During a battle, Shatterstar was mortally wounded and Longshot transferred his consciousness into the comatose body of a mutant named Benjamin Russell.

Although born poor, Sebastian Shaw’s brilliant mind for business helped him become a millionaire by the age of 20. He became head of Shaw Industries and was invited to join the Hellfire Club, an elite club for the wealthy and powerful. Shaw joined the club’s secret Council of the Chosen, which schemed to achieve world domination. Seizing control of the club and becoming its Black King, he changed its name to the Inner Circle and teamed with fellow mutant Emma Frost, the White Queen in secretly creating mutant-hunting Sentinels.

Later, Ventura accepted the Thing’s offer to join the Fantastic Four. During a mission in space, Ventura was exposed to cosmic rays, which mutated her into a female version of the Thing. She was later restored to her normal human appearance by Doctor Doom. Ventura later mutated into an even more grotesque version of the Thing. Worse, her intellect began to deteriorate. As the She-Thing, she even temporarily joined the Wizard’s Frightful Four and battled her former friends the Fantastic Four.

Whether the She-Thing will ultimately prove to be a hero or villain remains to be seen.
The cousin of Bruce Banner, who would one day become the Hulk, Jennifer Walters pursued her dream of becoming a successful lawyer. Shot by criminals whose boss she was prosecuting, Jennifer received a life-saving blood transfusion from her cousin Bruce. But this infusion of gamma-irradiated blood had an effect on Jennifer’s physiology similar to that experienced by Bruce himself: the repressed part of her personality began to manifest itself as a green-skinned powerhouse: the savage She-Hulk!

**RAMPAGING FREE**

At first Jennifer kept her dual role as the She-Hulk a secret. But over time, she found that she enjoyed being the She-Hulk, who, while definitely an extrovert, was far more controlled than her cousin’s rampaging alter ego. She began to spend more and more time as the She-Hulk, using her gamma-spawned strength to battle villains both alone and in concert with other superhuman champions. Eventually, the She-Hulk was offered membership in the mighty Avengers.

Thereafter, transported to the Battleworld created by the celestial Beyonder alongside her fellow Avengers, She-Hulk fought in the Secret Wars alongside a number of other prominent Super Heroes. Once the conflict was resolved, the Thing announced that he intended to remain on Battleworld, and asked the She-Hulk to take his place in the Fantastic Four, which she did for a time, becoming almost one of the family. During her time with the FF, Jennifer abandoned her identity as Jennifer Walters, remaining in her She-Hulk form full time.

**Legal Troubleshooter**

However, the She-Hulk’s more boisterous personality created problems for her down the line, and she was asked to move out of Avengers Mansion. At this low point in her life, she was recruited by the law offices of Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg and Hollway, a firm specializing in superhuman law—litigation involving the extraordinary. But a condition of Jennifer’s employment was that she pursue her duties in her normal human state, rather than as the She-Hulk.

It is as a litigator for Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg and Hollway that the She-Hulk has truly found her place, using her legal knowledge to try cases involving ghosts, time travelers and extradimensional realms, while at the same time employing her strength and power as the She-Hulk to combat any threats that might arise from those cases.

**ESSENTIAL STORYLINES**

- *Fantastic Four #265*: Replaces the Thing as a member of the Fantastic Four.
- *Avengers Vol. 3 #72-75*: Having lost control of her transformations, She-Hulk is pursued by her fellow Avengers and her cousin, the Hulk.
- *She-Hulk #12*: Joins the superhuman law offices of Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg & Hollway.
SHI'AR
Empire-building alien race

The Shi'ar are an alien species descended from avians, who typically sport feathery hair and sometimes vestigial wings. Unlike the rival Skrull and Kree empires, the Shi'ar Imperium consists of a patchwork of alien species, each absorbed into the empire through treaties or by force. A hereditary Majestor (male) or Majestrix (female) rules the Imperium, overseeing a High Council under the protection of the Elite Corps of the Shi'ar Imperial Guard.

CRUEL RULE
The Shi'ar are aggressive about absorbing other cultures into their empire, though the newcomers seldom receive the same rights as the Shi'ar themselves. Majestrix Lilandra has made strides to reverse this inequality, but under the leadership of Majestor D'Ken, the cruel treatment of alien slaves triggered the formation of the pirates called the Starjammers.

The first contact between the Shi'ar and Earth's heroes occurred when the X-MEN stopped Lilandra's brother D'Ken from exploiting the powerful M'Kraan crystal. Lilandra subsequently became the Majestrix of the Shi'ar Empire, briefly losing her throne to her sister Deathbird until gaining it once more. Lilandra and Professor X of the X-Men enjoyed a romantic relationship for years.

When Skrull undercover agents helped fan the flames of war between the Shi'ar and the Kree, a team of Avengers journeyed to the Shi'ar homeland to negotiate a cessation of hostilities with Majestrix Lilandra. Ultimately, the Avengers could not prevent the detonation of the nega-bomb, a Shi'ar weapon that exterminated more than ninety percent of the Kree population. It later became apparent that the Kree Supreme Intelligence had guided the creation of the nega-bomb, in the hope of jumpstarting Kree evolution. The Shi'ar won the war, and annexed vast swaths of the devastated Kree empire. For a time, Deathbird served as the viceroy of the conquered territories. The mind-controlling villainess Cassandra Nova recently usurped Lilandra's authority, inciting violence between the Shi'ar and the X-Men of Earth until her manipulations became known. DW
THE IMPERIAL GUARD

The Elite Corps of the Shi’ar Imperial Guard, also known as the Superguardian Elite, are the protectors of the Majestor or Majeistra of the Shi’ar Empire. Most members of the Imperial Guard are not Shi’ar—they represent a cross-section of cultures from the multispecies mix that comprises the Shi’ar empire. Typically, each member has a distinct superpower that adds a needed component to the team’s overall power mix.

Their leader, called the protector, is currently the powerful Seronian called Gladiator. The Imperial Guard also has a larger, secondary division known as the Borderers, who are charged with enforcing local laws on member planets.

The Imperial Guard first came into conflict with the inhabitants of Earth when the X-Men followed a space warp and emerged on a desolate planet that housed the rare-storing M’Krann crystal. On the orders of Majestor D’Ken, the Imperial Guard battled the X-Men and D’Ken’s sister Lilandra, though the Guard shifted its allegiance to Lilandra as soon as she assumed the throne. Later, the Imperial Guard fought the X-Men on Earth’s moon, in honor of the rise of the Dark Phoenix.

Throughout the changes in Shi’ar rule, the Imperial Guard has remained loyal to whomever holds the royal office. The Guard clashed with the Starjammers and Excalibur during Deathbird’s time as Majestrix, and welcomed Lilandra back as leader after her return to power.

During the Kree-Shi’ar war, the Imperial Guard helped steal the nega-bands worn by Captain Marvel from the late hero’s tomb, which then went into the construction of the Shi’ar ultimate weapon, the nega-bomb. Following the apparent death of Earth’s greatest heroes fighting Onslaught, Lilandra ordered Gladiator and several other Imperial Guard members to protect Earth, where the team uncovered a cell of undercover Kree agents.

Recently, the telepath Cassandra Nova forced the Imperial Guard into a conflict with the X-Men. Gladiator and other members of the Superguardian Elite attacked the Xavier Institute until Gladiator realized the truth behind Cassandra Nova’s trickery.

When they combine their powers, the Shi’ar Imperial Guard are nearly unstoppable. They are among the most feared combatants in the universe.
**Shocker**

**First Appearance:** The Amazing Spider-Man #46 (March 1967)

**Real Name:** Herman Schultz

**Occupation:** Burglar

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5 ft 9 in

**Weight:** 175 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Wears gauntlets containing “vibro-shock units” that project compressed air blasts creating highly destructive vibrations.

While he was in prison, safecracker Herman Schultz invented a new device for opening safes. It worked by projecting intense vibrations, and he used it to shatter prison walls and escape. Wearing a foam-lined costume to absorb the vibrations, Schultz became the Shocker. After several defeats by Spider-Man, the Shocker briefly joined Klaw’s version of the Masters of Evil. Another criminal, Randall Darby, also once called himself the Shocker. Darby, a mutant who can discharge electricity from his claw-like hands, later changed his name to Paralyzer.

**Shriek**

**First Appearance:** Spider-Man Unlimited #1 (May 1993)

**Real Name:** Frances Louise Barrison

**Occupation:** Patient

**Base:** Ravencrest Institute for the Criminally Insane

**Height:** 6 ft

**Weight:** 170 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Manipulates sound as a destructive force. Hypersensitively generates emotions of fear, hate, or despair in others. Can employ sonic energy to fly.

After being mistreated by her mother for being overweight, Frances Louise Barrison turned to drugs, eventually becoming a dealer. She lost her fragile grip on reality when she was shot in the head by the police and spent a brief period in the dark dimension of the costumed adventurier known as Cloak. Her powers may be the result of her time in that dimension, her injury, some latent mutant gene, or a combination of all three factors. She used her emerging powers to commit crimes and create chaos until she was committed to the Ravencrest Institute for the Criminally Insane. Carnage later freed her and they went on a murder spree until they were captured by a team of heroes led by Spider-Man. Shriek has escaped Ravencrest on at least two other occasions, but is now responding to therapy.

**Shroud**

**First Appearance:** Super-Villain Team-Up #5 (April 1976)

**Real Name:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Crime fighter

**Base:** Los Angeles

**Height:** 6 ft 2 in

**Weight:** 220 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Blonde

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Though blind, has extrasensory perception that allows him to “see” his environment, can summon absolute darkness by opening a portal into another dimension.

After witnessing the murder of his parents by a mugger when he was only ten years old, the Shroud vowed to dedicate his life to fighting crime. He studied law, criminology, and psychology. After college, he traveled to Nepal where he joined a secret cult that trained him in mysticism and the martial arts. After seven years, he was given the “Kiss of Kali” and branded with the imprint of the goddess on his eyes, cheeks, and forehead. The ceremony exchanged his eyesight with a mystical perception. Attempting to destroy crime from within, he pretends to be a criminal, and has even formed a gang he calls the Night Shift.

**Shockwave**

**First Appearance:** Master of Kung Fu #42 (July 1976)

**Real Name:** Lancaster Sneed

**Occupation:** Mercenary, professional criminal

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 11 in

**Weight:** 170 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** His protective armor can generate electric shocks upon contact. Agility, combat skills, and knowledge of explosives were gauzed during his years as an intelligence agent.

As a child, Lancaster Sneed loved to listen to his uncle Sir Denis Nayland Smith tell stories of his battles with crime lord Fu Manchu. Lancaster grew up to become an agent of MI-6 specializing in explosives, but was injured when caught in a blast on his first mission. He had himself rebuilt with metal plates and made a full recovery, but MI-6 no longer required his services. Sneed traveled to Asia and spent some time studying martial arts. On returning to the U.S., he donned a suit of armor which allowed him to generate electricity, and took the name Shockwave. He returned to working as an intelligence agent, this time joining forces with Fu Manchu.

**Silhouette**

**The Daughter of Chord, the mentor of Night Thrasher, Silhouette’s conception was part of a pact enacted by a squad of Vietnam soldiers and the protectors of a secret temple, intended as a mystic sacrifice that would convey great power. Unaware of her parentage, Silhouette and her brother Midnight’s Fire grew up on the streets, a nemesis to the gangs that preyed there. In one foray against the underworld, Silhouette encountered the young Night Thrasher and they began a torrid relationship. But then Silhouette was caught in the crossfire between the police and a street gang, losing the use of her legs. Midnight’s Fire blamed Night Thrasher for this accident, and became his enemy. It was only to prevent her brother from slaying Night Thrasher that Silhouette came into contact with him again, and she thereafter joined his group of superhuman teenagers, the New Warriors. She eventually left both Night Thrasher and the New Warriors, and her current whereabouts are unknown.**
Silver Sable

Synkaria, a small country in the Balkans, had suffered under German occupation during World War II, and after the war ended, Sable's father had no trouble convincing the government to fund his hunt for Nazi war criminals. He formed a group called the Wild Pack that scourcd the world to bring them to justice. Silver was only a child when her mother died in her arms, the victim of a terrorist attack. From that moment she devoted her entire life to preparing for the day she would take over the Wild Pack, training in all forms of martial arts and becoming an expert in the use of many different weapons. Silver began her leadership of the Wild Pack by continuing the fight to bring former Nazis to justice, but as the years passed she expanded the scope of the Wild Pack. She formed Silver Sable International, a company that provided security, apprehended wanted felons and recovered stolen property for foreign governments, major corporations, and private individuals. Her company eventually became Synkaria's primary source of income and any citizen can be drafted into its service. Working with Dominic Fortune, Silver recently learned that there was a traitor in her corporation and has drastically reorganized the Wild Pack. The pendulum swings from good to bad and back again—that is the story of Kenuchio Harada. The mutant son of a Japanese crimelord, Harada mastered bushido before becoming a mercenary whose assignments included work for Hydra, and led him to go into battle against Daredevil, Spider-Man, and Black Widow. After his father's death Harada reformed for a while, even heading Japan's first superteam, Big Hero 6. Then, as things began to go wrong with his life, Harada returned to his old ways, although with less success—fights with Elektra and Kitty Pryde have both resulted in defeat.

Silver Sable

FACTFILE
REAL NAME
Silver Sable

OCCUPATION
CEO, Silver Sable International

BASE
Synkaria

HEIGHT 5 ft 5 in
WEIGHT 125 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Silver

FIRST APPEARANCE
Amazing Spider-Man #265 (June 1985)

Silver Sable is a master of martial arts and a highly skilled markswoman, swordsmen, gymnast and strategist. She sometimes uses a samurai sword (katana), and the chak, a half-moon weighted projectile of her own design.
Over the years the Earth has played host to a variety of extraordinary beings: super-powered heroes and villains, mutants and Norse Gods, but few creatures have been as powerful yet restless as that enigmatic alien entity, the Silver Surfer. A galactic wanderer frustrated by the hedonism and complacency of his own world, the Surfer developed a similarly ambivalent relationship with the Earth, where the altruism of so many was sullied by the wanton malice of a few.

**The Zenn-Laviens**

Born Norrin Radd on the faraway world of Zenn-La, even as a child Norrin was something of an outcast. Wanting for nothing, the Zenn-Laviens were an easy-going people whereas Norrin hungered for a more meaningful, vibrant life. A restless adult, even Norrin’s lifelong companion, Shalla-Bal, could not quench his spirit. It was only when the Zenn-Laviens detected the approach of an alien entity—Galactus, devourer of worlds—that Norrin came into his own.

In exchange for Galactus sparing Zenn-La, Norrin offered to become the entity’s herald—to scour the galaxy for planets’ deeds of life but suitable for Galactus’ needs. To empower Norrin for this role, Galactus plucked from old adolescent fantasy from the young Zenn-Lavien’s mind and transformed him into a silver skinned creature who could travel the galaxy on a silver board. Norrin had become the Silver Surfer.

**Herald of Galactus**

Over time it became increasingly difficult for the Surfer to find appropriate worlds for his master, and so Galactus began to make subtle changes to the Surfer’s mind. The Surfer was made to care less about avoiding sentient life, and countless worlds and peoples were sacrificed. Until that is, he arrived on the planet Earth.

There the Surfer encountered the Fantastic Four and Alicia Masters. Their compassion and lenience reawakened the Surfer’s suppressed emotions and he aligned himself with them. Threatened with the Ultimate Nullifier, a weapon created by Reed Richards (Master Reed) and Galactus, the Surfer was drawn off, but not before punishing the Silver Surfer for his machiavellian Galectus wrapped a field around the Earth designed to prevent Galactus from ever leaving it. In the years that followed, Galactus returned to Earth several times, wishing to reclaim the Surfer as his herald. Each time the Fantastic Four helped drive him away.

**Freedom Regained**

Essentially exiled to the Earth, the Surfer never stopped yearning to travel amongst the stars once more. With Reed Richards’ help he found a way of doing this, but his wanderings were now without purpose. Returning to Zenn-La, the Surfer discovered that although his people still survived, Galactus had returned and ravaged the planet. The Surfer’s visit to Zenn-La was curtailed when he learnt that his old lover, Shalla-Bal, had been kidnapped by the demon Mephisto—a creature bent on corrupting the Surfer’s soul. Arriving back on Earth, the Surfer freed Shalla-Bal and provided her with some of his own cosmic power—sufficient to heal her planet.

**Romance**

In the following years, the Surfer remained an itinerant wanderer, forever searching for fulfillment but never quite finding it. Although he embarked on a series of relationships, there were generally short-lived. A romance with Mantis, ended in tragedy following a battle with the Eternals of the Universe, while the Surfer’s relationship with Nova, another herald of Galactus, was similarly thwarted.

It was the Surfer’s friendship with Alicia Masters that seemed to have the most potential. Striking up a romance, for a time she paired traveled the galaxy together, but eventually Alicia wanted to settle down back on Earth, whereas the Surfer wished to continue his nomadic existence. It was this that made him a galactic wanderer, returning to Earth at regular intervals but never forming of the long-term prospects. A.D.
Silvermane

A leader of the Maggia crime syndicate, the elderly Silvermane ordered the theft of an ancient tablet bearing a formula for a youth serum. He forced Dr. Curt Connors to create the serum and drink it. As a horrified Spider-Man watched, Silvermane grew younger and younger until he seemingly disappeared completely.

Fortunately the serum had a boomerang effect, and Silvermane rapidly aged back into his forties. Silvermane briefly took over a New York-based splinter group of HYDRA and then vainly attempted to unite New York City's organized crime under his leadership. He fell from a great height while fighting the third Green Goblin and Spider-Man. His injuries undid the effects of the youth serum, causing him to revert to old age. Nearly slain by the vigilante Dagger, Silvermane had his brain, face and vital organs transplanted into a robotic body. As a cyborg, Silvermane continues to be a power in the world of organized crime. Among his enemies are Spider-Man, Daredevil, Cloak and Dagger, the Punisher, and the Kingpin.

Silvermane is the father of Joseph Manfredi, the criminal Blackwing.

Sinister Six

After suffering three humiliating defeats by Spider-Man, Doctor Octopus decided to adopt a new tactic. He contacted five of the Web-Swinger's greatest enemies and formed a team of Super-Villains that had only one purpose: to destroy Spider-Man. Realizing that this unwanted bunch was incapable of working together for long, Doctor Octopus designed battleplans that utilized each member's powers and appealed to each villain's lust for glory. He decided that each member of the Six would take on Spider-Man in turn, remorselessly wearing him down until he was finally killed.

Since failing to kill the Wall-Crawler on numerous occasions, the team has been known to expand its membership from six to seven or even twelve. Replacement members have included Hobgoblin, Venom, Beetle (see MACH-4), Scorpia (a female with similar powers to the Scorpion), Shocker, Sandman and Mysterio. TD

Unknown to the Sinister Six, Spider-Man had temporarily lost his spider-powers when he first confronted them.
Sinister Syndicate

First Appearance: Amazing Spider-Man #280 (Sept. 1986)

Base: New York City

Members and Powers:
- Rhino: Nearly invulnerable with superhuman strength [1].
- Beetle: Armored, multi-weaponed battle-suit [2].
- Speed Demon: Able to run at superhuman speeds [3].
- Boomerang: An expert with his specially equipped boomerangs [4].
- Hydro-Man: Can convert all or part of body into water [5].
- Shocker: Gauntlets generate highly destructive vibrations [6].

Syrny

First Appearance: Spider-Woman #37 (April 1981)

Real Name: Theresa Rourke (Cassidy)

Occupation: Private investigator

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 7 in

Weight: 130 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blonde

Special Powers/Abilities: Combination of psionic ability and sonic waves produced by her voice can shatter steel, enable flight, and generate force blasts.

Sisters of Sin

First Appearance: Crack Comics #1 (May 1940)

Base: Mobile

Members and Powers:
- Raunch (formerly Sister Pleasure): Master hypnotist [1].
- Sash (formerly Sister Agony): Horn lacerating metal claw [3].
- Torso (formerly Sister Death): Enhanced strength [4].
- Sin (formerly Mother Superior): Ability to fire psionic bolts [5].
- Mother Night (formerly Supreme): Ability to cloud minds.

Six Pack

First Appearance: Cable Vol 1 #1 (October 1992)

Base: Mobile

Members and Powers:
- Domino: Can influence the laws of probability [1].
- G. W. Bridge: Skilled contraband and weapons expert [2].
- Anaconda: Can stretch limbs and use them to crush enemies [3].
- Solo: Able to teleport himself and weapons [4].
- Hammer: Weapons designer and technician [5].
- Constrictor: Has electrically powered cables mounted on wrists [6].

Sisters of Sin

First Appearance: X-Factor #7 (August 1986)

Real Name: Sally Elenova

Occupation: Adventurer

Base: Mobile

Height: 5 ft 6 in

Weight: 115 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blonde

Special Powers/Abilities: Skids possesses a protective, frictionless force field which shields her from harm, and which she can extend to envelop others.

Skids

The Sisters of Sin are the brainchildren of the Red Skull, created to spread his ideology of hate. Syntha Schmidt, the Red Skull's daughter, took the name Mother Superior after receiving an artificial boost into adulthood. Four orphan girls received similar rapid-aging treatments, and as the Sisters of Sin they battled Captain America and Nomad. After the Sisters had become teenagers again, the villain Suprema took control as Mother Night. The Sisters took new names, and founded Camp Rage to incite runaways to violent rebellion. DW

Skids

Skids lived among the sewer-dwelling Morlocks until the Mutant Massacre by the Marauders caused her to flee for her life. Rescued by X-Factor, for a time she became a trainee with that team, and fought with their junior members, the X-Terminators. Brainwashed into serving with the Mutant Liberation Front, Skids eventually regained her freedom after her boyfriend Rusty Collins was killed battling Holocaust, and she herself was injured. She has surfaced occasionally, but her current whereabouts are unknown. TB
THE KREE WAR

After forging an interstellar empire, the Skrulls encountered the primitive Kree, who murdered the Skrull contact team and stole their starship technology. A Kree armada soon attacked the Skrulls, triggering the eon-long Kree-Skrull War. Skrull scientists later developed the first Cosmic Cube, which gained sentience and decimated the Kree empire, eventually evolving into the Shaper of Worlds. The Skrulls bounced back from this tragedy, establishing an Imperial throne world on Tarnax IV, from which the supreme emperor could oversee the worlds of the Andromeda Galaxy and receive tribute from conquered vassals.

SECRET AGENTS

In the modern era, the Skrulls became aware of the threat posed by Earth's superhumans. They placed agents on Earth, but these were defeated by the Fantastic Four. In response, the Skrull emperor Dorrick VII created the Super-Skrull, who possessed the powers of each member of the Fantastic Four. The Skrulls also engineered an elite class of Warskrulls, agents that could duplicate the powers of other beings when they assumed those beings' shapes. Notable Skrull undercover agents have included Lyja the Lasergirl.

CIVIL WAR

After Galactus devoured the throne world of Tarnax IV, the Skrull empire erupted in civil war. The mad Skrull Zabryk detonated a hyper-wave bomb that removed the Skrulls' ability from all Skrulls, freezing them in whatever shape they had assumed. The Super-Skrull escaped the bomb's effects, and restored the species' shapeshifting powers through an alliance with the Silver Surfer and Skrull empress S'Yll. The Skrulls have since joined the Intergalactic Council, an organization composed of representatives from many alien cultures.
**Skyhawk**
FIRST APPEARANCE Thor #395 (September 1988)
REAL NAME Winston Manchester
OCCUPATION Entrepreneur
BASE New York City
HEIGHT (as Skyhawk) 6 ft 3 in
WEIGHT as Skyhawk 210 lbs
EYES Blue
HAIR Brown

SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH: As Skyhawk, possesses superhuman strength and the ability to fly; formerly a high-achiever working 20 hours a day, he now leaves the office at 5 o'clock.

Businessman Manchester collapsed in the office and was taken to the same hospital where the god Hogun (see *Gods of Asgard*) was staying. Manchester opened his eyes to find that he was with two other patients. They had all attracted the attention of Seth, god of death (see *Gods of Hel`). Claiming that Hogun was a threat to the Earth, Seth branded their left palms with the sign of Aton, the glowing disc of the sun, and gave them all superhuman powers. Manchester and his teammates learned that Seth was the real menace and they helped Thor defeat him. TD

**Sloan, Fred**
FIRST APPEARANCE Incredible Hulk #231 (January 1979)
REAL NAME Frederick Sloan
OCCUPATION Author
BASE Unrevealed
HEIGHT/WEIGHT Unrevealed
EYES Blue
HAIR Blond

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Fred Sloan possesses no superhuman powers save a peculiarly positive outlook on life; possesses the strength and endurance of an average man.

Fred Sloan first encountered the incredible Hulk while he was being thrown bodily out of a bar. The childlike Hulk interceded on the drifter's behalf, and the two became fast friends. Sloan helped the Hulk to elude the authorities, and the two traveled together for a time.

Eventually they encountered Woodgod and his band of simlar human-animal hybrids known as the Changelings, and Sloan decided to remain with them.

In time, he wrote a book, entitled *Hulk Encounter: A Survivor's Story*, which painted the green behemoth in an unusually positive light. TB

Professor Spencer Smythe's life was marked by an irrational hatred for Spider-Man. He used his engineering expertise to construct the Spider-Slayer, a Spider-Man hunting robot, and persuaded *Daily Bugle* publisher J. Jonah Jameson to fund it. He followed up with several improved generations of Spider-Slayers, but the radiation used in their construction gradually poisoned him. He died during a revenge plot hatched against both Spider-Man and Jameson, leaving his son Alistair (see Smythe, Alistair) to carry on his work. DW

**Smythe, Alistair**
FIRST APPEARANCE Amazing Spider-Man Annual #19 (1985)
REAL NAME Alistair Smythe
OCCUPATION Criminal
BASE New York City
HEIGHT 6 ft
WEIGHT 220 lbs
EYES Brown
HAIR Brown

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Ultimate Spider-Slayer armature provides enhanced strength, and features built-in cutting blades and web shooters.

Alistair Smythe grew up hating Spider-Man. His father, Professor Spencer Smythe, built the first robotic Spider-Slayer units, and Alistair continued the Spider-Slayer legacy after his father's death.

Following a stint in the employ of the Kingpin, Alistair constructed ever more deadly Spider-Slayers until an accident left him in a wheelchair. In response, he fashioned a cyborg armature for himself and emerged as the Ultimate Spider-Slayer. Alistair tried to coerce J. Jonah Jameson into helping him, but Jameson knocked him out with a baseball bat. DW

**Smythe, Professor**
FIRST APPEARANCE Amazing Spider-Man #1 #25 (June 1965)
REAL NAME Spencer Smythe
OCCUPATION Professor, criminal inventor
BASE New York City
HEIGHT 5 ft 10 in
WEIGHT 175 lbs
EYES Gray
HAIR Gray

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Genius-level expertise in engineering and robotics.

**Snow Queen**
FIRST APPEARANCE Wolverine Vol. 2 #42 (May 1995)
REAL NAME Unrevealed
OCCUPATION Assassin
BASE Unrevealed
HEIGHT/WEIGHT Unknown
EYES Blue
HAIR Blond

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Generates mental state that confuses minds of others; trained in the use of various types of weapons and explosives.

The only known report of the mutant assassin known as Snow Queen relates to a short visit to 1930s Madripoor, where she encountered Wolverine. Employed to kill a harman in the town with a suitcase of explosives, her plan went wrong when a street urchin stole the case. When Wolverine attempted to intervene, the Snow Queen overwhelmed him with her mental powers. It is thought that she died minutes later when the recovered suitcase detonated prematurely. AD

**Slater, Jink**
FIRST APPEARANCE The Incredible Hulk Vol. 3 #38 (March 2002)
REAL NAME Jink Slater
OCCUPATION Professionals assassin
BASE Mobile
HEIGHT/WEIGHT Unrevealed
EYES Brown
HAIR Black

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Excellent marksman; expert with guns and knives; formidable hand-to-hand combatant; above average in strength and endurance; ruthless in pursuit of his quarry.

Jink Slater was hired by unidentified parties to capture the Hulk. Despite his objections, his employers ordered Slater to work with a partner, Sandra Verdugo, on the assignment. Eventually, Slater and Verdugo found the Hulk in his human identity of Bruce Banner in a diner. Their attempt to capture him was thwarted by the arrival of Doc Samson. Not trusting his partner, Slater shot Verdugo in the head and escaped. Subsequently, Slater found Banner and Verdugo together in a cabin. Slater shot Verdugo in the shoulder. Verdugo retaliated by setting off explosives that killed Slater. PS

**Snarks** see next page

**Snow Queen**
Snarks

A malevolent, warlike, reptilian race, the Zn'rx or "Snarks" are based on a planet in the Milky Way galaxy known on Earth as Snarkworld. The Snarks first came to notice when their ages-long conflict with the humanoid Kymellians spilled over to Earth.

The Queen Mother, Maraud, sent raiding parties to Earth in order to learn the secrets of a new scientific breakthrough discovered by Dr. James Power, and use it as a weapon against their ancient foes. Sent by his people to prevent this from happening, Kymellian champion Aelfyre Whiteman was slain by the Snarks, but not before he passed on his abilities to Dr. Powers' four children. These children, now known as the Power Pack, defeated the Snark menace. Thereafter, the Snarks became obsessed with taking Whiteman's powers for themselves, and repeatedly staged attacks on the Power Pack.

Although convinced of their own importance, the Snarks remain only a minor player on the galactic stage.

Snowbird

See opposite page

Solarr

First Appearance: Captain America #160 (April 1973)

Real Name: Silas King

Occupation: Criminal

Base: New York City; Project Pegasus complex

Height: 6' 8" Weight: 210 lbs

Eyes: Brown Hair: Blond

Special Powers/Abilities: He can absorb, store, and control solar energy, and discharge this energy in the form of powerful heat blasts fired from his hands.

Aprils Summer

First Appearance: Incredible Hulk #208 (February 1977)

Real Name: April Summers

Occupation: Model, actress, apartment superintendent

Base: New York City

Height: 5' 6" Weight: 125 lbs

Eyes: Blue Hair: Blonde

Special Powers/Abilities: Possesses the strength, speed and reflexes of an average female who regularly engages in moderate exercise. Extremely persuasive.

Snowbird

See opposite page

Solarr

First Appearance: Captain America #160 (April 1973)

Real Name: Silas King

Occupation: Criminal

Base: New York City; Project Pegasus complex

Height: 6' 8" Weight: 210 lbs

Eyes: Brown Hair: Blond

Special Powers/Abilities: He can absorb, store, and control solar energy, and discharge this energy in the form of powerful heat blasts fired from his hands.

An often-unemployed model and actress, Summers also supported herself by working as the superintendent of the apartment building where she lived. The job provided her with free rent and a small weekly salary. She once rented a room to Dr. Bruce Banner, completely unaware of the fact that he was secretly the Hulk, and she later helped him get a temporary job at a construction site. Though she was attracted to Bruce at first, her interest quickly waned as he began to act more and more mysteriously. She eventually learned his secret. After asking Bruce to leave, Summers gave the apartment to his friend Jim Wilson.
SNOWBIRD

Nelvanna, goddess of the Northern Lights, wished to have a child that was half human, half god, a child that could defend humanity from the mystical Great Beasts. She mated with a human named Richard Easton, and the Native American sorcerer Michael Twyyoungmen raised the infant, named Narya. Narya grew to adulthood within a few years, and James Macdonald Hudson invited her and Twyyoungmen to join ALPHA FLIGHT, a team of superhuman operatives he was organizing for the government.

Narya took the name Snowbird, and took the cover identity of Anne McKenzie, an officer in the Canadian Mounties.

Another Alpha Flight member, Walter Langkowski, could transform into a legendary monster called a Sasquatch. Sasquatch fell under the mental control of Tanaraq, one of the Great Beasts. To stop Tanaraq, Snowbird slew Sasquatch's physical body.

Anne McKenzie married a fellow officer in the RCMP, Doug Thompson, and they had a son. Subsequently, a menace called Pestilence took mental possession of Snowbird. Hudson's wife Heather defeated Pestilence by killing Narya's physical form. Langkowski's spirit took over Narya's resurrected body, becoming the new Sasquatch. Snowbird's spirit later gained a new body and returned to Alpha Flight.

Daimon Hellstrom is the son of a demon father named Satan and a human mother. Sent to an orphanage after his mother's breakdown, Daimon returned home and discovered her diary, from which he learned the truth about his father. Satan brought Daimon to the demon's netherworld domain, where, using the name Son of Satan, Daimon vowed to battle his father. As Son of Satan he joined the DEFENDERS and eventually defeated his father.
**FACTFILE**

**KEY MEMBERS**
- **GENERAL CHEN**
- **DAN DUNN**
  - Co-leader, talk-show host, white right-winger.
- **MONTAGUE HALE**
  - Co-leader and black, left-winger.
- **J.C. PENNSWORTH**
  - Head of Richmond Enterprises; sponsor of Sons of the Serpent
- **HATE-MONGER**
  - Foments hatred and anger.
- **RUSSELL DABIA**
  - Mystico powers.
- **SKINHEAD**
  - Superhuman neo-Nazi.
- **BASE**
  - California

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
- Avengers Vol. 1 #32 (September 1969)

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**Sons of the Serpent**

"As the first serpent drove Adam and Eve from Eden, so shall we drive all foreigners from this land." This is the mantra of the Sons of the Serpent—an organization fueled by hatred and sponsored by a few wealthy businessmen. Targeting non-whites, immigrants, and the infirm, the Sons of the Serpent is dedicated to making the US a citadel of white racial supremacy.

During their first bid for power, they took Captain America hostage to try to force the Avengers into publicly supporting their evil cause. When this failed, the Sons developed further plots aimed at dividing America and black against white, one of which actually culminated in a mind-controlled Captain America fighting against his own partner, the Falcon. After repeated knock-backs, their plans have become increasingly desperate. They have even resorted to crude mysticism, perhaps a sign of their waning influence.

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**FACTFILE**

**NOTABLE MEMBERS**
- **CRIMSON DYNAMO**
  - In armor, has superhuman strength, durability and can fly.
- **URSA MAJOR**
  - Transforms into a large bear; retains his intelligence while in bear form.
- **VANGUARD**
  - Forcefield repels virtually all electromagnetically and kinetic energy. By crossing his hammer and sickle in front of his body, he can redirect energy repelled by his natural force field.
- **DARKSTAR**
  - Manipulates extradimensional energy called the Darkforce.
- **TITANIUM MAN (Gremlin)**
  - Armor provides superhuman strength, durability; flight; fired force blasts from hands.

**BASE**
- The former Soviet Union, now Russia

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
- Incredible Hulk #258 (April 1961)

**Soviet Super Soldiers**

Created to be the Soviet Union's answer to the Avengers, the Soviet Super-Soldiers functioned as that nation's defenders through much of the latter part of the Cold War. But eventually, questioning some of the orders given to them by the State, they rebelled, and began to operate independently. The Russian government later sent their replacement team, the Supreme Soviets, to reclaim the members of the Soviet Super Soldiers and bring them back into line—an attempt that met with failure.

Thereafter, with the fall of communism and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the surviving members of both the Soviet Super Soldiers and the Supreme Soviet joined forces with other new heroes to become first the People's Protectorate, then the Winter Guard, still dedicated to using their great powers to defend their homeland, no matter who ruled it. TB
**Southern, Candy**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Men #5 (April 1967)

**REAL NAME** Candace Southern

**OCCUPATION** CEO Southern Industries

**BASE** New York City, Colorado Rocky Mountains

**HEIGHT** Unknown

**WEIGHT** Unknown

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Normal human strength of a woman who engaged in regular exercise. Had great leadership abilities.

Candace "Candy" Southern began dating Warren Worthington III when they were teenagers. Southern discovered that Worthington was the Angel, a member of X-Men, when his uncle, the original Dazzler, abducted her. Southern and Worthington later shared a home in the Rocky Mountains, which became the Defenders' headquarters. Southern was the team's business manager and government liaison. She was killed by Worthington's enemy, Cameron Hodge. Southern's mind was assimilated into the group consciousness of the techno-organic Phalanx. She sacrificed herself to destroy Hodge. **PD**

**Space Phantom**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Avengers #2 (November 1963)

**REAL NAME** Unknown

**OCCUPATION** Agent of Immortus

**BASE** Limbo

**HEIGHT** 6 ft

**WEIGHT** 215 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Red

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Space Phantom can change his appearance to look like any living being. If they have superpowers, then he assumes those powers as well. The being whose form is taken is instantly sent to the dimension of Limbo.

Space Phantom is an alien from the planet Phantus, which shifted into the timeless dimension of Limbo when the space-time continuum ruptured. Stranded in Limbo, Space Phantom met Immortus, the master of that realm. Immortus offered to free Space Phantom if he brought him beings to study. When Space Phantom agreed, Immortus gave him the power to assume the form of any being as a way to bring him subjects. When Space Phantom took on the form of another being, it was immediately sent to Limbo for Immortus to examine. On the occasion when Space Phantom tried to send the Thunder God, Thor, into Limbo, he was stopped and sent back into the timeless dimension. **MT**

**Speedfreak**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Incredible Hulk Vol. 2 #388 (December 1991)

**REAL NAME** Leon Shappe

**OCCUPATION** Assassin

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT** Unrevealed

**EYES** Brown and Hair Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Combat suit of titanium steel that is virtually indestructible; rocket-powered boots enable flight and travel at 150 mph; uses two long adamantium blades.

A petty criminal and police informant, Leon Shappe would stoop to anything to feed his drug habit. Stealing a sophisticated combat suit from a local inventor, Shappe decided to use it to become an assassin-for-hire known as Speedfreak. His brain addled by drugs, he became a ruthless killer, reveling in his gruesome work. Hired by a gangster to kill a young man at a charity ball, Shappe was defeated by Hulk. They later clashed again and, dodging Speedfreak's slashing blades, the Hulk threw a car battery at him. Speedfreak cut the battery in two, showering himself with acid. He has not been heard of since. **AD**

**Speed Demon**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #222 (Nov. 1981)

**REAL NAME** James Sanders

**OCCUPATION** Professional criminal

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 175 lbs

**EYES** Black

**HAIR** Gray

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** A super speedster, able to run at up to 160 mph; also possesses superhuman strength.

Chemist James Sanders received the gift of superspeed and superhuman strength from the Grandmaster, who recruited him to serve with the Squadron Sinister. At first Sanders went by the name Whizzer, but changed his identity to Speed Demon to avoid confusion with the 1940s hero Speed Demon, a frequent foe of Spider-Man. Later, Sanders joined the Sinister Syndicate and the team of reformed criminals known as the Thunderbolts. He is a member of the most recent incarnation of the Thunderbolts, having been added to the roster by Baron Von Strucker to work as a spy. **DW**

**Sphinx**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Nova Vol. 3 #46 (October 1998)

**REAL NAME** Anath-Na Mut

**OCCUPATION** Wizard

**BASE** Mobile flying pyramid

**HEIGHT** 7 ft 2 in

**WEIGHT** 450 lbs

**EYES** Red

**HAIR** None

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Enhanced strength, protection from magic, immunity to fatigue, telepathy, energy transference, and the ability to fire concussive beams.

Anath-Na Mut, an ancient Egyptian mutant given further powers by the Caretaker of Arcturus, served in the court of Ramses II until his failure to defeat Moses branded him an exile. He became the immortal Sphinx through the energies of the Ka stone, wandering for five thousand years until absorbing the extraterrestrial Xandar living computer with unwitting help from the hero Nova. Now nearly omnipotent, the Sphinx met defeat at Galactus' hands. Later, Anath-Na Mut returned to life. When he merged with his reincarnated Egyptian lover, Meryet Karim (Sphinx II), the two formed the "Omni-Sphinx." **DW**
Peter Parker's parents died in a plane crash while he was still a child. When they said goodbye at the airport, his parents told him to be a good boy for his Aunt May and Uncle Ben Parker, who later raised him as their own son. Peter always thought of his Uncle Ben as his best friend. Not only did Ben Parker spend quality time with the boy, he had a great sense of humor and many hours telling jokes and pulling gags on Peter who developed a real appreciation for quips and pranks. Peter studied hard in school and became an honor student. Although his teachers praised him, the other students had little use for a know-it-all like Peter Parker. The girl thought him too quiet, and the boys considered him a wimp.

ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN

On the day his life changed forever, Peter went to a science exhibition by himself where he was bitten by a common house spider that had been exposed to a massive dose of radiation. Within a few hours, Peter discovered that he could stick to walls and had gained other amazing arachnid abilities. Attempting to cash in on his new powers, he designed a distinctive costume that concealed his identity, built a pair of web-shooters and went into showbusiness using the Amazing Spider-Man as his stage name. One night, after a performance, he was walking toward an elevator when a security guard asked him to stop a fleeing man. However, Peter had no choice in the matter and quickly captured the criminal. For doing so, the guard expressed his gratitude to Peter and invited him to join the Avengers. Peter was overjoyed and accepted the offer.

EQUIPMENT

Peter Parker is a skilled scientist with a strong background in chemistry and biology. He has access to advanced research facilities and a wide array of scientific equipment.

HUMAN ALLIES

Peter Parker is known for his intelligence, compassion, and determination. He is a member of the Avengers and has close relationships with other superheroes such as Iron Man, Captain America, and Black Widow.

COMMENTS

Peter Parker is a complex character whose journey from a ordinary high school student to a superhero is both inspiring and relatable. His struggles with identity and personal relationships are themes that resonate with many readers. Despite his initial reservations, Peter eventually embraces his superhuman abilities and uses them for the greater good.

THE ALIEN ALLIANCE

Along with other heroes, Spider-Man was transported to a parallel universe by a mischievous alien species called the Galactons. In this world, the superhero universe is vastly different, with a diverse array of alien species and civilizations. Spider-Man must learn to navigate this new reality while defending the Earth from the Galactons' evil plans. This chapter explores the challenges and opportunities that arise when Spider-Man is thrust into a new and unfamiliar setting.
**Spider-Girl**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** What If? #105 (February 1998)

**REAL NAME:** May “Mayday” Parker

**OCCUPATION:** High-school student  
**BASE:** New York City

**HEIGHT:** 5 ft 5 in  
**WEIGHT:** 112 lbs  
**EYES:** Brown  
**HAIR:** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Similar powers of agility, strength, and climbing ability as Spider-Man; uses web-shooters, developed by her father, to travel across the city or trap enemies.

In 2099 A.D. in an alternate future, Miguel O’Hara, head of genetics for the Alchemax corporation, tried to recreate the powers of the original Spider-Man. His superior, Tyler Stone, controlled him by addicting him to a drug called Rapture. Trying to cure himself, O’Hara underwent his own experimental genetic manipulation process. This was sabotaged by a co-worker, causing O’Hara to develop spider-like powers. He became the Spider-Man of 2099, battling both supercriminals and Alchemax. After his secret identity was exposed, he joined the Exiles.

**Spider-Man 2099**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Spider-Man 2099 #1 (November 1992)

**REAL NAME:** Miguel O’Hara

**OCCUPATION:** Genetic engineer, adventurer  
**BASE:** New York City

**HEIGHT:** 5 ft 10 in  
**WEIGHT:** 170 lbs  
**EYES:** Brown  
**HAIR:** Brown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Superhuman strength, speed and agility. Can adhere to surfaces and project webbing from spinmerets in forearm. Retractable talons and fangs that secrete poison.

**Spiral**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Longshot #1 (September 1985)

**REAL NAME:** “Ricochet” Rita

**OCCUPATION:** Warrior sorceress  
**BASE:** Mobile

**HEIGHT:** 5 ft 10 in  
**WEIGHT:** 150 lbs  
**EYES:** Blue  
**HAIR:** Silver

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Enhanced strength; spellcasting abilities allow teleportation between dimensions; excellent swordswoman who can wield six weapons at once.

**Spider-Woman**

See opposite page

**Spirit of ’76**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** The Invaders Vol. 1 #14 (March 1977)

**REAL NAME:** William Nasland

**OCCUPATION:** Costumed adventurer  
**BASE:** Mobile

**HEIGHT:** 6 ft 2 in  
**WEIGHT:** 215 lbs  
**EYES:** Blue  
**HAIR:** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Top level athlete and formidable hand-to-hand combatant; wore a bullet-proof cape; as Captain America he had a steel shield, which was not indestructible.

Inspired by Captain America's World War II exploits, William Nasland became the costumed adventurer, Spirit of '76. After battling Nazi spies in Philadelphia, Nasland moved to Great Britain and joined the Crusaders team of heroes. After his leader was revealed to be a German agent, Nasland continued to contribute to the war effort, partnering Captain America on a mission to Berlin. Following the Cap's apparent demise, Nasland agreed to become a second Captain America but his career as this emblematic figurehead was cut short when he died preventing the assassination of would-be congressman John F. Kennedy.

**Spitfire**

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** The Invaders Vol. 1 #7 (July 1976)

**REAL NAME:** Jacqueline Falsworth Cricken

**OCCUPATION:** Adventurer  
**BASE:** Falsworth Manor, England

**HEIGHT:** 5 ft 4 in  
**WEIGHT:** 110 lbs  
**EYES:** Blue  
**HAIR:** Blonde

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES:** Spitfire can move at superhuman speed. She can run up to 50 miles per hour and sustain that speed for up to four hours.

During World War II, Jacqueline Falsworth was serving in England's Home Guard, a civil defense group. When she was attacked by the Nazi vampire Baron Blood, she was rescued by the original Human Torch, an android who gave her a transfusion of his artificial blood. The combination of the vampire bite and the Human Torch's blood gave Falsworth amazing superhuman speed. She adopted the name Spitfire and teamed up with the Invaders, a group of costumed heroes who battled against the Axis powers during the war. Over time her powers faded, but another transfusion from the Human Torch was able to restore them.

In a possible future, Spider-Man is injured battling the Green Goblin and retires from crime-fighting. His wife (see Parker, Mary Jane) gives birth to their first child and Peter Parker becomes a forensic scientist for the NYPD. His daughter May grows up to play high-school basketball. During a game, she exhibits superhuman agility and soon learns of her father's past. Having inherited his powers, May decides to take up the family business as Spider-Girl. She battles new villains, such as Funny Face, Crazy Eight, Dragon Lord, and Killerwatt. She also confronts the sons and daughters of villains that had once challenged her dad like Electra, Raptor and Norman Osborn.

Spider-Girl has also aided other Super Heroes like the Avengers and the Fantastic Five.
Spider-Woman
Investigator with irresistible powers

Jessica Drew, the original Spider-Woman, was born in the 1920s. Suffering from radiation poisoning, she received an injection of spider serum from her father's research partner—the man who would become the High Evolutionary. Drew remained in a genetic accelerator for decades, finally emerging at the relative age of 14.

Like many superhumans, Jessica Drew gained her powers as a result of forbidden science.

Going Solo
For several years she lived with the animalistic New Men on Mount Wundagore, before falling in with HYDRA and becoming their assassin, Arachne. Nick Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. convinced her to leave HYDRA, and Drew became a Super Hero in Los Angeles. Calling herself Spider-Woman, Drew believed for a time that she was a spider evolved to human form. She later became a bounty hunter, then a private investigator. Spider-Woman saved the life of Giant-Man (Bill Foster) through a blood transfusion, and lost some of her powers in the process. She then lost all her powers when a villainous Spider-Woman named Charlotte Witter stole them. Drew then became a mentor to the youngest Spider-Woman, Martha "Mattie" Franklin. Jessica Drew has since regained her former abilities, serving as an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. and as a member of the New Avengers.

A Second Spider
Julia Carpenter became the second heroic Spider-Woman, making her debut during the Beyonder's Secret Wars. She received her powers from a secret government agency and joined the mutants of Freedom Force, later serving with both the Avengers, West Coast and its spinoff, Force Works. She lost her powers at the hands of Charlotte Witter.

Spider-Sense
The third heroic Spider-Woman was Mattie Franklin, the niece of J. Jonah Jameson. She briefly lost her powers to Charlotte Witter, but later re-absorbed the powers of all the other Spider-Women, including Witter. Franklin was the most inexperienced Spider-Woman, and relied on guidance from Jessica Drew to control her powers.

Charlotte Witter was the only villainous Spider-Woman. Doctor Octopus bestowed her with powers sufficient to kill Spider-Man. Witter also possessed the ability to drain the powers of the other Spider-Women, but lost them when defeated by Mattie Franklin.
Right from his first days as the Iron Man, Tony Stark was dogged by industrial espionage agent, the Spymaster. Initially working with a team of assistants known as the Espionage Elite, Spymaster made repeated efforts to obtain Stark Industries' secrets. Each time he was thwarted, each time he escaped, and each time he sought and found a new employer. Zodiac, SHIELD, and Madame Masque all employed Spymaster - but it was Stark's arch-nemesis Justin Hammer who benefited most. Shortly before Spymaster's death at the hands of rival spy the Ghost, he had obtained some old Iron Man blueprints. The Guardians built from these were to dog Stark's life for months.

When she was a cadet at West Point academy, General "Thunderbolt" Ross was dismissive about Cary St. Lawrence's chances of a successful career in the military. Inspired to work even harder to prove him wrong, Cary graduated third in her class.

Assigned to capture the Hulk, Cary proved to be unusually effective in her dealings with the green fiend. At first she favored brute force during her encounters with the creature, but soon came to realize that there was no point in employing strong-arm tactics; after all, the Hulk only got more powerful the angrier he became. She thus began to use more subtle approaches to subdue the creature. Perhaps all the Hulk has ever needed is a woman's touch...
**Stacy, Gwen**

The daughter of Police captain George Stacy, Gwen first became aware of Peter Parker when the two of them enrolled at Empire State University. Although attracted to Parker, Gwen was initially put off by his frequent moodiness and his apparent cowardliness in the face of danger—little realizing that Parker was secretly the Amazing Spider-Man. Eventually, however, she and Peter became a couple, despite competition from her rival, Mary Jane Watson (see Parker, Mary Jane). But the Parker-Stacy relationship was an uneasy one—after her father was slain during a battle between Spider-Man and Doctor Octopus, Gwen came to hate Spider-Man, a fact that weighed heavily on Peter's mind. Not long after, Gwen was captured by the Green Goblin and hurled from the top of a bridge. When Spider-Man attempted to save her with his webbing, the sudden shock of deceleration snapped Gwen's neck, causing her death.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Gwendolyn Stacy

**OCCUPATION**
Student

**BASE**
Empire State University, New York City

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 7 in

**WEIGHT** 130 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Blonde

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Amazing Spider-Man #31 (December 1965)

Gwen Stacy possessed an aptitude for science, but no special powers of any kind.

**Stane, Obadijah**

Orphaned when his father killed himself in a game of Russian roulette, Obadijah Stane regarded life as a game that he was determined to win. His preferred tactic was to wage psychological warfare against his opponents. Stane became the head of a multinational corporation that produced munitions. Knowing that Anthony Stark, head of Stark International, was a reformed alcoholic, Stane manipulated events to drive Stark back to drinking. Buying up the debts of Stark International, Stane took control of the company, renaming it Stane International, and froze Stark's personal fortune. Stark duly became a drunken derelict.

Eventually Stark stopped drinking and resumed his secret identity as Iron Man. Stane had his scientists create his own armored battlesuit, called the Iron Monger. In the Iron Monger armor, Stane personally battled Iron Man, who defeated him. Removing his helmet, Stane committed suicide by firing a repulsor ray blast at his head.

**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME**
Obadijah Stane

**OCCUPATION**
President and chairman of the board of Stane International

**BASE**
Stane International headquarters, Long Island, New York

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 5 in

**WEIGHT** 300 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Bald

**FIRST APPEARANCE**
Iron Man vol. 1 #15 (February 1973)

**STARFOX**

**REAL NAME**
Eros

**OCCUPATION**
Adventurer

**BASE**
Mobile

**HEIGHT** 6 ft 1 in

**WEIGHT** 100 lbs

**EYES** Blue

**HAIR** Red

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES**
Flight; enhanced strength, telekinesis; ability to generate personal force fields; the power to stimulate the brain's pleasure centers.

Eros is an Eternal, raised on the Saturn moon of Titan by his father, Mentor. His buoyant outlook on life is the opposite of that of his older brother, death-worshiping Thanos. For years Eros wandered the Earth in search of sensual pleasure, but returned to Titan when Thanos and the Super-Skrull attacked it. After the death of Captain Marvel, Eros looked after Marvel's son, Genis-Vell (see Captain Marvel). Eros eventually joined the Avengers as Starfox. With the Avengers and solo, Starfox helped to foil Thanos' efforts to assemble the Infinity Gauntlet and took part in the Kree-Skrull war known as Operation Galactic Storm. Starfox also helped Genis-Vell defeat the alternate-reality being Thanos and restore Genis-Vell's mind after a bout of insanity.
**Starhawk**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Defenders #27 (September 1976)

**REAL NAME** Stakar Vaughn Ogord

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer, BASE Arcturus IV

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT/EYES/HAIR** Unknown

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Starhawk can fly at light speed and can manipulate cosmic energy. He also has the power of precognition, knowing events that will occur before they happen.

Stakar Vaughn Ogord is the child of the superpowered beings Quasar and Kismet. He is half-human and half artificial being.

Born on the planet Vesper, Stakar was kidnapped as an infant and taken to the planet Arcturus IV, where he was adopted by Ogord, a REAPER. Stakar eventually married Ogord's daughter Altea.

When an accident merged Stakar and Altea, they became a single being known as Starhawk. Starhawk fled Arcturus IV and joined the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, the 31st Century AVENGERS. Possessing precognition, Starhawk relives his life over and over, making changes and adjustments each time. MT

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**Starjammers**

Christopher Summers, father of Scott Summers (Cyclops), was abducted by the alien Shi'ar and made a slave within their empire. After his wife died for Emperor D'ken's pleasure, Summers staged a revolt with his fellow prisoners Ch'od, Raza, and Hepzibah. The group became the Starjammers, space pirates who fought against the cruel excesses of Shi'ar rule.

The team helped the X-Men defeat D'ken in his bid to possess the McRann crystal, and later teamed with the X-Men to rescue D'ken's sister Lilandra from kidnappers.

The Starjammers accepted Carol Danvers (see WARBIRD) as a member when she possessed the cosmic power of Binary, and both Lilandra and Professor X traveled with the team during the fight against the royal usurper DEATHBIRD. The Starjammers found themselves caught up in the Kree/Shi'ar war of Operation Galactic Storm, and aided Kree refugees in the aftermath. Their pilot Keyah joined at this time, assisting the Starjammers against the Uncreated. DW

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**Star Stalker**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** (Star Stalker I) Avengers #123 (May 1974), (Star Stalker II) Power Pack #58 (May 1990)

**REAL NAME** Unrevealed

**OCCUPATION** Predator

**BASE** Planet Vorrin in the Kree Galaxy (Greater Magellanic Cloud)

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT/EYES/HAIR** Unrevealed

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Superhuman strength. Could drain planetary energy and travel through outer space without protection.

The original, red Star Stalker was a member of the alien reptilian race of Vorns. He used his tail as a weapon and his mutant powers to form an ionic cocoon to drain energy from other planets. His enemies were the Priests of Pama, a cult of Kree who knew his vulnerability to intense heat. Following the massacre of Priests of Pama living on Earth, the Star Stalker journeyed there to absorb its energies. The Vision slew him with heat beams.

The Star Stalker's son, who inherited his father's powers, but had green skin, later menaced Earth. He was apparently destroyed by the superhuman Nova (Frankie Raye). PS
**Stick**

**First Appearance**: Daredevil Vol. 1 #176 (November 1981)

**Real Name**: Unrevealed

**Occupation**: Sensei

**Base**: Mobile

**Height**: 5'11"

**Weight**: 195 lbs

**Eyes**: Blue

**Hair**: White

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Martial arts expert; "proximity sense" allows him to detect others despite his blindness; some telepathic abilities; an inspirational teacher.

Stick, who earned his name through his skill at wielding a combat staff, was the sensei of an elite warrior school despite being blind. When young Matt Murdock (see Daredevil) lost his vision in a toxic waste accident, it was Stick who taught him how to develop his remaining senses to compensate. Stick also trained the assassin Elektra; however, he expelled her when she proved unable to control her rage in combat. When the evil ninjas of the Hand attacked Stick and his allies, Stick absorbed the life essences of his attackers into his body; unfortunately the strain of this act killed him. DW

**Stinger**

**First Appearance**: Spider-Girl #1 (October 1998)

**Real Name**: Cassandra Lang

**Occupation**: Adventurer

**Base**: New York City

**Height**: 5'10"

**Weight**: 125 lbs

**Eyes**: Blue

**Hair**: Reddish-blonde

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Synthetic wing implants enable flight; armoured costume protects from harm; possesses ability to shrink to the size of a wasp.

Born in an alternate reality, Stinger is the super-powered pseudonym of Cassandra Lang, the daughter of the second Ant-Man, Scott Lang. Cassandra combined the powers and costume of her father with those of the Wasp, and although she may not have been the most powerful of Super Heroes, she demonstrated a natural aptitude for organization and leadership. With a new generation of heroes emerging, Cassandra helped reform the Avengers and was in charge of the resurrected super-team when Loki attempted to rid the world of Super Heroes. AD

**Stilt-Man**

**First Appearance**: Daredevil #9 (June 1965)

**Real Name**: Wilbur Day

**Occupation**: Criminal

**Base**: New York City

**Height**: 5 ft 10 in

**Weight**: 185 lbs

**Eyes**: Brown

**Hair**: Black

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Legs of armoured costume can extend up to 60 feet in length; costume also contains a formidable array of built-in weaponry.

While working as the assistant to scientist Carl Kasion, Wilbur Day made off with the inventor's revolutionary new hydraulic ram technology. Adapting the device in an armoured costume, Day became the Stilt-Man, and embarked on a life of crime. However, his efforts were regularly foiled by Daredevil. After many defeats, and having become a laughing stock among the criminal element, Day intended giving up his costumed identity, but found himself pulled back into the criminal underworld. Ironically, the only hero over whom the Stilt-Man has repeatedly triumphed is the Amazing Spider-Man, whom he's bested on at least two occasions! TB

**Stingray**

**First Appearance**: Tales to Astonish Vol. 1 #93 (Sept. 1967)

**Real Name**: Walter Newell

**Occupation**: Oceanographer

**Base**: Mobile within Atlantic Ocean

**Height**: 6 ft 3 in

**Weight**: 200 lbs

**Eyes**: Hazel

**Hair**: Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Clothing incorporates built-in rebreathing apparatus and provides enhanced strength, the ability to travel underwater at great speed, and to fire electrical bolts.

The US government gave a seemingly impossible task to oceanographer Walter Newell: bring in Namor, the Sub-Mariner for questioning.

Newell designed a revolutionary submersible suit and actually succeeded in his task, in the process becoming the adventurer Stingray. Subsequent adventures saw him fighting the Atlantean warlord Attuma, and becoming a reserve member of the Avengers. Newell is part-time Super Hero at best, preferring to concentrate on his scientific research. DW

**Stone, Lt. Marcus**

**First Appearance**: Thor Vol. 1 #153 (June 1969)

**Real Name**: Marcus Stone

**Occupation**: Police officer

**Base**: New York City

**Height**: 6 ft 2 in

**Weight**: 225 lbs

**Eyes**: Brown

**Hair**: Bald

**Special Powers/Abilities**: A dedicated and tenacious police officer who never goes up on a case; an expert marksman and highly trained hand-to-hand combatant.

After serving as one of New York's Finest for 25 years, Marcus Stone was ready to retire. His marriage to his childhood sweetheart was in trouble because he kept bringing his police work home with him. Stone knew the time had come to choose between his job and his wife. On what should have been his last day, he stumbled upon a battle between the mighty Thor and Ulkon the unconquerable rock troll. After Thor fell, Stone pursued Ulkon and managed to arrest him. Having proved that normal cops can handle super-menaces, Stone was later assigned to head up Code Blue, a special New York City strike-force that takes on Super-Villains. TD

**Stone, Tiberius**

**First Appearance**: Iron Man Vol. 3 #17 (February 2001)

**Real Name**: Tiberius "Ty" Stone

**Occupation**: Owner of Vastone, a multinational corporation

**Base**: Mobile

**Height**: 6 ft

**Weight**: 210 lbs

**Eyes**: Blue

**Hair**: Blond

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Brilliant business strategist; a totally ruthless sociopath, driven by jealousy and revenge.

Ty Stone and Tony Stark were childhood friends, though they often competed when it came to sports, girls, and grades. Their parents were business rivals and Stark's father eventually drove Stone's to the verge of bankruptcy. Still pretending to be Stark's friend, Stone vowed to get revenge. He planted news stories that tarnished Stark's reputation, stole Stark's girlfriend, Rumiko Fujikawa, and attempted to take over Stark Industries. To draw Iron Man into action, Stone hired the Radiactive Man as his bodyguard and faked his own kidnapping. He also tried to trap Stark within a world of virtual reality, but Stark escaped; Stone is now trapped in the prison he intended for his rival. TB
**Storm**

Oroku Mungo is descended from a long line of African witch-priestesses. Her mother married an American, and Oroku was born in New York City. When the child was six months old, the family moved to Egypt. Five years later, Oroku's parents were killed during an Arab-Israeli conflict. Five-year-old Oroku was buried under the rubble of her home beside her dead mother's body.

The child wandered the streets of Cairo and eventually became a thief and pickpocket. By the age of 12, her amazing mutant power to control the weather began to emerge. She traveled throughout Africa, where she used her abilities to help several tribes, who came to worship her as a goddess.

Professor Charles Xavier (see Professor X) came to Africa and convinced Oroku to use her powers to help all of humanity. She soon joined the X-Men under the codename Storm and quickly became one of Professor X's most trusted X-Men. Storm even leads the team when Cyclops is not available. **MT**

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**Stranger, The**

The Stranger is an immeasurably powerful cosmic being, created from the life-energies of a vanished species from the planet Gigantus in the Andromeda Galaxy. The Gigantians built the Stranger to stand against the Overmind, a villainous composite entity fashioned by the Gigantians' traditional enemies, the Eternians.

The Stranger wandered for eons until he encountered Earth. Convinced that Earth's superhuman mutants posed a threat to the greater galaxy, the Stranger attempted to destroy the Earth on multiple occasions. The heroism of champions such as the Hulk, who allied with him, and the Stranger agreed to spare Earth for the immediate future. Later, the Stranger faced and defeated the Overmind, then selected an alternate-dimensional Earth from the New Universe as an object of study for his Labworld. The Stranger remains an unpredictable figure with mysterious motives, and possesses an unrevealed connection to the Living Tribunal. **DW**
**Straw Man**

**First Appearance:** Dead of Night #11 (August 1975)

**REAL NAME:** Skirra Corvus

**Occupation:** Mystic guardian

**BASE:** An unnamed magical realm

**Height:** 5 ft 10 in  
**Weight:** 60 lbs  
**Eyes:** Red  
**Hair:** Yellow

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Incarnates himself in bodies composed of straw; projects fear; can command crows and local plant life; and has assorted other mystic attributes.

A being indigenous to an extra-dimensional realm bordering that of Earth, the Straw Man can access our universe through a mystic painting that depicts him. The painting’s origins are shrouded in mystery; it is coveted by the Cult of Kalumai, who can summon their demonic master and his underlings through it. However, the Straw Man considers himself a guardian of the Earth, and has successfully kept Kalumai in check. Recruited by the Dweller-In-Darkness as one of his Fear Lords, the Straw Man refused to go along with the demonic entity’s plan to subjugate Earth, and he incarnated himself as Skirra Corvus, a television personality, in whose form he was able to warn Doctor Strange of the Dweller’s plan.

**Stryfe**

**First Appearance:** New Mutants #37 (March 1990)

**REAL NAME:** Stryfe

**Occupation:** Terrorist leader

**BASE:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 8 in  
**Weight:** 350 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** White

**Special Powers/Abilities:** A mutant possessing superhuman strength and other physical abilities, Stryfe also has vast telepathic and telekinetic powers. Unlike his clone Cable, he does not have to waste any of these powers keeping a techno-organic virus in check.

Infected with a techno-organic virus that threatened to turn his entire body into organic metal, the infant Nathan Summers was taken nearly two millennia into an alternate future to save his life.

In case he should die, Mother Askani of the Askani Sisterhood arranged for the infant to be cloned. This clone, which was free from the techno-organic virus, was stolen away and raised by the tyrant Apocalypse, who gave him the name Stryfe.

The original Nathan grew up to become the hero Cable, leader of the freedom fighters that battled armies commanded by Stryfe. Both men traveled back to the "mainstream" time period of the X-Men, where they have continued to bitterly oppose each other. Although his original form was destroyed, Stryfe’s consciousness can take over other bodies.

**Sugar Man**

**First Appearance:** Generation Next vol. 1 #2 (April 1996)

**REAL NAME:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Adventurer, former assassin

**BASE:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 9 in  
**Weight:** 400 lbs  
**Eyes:** White  
**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Enhanced strength and reflexes; razor-sharp extendible tongue; four arms; advanced regenerative abilities; can control his size and mass.

Sugar Man comes from the alternate future known as the Age of Apocalypse, where he operated the Seattle Core slave camp. When Colossus broke in to the camp to rescue his sister Ilyana Rasputin, Sugar Man shrunk down and hid in Colossus’s boot, eventually emerging in the mainstream timeline 20 years in the past. From his new vantage point, Sugar Man was able to build up the island nation of Genosha by supplying genetic technology to create a population of mutant slaves. Sugar Man survived the Genosha holocaust, but seemingly died months later at the hands of Calisto.

**Strong Guy**

**First Appearance:** New Mutants #29 (July 1986)

**REAL NAME:** Guido Carosella

**Occupation:** Special Enforcer for X-Factor Investigations

**BASE:** New York City

**Height:** 7 ft  
**Weight:** 750 lbs  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** White

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Absorbs kinetic energy—failure to release it quickly causes physical distortions and damages heart; kinetic energy enhances strength.

A new recruit to Jamie Madrox’s nascent X-Factor Investigations, until recently Guido Carosella was enslaved in a Tokyo-based mutant fighting club. Although Guido’s mutation causes him constant physical pain, he rarely lets this show—in his spare time he sometimes moonlights as a stand-up comedian. An occasional bodyguard to rock musician Lila Cheney, Guido has also served with X-Factor and it was there that Guido first struck up his friendship with Jamie Madrox.
Rachel Summers is the daughter of the Scott Summers (Cyclops) and Jean Grey (alias Phoenix) of an alternate timeline known as the “Days of Future Past.” In this reality, the US government activated mutant-hunting robot Sentinels after Senator Robert Kelly was assassinated by mutant terrorists. Federal troops attacked Professor X’s mansion, the X-Men’s base, and captured Rachel.

America. In an effort to change history, Rachel used her powers to send the astral self of her friend Kate Pryde (a middle-aged version of Kitty) back in time. Kate's spirit journeyed to the “mainstream” reality of the X-Men, where she thwarted Kelly’s assassination. After returning to their alternate future, Kate sent Rachel back through time to the “mainstream” reality, where she joined the X-Men. Rachel bonded with the Phoenix Force, enabling her to tap its energies, and adopted the name “Phoenix.” Subsequently she became a founding member of Excalibur.

Mother Askani
Rachel was cast two thousand years hence into an alternate Earth which was ruled by the mutant tyrant Apocalypse. There she founded a group of rebels, the Askani.

Decades later, as the elderly Mother Askani, she sent one of her followers back in time to retrieve the infant Nathan Summers. Mother Askani also transported the astral selves of Scott Summers and Jean Grey into new bodies in this alternate future, where they raised Nathan for ten years. Then Mother Askani sent Scott and Jean’s astral selves back to their proper time and bodies, before she herself perished. Nathan grew up to become Cable. After an alteration in the timestream, Rachel was a teenage boy once more, though she lost her connection to the Phoenix Force. She was held captive in an alternate future by a being named Gaunl. Cable returned her to the X-Men’s time, and she rejoined the team. In honor of her mother, Rachel now calls herself “Rachel Grey” and has adopted Jean’s original codename, “Marvel Girl.”
**Super-Adaptoid**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Tales Of Suspense #62 (October 1960)

**REAL NAME** None

**OCCUPATION** Super-assassin

**BASE** Mobile

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT/EYES/HAIR** Variable

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Android that can duplicate the appearance and powers, clothing and weaponry of anyone who passes within 10 ft of the scanning instruments in its eyes. It can mimic a maximum of eight beings at a single time.

Powered by a slice of the Cosmic Cube, the Adaptoid was created by the subversive organization AIM (Advanced Idea Mechanics) to be the ultimate weapon against superhuman foes. Sent to destroy Captain America, the creature took on a composite appearance and copied the powers of Hawkeye, the Wasp, and Goliath among others. After absorbing the power of Kubik, the living manifestation of the Cosmic Cube, the Adaptoid was drained of all its powers, and destroyed in a battle with the Avengers. The Adaptoid was later reactivated and its current whereabouts are unknown. TD

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**Sunfire**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Men Vol. 1 #64 (January 1978)

**REAL NAME** Shiro Yoshioka

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer

**BASE** Department H, Canada, (formerly) Tokyo, Japan

**HEIGHT** 5 ft 10 in

**WEIGHT** 175 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Can project “solar fire” and create super-heated air currents to fly. Has a psionic protective force field. Trained in karate, Japanese Samurai swordsmanship and kendo.

Sunfire’s mother was exposed to radiation when the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. When his mutant power surfaced, Sunfire vowed vengeance on the US, destroying a monument at the United Nations and clashing with the X-Men. Professor Xavier invited Sunfire to join a new group of X-Men and he did, temporarily. Preferring to go on special missions for Japan, Sunfire was hypnotised by Dr. Demonius to fight the West Coast Avengers. He was recently recruited by Department H (a branch of the Canadian Ministry of Defense) to their government-sponsored super hero team, Alpha Flight. TD

Sunspot grew up as a wealthy corporate heir in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As he aged, he manifested the mutant ability to absorb and convert solar energy. In his powered-up form, Sunspot appears as a being of black, crackling force. Sunpot has been associated with several organisations. He is one of the founding members of the New Mutants, and has also served with the Fallen Angels and X-Force. He recently accepted a position as Lord Imperial of the Hellfire Club, in an attempt to legitimise the organization. Reigmur, Sunspot’s genetic copy, is a terrorist with the Mutant Liberation Front. TD

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**Super-Apes**

Reed Richards wanted to test a new rocket fuel in a ship designed to take the Fantastic Four to the moon. They hoped to get to the moon before the Soviets. But unknown to Reed, a Soviet scientist named Ivan Kragnoff had built his own ship, which he hoped would get him to the moon first. Kragnoff had trained three apes, a gorilla, a baboon, and an orangutan to help him operate the ship. Aware of the cosmic rays that gave the Fantastic Four their powers, Kragnoff intentionally exposed himself and the apes to cosmic rays during their journey to the moon. Kragnoff, now calling himself the Red Ghost, and the three apes all gained different super-powered abilities.

Once on the moon, the Super Apes battled the Fantastic Four, but quickly turned against Kragnoff who starved them to keep them controlled. As their powers continued to develop, each of the three Super Apes eventually gained human-level intelligence. The original Apes and Red Ghost have buried their differences and still accompany him on his exploits. MT
SUPER-SKRULL

After the Fantastic Four prevented the Skrulls from conquering Earth, the Skrull Emperor vowed to develop a super-weapon that could destroy them. His scientists created the Super-Skrull, a warrior bionically re-engineered to possess all the powers of the Fantastic Four. The Super-Skrull's first battle ended in failure and he was imprisoned by the Fantastic Four. He eventually escaped, taking on the identity of the Invisible Man and kidnapping Franklin Storm, the father of the Invisible Girl (see INVISIBLE WOMAN) and Human Torch, but his success was short-lived and the Fantastic Four again defeated him. Temporarily exiled for his repeated failures, the Super-Skrull was drafted back into service during the Kree-Skrull War. He recently battled Genis, the son of the original Captain Marvel, when he kidnapped an Earthling who had the ability to warp reality. He planned to use the young woman's talents to aid the Skrull Empire, but she foiled him by wishing her powers away. The Super-Skrull is now hiding on Earth in human guise.

SUPREME INTELLIGENCE

Decades ago, the Kree race learned that their ancient intergalactic enemies, the Skrulls, had successfully created a cosmic cube. In an effort to maintain parity with them, they created the Supreme Intelligence, an aggregate entity made up of the finest minds ever to exist within the Kree empire. Upon their deaths, those brains deemed worthy of being added to the great repository were absorbed into the Supreme Intelligence's make-up, adding their knowledge and experience to its own.

Shortly after its creation, the Supreme Intelligence seized control of the Kree empire, becoming at once its supreme dictator and an object of religious worship. In this capacity, Supremor has guided the destiny of the Kree, ever attempting to overcome the evolutionary dead end that this space-faring race of militaristic conquerors had seemingly reached.
Swarm

FIRST APPEARANCE: The Champions #14 (July 1977)
REAL NAME: Fritz Von Meyer
OCCUPATION: Scientist, conqueror
BASE: Mobile
HEIGHT: 6' 5" in
WEIGHT: Unrevealed
EYES: None
HAIR: None

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Von Meyer's consciousness can mentally control a mutant queen bee, and through her, vast numbers of mutant bees.

Switzler, Beverly

FIRST APPEARANCE: Howard the Duck #1 (January 1975)
REAL NAME: Beverly Switzler
OCCUPATION: Former art model and actress
BASE: Cleveland, Ohio
HEIGHT: 5' 11" in
WEIGHT: 165 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Red

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: As an art model, she can stand perfectly still.

Synch

FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Force #36 (September 1994)
REAL NAME: Everett Thomas
OCCUPATION: Student
BASE: Massachusetts Academy
HEIGHT: 5' 1" in
WEIGHT: 165 lbs
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Black (shaved bald)

SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Able to take on the superhuman powers of others while they remain in his immediate vicinity.

After World War II Nazi scientist Fritz Von Meyer studied bees in South America. He was attacked by a colony of bees whose exposure to radiation had given them unusually high intelligence. Von Meyer's body was consumed, but his consciousness survived and took control of the bees, which swarmed in the configuration of a human body around his skeleton. Thus was created Swarm. Seeking world conquest, Swarm has battled the Champions of Los Angeles, the original Spider-Man, Ben Reilly as Spider-Man, and the Runaways.

A former art model, Beverly Switzler's life was transformed by an encounter with that extradimensional waterfowl, Howard the Duck. After Howard rescued her from Financial Wizard, Pro-Rata, the pair began a life together in Cleveland, Ohio. Things weren't easy—they had difficulty paying the rent and, despite Howard's desire for the quiet life, they were constantly getting embroiled in the shenanigans of nefarious characters. Doctor Bong proved to be the most intransigent of these. Lasting after Beverly, he eventually forced her to marry him, but when he failed to consummate their relationship she returned to Howard and had the marriage annulled.

When teenager Everett Thomas' mutant power emerged the entity Harvest tried to experiment on him. Rescued by Emma Frost (the White Queen), Jubilee, and Sabertooth, Thomas joined with them to form Husk, M, Skin, and Bans from Harvest. Everett enrolled at the Massachusetts Academy, joining Generation X as Synch. While battling the villain Empate, who fed off the bone marrow of mutants, Synch became a creature like Empate himself. He was rescued from Empate's influence by his teammates. Synch sacrificed his life to save the Generation X students by trying to disarm a bomb planted by Adrienne Frost, elder sister of Emma Frost, at the time Generation X's headmistress.

Swordsman

The original Swordsman, Jacques DuQueene, left his job in a circus to pursue a life of crime. He joined the Avengers as an agent of the evil Mandarin, but came to admire the team and refused to help destroy them. The Swordsman died saving Mantis from Kang the Conqueror.

Philip Javert was the second Swordsman. From an alternate universe, he was the dimensional counterpart of Jacques DuQueene. Betrayed by the Avengers from his own timeline, Javert initially battled this world's Avengers but then joined them as the new Swordsman. Later, he and Magdalene left for another dimension.

A third Swordsman came from the Counter-Earth created by Franklin Richards in the Heroes Reborn incident. The fourth Swordsman (Andreas Von Strucker) served in the Thunderbolts.
MARVEL IN THE 2000s


New Avengers #1 (2005)
After disturbing events, a new series of Avengers spontaneously draws together when an army of super-villains stage a massive jail break in a multi-title crossover called "Breakout."
**Avengers #503 (2004)**
After Jack of Hearts, Anti-Man, Vision, and Hawkeye have fallen in battle, the surviving Avengers suddenly realize that there is a traitor in their midst and they all unite against the Scarlet Witch.

**Avengers: Earth’s Mightiest Heroes #2 (2005)**
A look into the early, pivotal period of the Marvel Universe, when five heroes, Iron Man, Thor, Giant-Man, the Wasp, and the Hulk banded together to fight the foes no single hero could overcome.

**House of M #1 (2005)**
Having suffered a nervous breakdown which disassembled the Avengers, the Scarlet Witch uses her abilities to restructure reality so that Magneto now rules the Earth.

**Amazing Spider-Man #529 (2006)**
As the government decides to register all superheroes, Spider-Man begins working for Tony Stark.

**Annihilation Prologue (2006)**
When an unstoppable menace threatens the spaceways, Direc the Destroyer, Nova, Ronan the Accuser, and the Super-Skrull unite against it.
Taine, Sydney

First Appearance: Nightside #1 (December 2001)
Real Name: Sydney Taine
Occupation: Police detective
Base: New York City
Height/Weight/Eyes: Unknown
Hair: Black and gray
Special Powers/Abilities: Skilled in a variety of martial arts, including capoeira; adept in various forms of weapons combat; no known superpowers.

Sydney Taine is the only detective in the NYPD trusted by the Others, individuals that appear human but who are driven by sinister thirrs and passions. While investigating the death of three crime bosses, Sydney, partnered by Apc Largo, uncovered a plot by the Others to obtain the Three Lost Treasures of Tao. Defeating them with cunning and fighting prowess, Sydney returned the stolen treasures to Suzuki Shouan, her former teacher. Sydney may be a member of the Players, a powerful alien race. AD

Talbot, Colonel Glenn

First Appearance: Tales to Astonish #61 (November 1964)
Real Name: Glenn Talbot
Occupation: Major, later Colonel in U.S. Air Force; head of security, Desert Base; later adjutant to General T. E. "Thunderbolt" Ross; later commanding officer, Gamma Base
Base: Desert Base, New Mexico; later Gamma Base, New Mexico
Height: 6 ft 1 in
Weight: 215 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Special Powers/Abilities: Normal human strength.

General Thaddeus E. "Thunderbolt" Ross installed Major Glenn Talbot as security head of Desert Base, New Mexico, to investigate Dr. Bruce Banner. Talbot became Banner's rival for the love of Ross's daughter, Betty. He eventually learned that Banner was the monstrous Hulk. For years Talbot aided General Ross in attempts to capture or kill the Hulk. Betty married Talbot, but she later divorced him, realizing she still loved Banner. Promoted to colonel, Talbot was finally killed by an electrical overload while attacking the Hulk. PS

Talbot, Major Matt

First Appearance: Incredible Hulk #436 (December 1995)
Real Name: William M. "Matt" Talbot
Occupation: U.S. Air Force Major
Base: Mobile
Height: 6 ft 1 in
Weight: 210 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown
Special Powers/Abilities: None

Major William M. "Matt" Talbot is the nephew of Colonel Glenn Talbot. Matt Talbot is furious at his uncle's wife Betty for dumping his uncle in favor of the Hulk.

Matt went to Betty's house and appeared to rescue her from a berserk soldier, but then he slapped her and called her names for hurting his uncle. Out of control, Talbot shot Betty in each leg. When the Hulk came to rescue Betty, he was hit by Talbot's plasma blasts, but it turned out that the gun Talbot used contained stun pellets that soon wore off. Talbot escaped having exacted some measure of revenge for his uncle's broken heart. MT

Talisman

First Appearance: Alpha Flight #5 (December 1983)
Real Name: Elizabeth Twiyoungmen
Occupation: Student
Base: Canada
Height: 5 ft 10 in
Weight: 135 lbs
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Black
Special Powers/Abilities: Has natural mystical abilities and can control magical energy; when wearing the "circle," she can command spirits and manipulate mystical energies.

The latest in a long line of North American shamans, Elizabeth Twiyoungmen was transformed into the long prophesied Talisman when she place a "circle of enchantment" on her forehead. She later went on to join Alpha Flight.

For years, Elizabeth had been estranged from her father Michael Twiyoungmen, who was the Shaman. The circle gradually corrupted Elizabeth and caused father and daughter to grow apart once more. Finally, Michael was forced to take the circle as his own in order to defeat the mystical creature Pestilence. Elizabeth has since regained her sense of self, and her difficulties with her father have been resolved. TB
TANAKA, KENJIRO

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Quasar #6 (December 1989)
**REAL NAME** Kenjiro Tanaka
**OCCUPATION** Former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent
**BASE** New York City
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 10 in  **WEIGHT** 160 lbs  **EYES** Black  **HAIR** Black
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** None; received combat training from S.H.I.E.L.D.

Kenjiro "Ken" Tanaka attended S.H.I.E.L.D. academy alongside Wendell Vaughn, who later became the cosmic hero Quasar. After graduation, Tanaka took an undercover position within International Data Integration and Control (IDIC) and became its director of design. He eventually left IDIC to join his former classmate at Vaughn Security Systems. Tanaka discovered the link between Wendell Vaughn and Quasar but agreed to keep the secret safe. He now heads Vaughn Security Systems while Quasar is away saving the galaxy.  

TARANTULA

A criminal used the name Tarantula during the days of the Old West, but the modern Tarantula, Anton Miguel Rodriguez, was a brutal revolutionary from the small South American country of Delvadia. Government officials gave him a costume and a variant of the supersoldier formula that altered his physiology. They intended to make him a symbol of their country akin to Captain America.

The Tarantula became a professional criminal and assassin. After various exploits, he traveled to New York, where he planned to rob passengers on a boat on the Hudson River and hold them ransom. Spider-Man and the Punisher thwarted his plans. He later mutated into a humanoid spider due to treatments related to Roxon Oil. Unable to bear his transformation into a giant spider, Tarantula killed himself in a police standoff. His daughter donned the Tarantula costume and teamed up with the daughter of Batroc the Leaper before dying at the hands of the Taskmaster.

Captain Luis Alvarez of Delvadia became the second official Tarantula, promoted by the Delvadian government to replace Rodriguez. He turned out to be as brutal and ruthless as his predecessor. While on a mission to the United States to execute Delvadians who had fled the country, he came into conflict with Spider-Man. Alvarez was exiled from his country and later died when the armed vigilante team the Jury executed him as part of an initiation rite.

TANA NILE

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Thor #129 (June 1966)
**REAL NAME** Tana Nile
**OCCUPATION** Colonizer of Rigel
**BASE** Rigel-3
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 4 in  **WEIGHT** 110 lbs  **EYES** Blue  **HAIR** Black
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Can increase her density at will, giving her superhuman strength and durability; using her mind thrust, she can control the actions of another being.

One of the Colonizers of the Rigellian Empire, Tana Nile first visited Earth for the purpose of annexing it for her people. Opposed by the mighty Thor, she was able to overwhelm the Thunder God. But eventually, Thor earned Earth's freedom—much to Tana's disappointment. Later, Tana took up residence on Earth for a time and accompanied Thor and his fellow gods on a number of adventures. She helped locate a suitable substitute world for the Rigellian scat of government after the destruction of Rigel-3.

Most recently, Tana accompanied the group of young mutants and misfits called the Daydreamers on a series of psychedelic journeys.
**Taskmaster**

*First Appearance:* Avengers #105 (May 1980)

**Real Name:** Unknown

**Occupation:** Mercenary, teacher

**Base:** Mobile

**Height:** 6 ft 2 in  
**Weight:** 220 lbs  
**Eyes/Hair:** Not known

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can copy other people’s movements, regardless of complexity, after watching them once.

The Taskmaster can mimic anyone’s movements, be they a cowboy wielding a lasso, an American football quarterback, or a Super Hero. The Taskmaster committed several grand larcenies before establishing a series of academies to train professional criminals. When the *Avengers* realized he was effectively operating a criminal production line, they began closing his academies down. He suffered a brief spell in prison, during which he trained a new Captain America—John Walker (see US Agent). Since escaping incarcereation, the Taskmaster has turned to mercenary work, realizing that it is more lucrative. DW

**Taurus**

*First Appearance:* Avengers #72 (January 1977)

**Real Name:** Cornelius Van Lunt

**Occupation:** Criminal mastermind

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 6 ft 2 in  
**Weight:** 260 lbs  
**Eyes/Hair:** Brown/Hair: Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Utilized Star Blaster handgun, which fired blasts of stellal energy

Fascinated by astrology, multimillionaire businessman Cornelius Van Lunt secretly founded the criminal organization Zodiac in order to achieve political and economic domination of the world. Each of Zodiac’s 12 leaders was named after his or her astrological sign and was based in a different American city: Van Lunt became Taurus, based in New York. Both in his true identity and as Taurus, Van Lunt clashed with the *Avengers*. Van Lunt ended up battling Moon Knight aboard a plane and died when it crashed. There have since been various other versions of the Zodiac organization, each with its own Taurus. PS

**Techno**

*First Appearance:* Strange Tales #141 (February 1966)

**Real Name:** Paul Norbert Ebersol

**Occupation:** Criminal inventor

**Base:** Mobile

**Height/Weight:** Variable  
**Eyes/Hair:** Red/None

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Prodigiously inventive scientist, robot body is able to transform its limbs into blast cannons or convert itself into a space station

Paul Ebersol’s grasp of technology borders on the miraculous. He began his criminal career executing technologically assisted crimes just for the intellectual challenge. Ebersol could transform his consciousness to other vessels, and when his own body was badly hurt he installed himself in one of his own robots—Tech-Pac. Although still remembered for his attempt to conquer the Earth with Baron Zemo, Ebersol has made some efforts to reform, joining the government-backed Redemers and helping to save a dying Cable. It is unclear what destiny has in store for him. A D

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**Tatterdemalion**

*First Appearance:* Werewolf By Night #6 (September 1973)

**Real Name:** Arnold Pattonroth (alias Michael Wyatt)

**Occupation:** Tap-dancer, actor

**Base:** Los Angeles

**Height:** 5 ft 9 in  
**Weight:** 166 lbs  
**Eyes/Hair:** Blue/Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Enhanced strength, speed; gloves treated with a solvent that dissolves paper and fabric; Kevlar body armor; cowl contains chloroform capsules; indestructible scarlet

A dancer working under the name Michael Wyatt, Pattonroth was robbed of his life’s savings by Las Vegas mobsters. He joined an army of derelicts on the streets of Los Angeles and declared war on the rich by destroying their money and possessions. Defeated by the Werewolf and Spider-Man, Pattonroth moved back to Las Vegas and attacked the criminals who had stolen from him. He later returned to LA and was recruited into the Night Shift, a criminal organization run by the Shroud. TD

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**Teen Brigade**

The Teen Brigade was a group of teenaged shortwave radio enthusiasts, founded by Rick Jones to keep tabs on the Hulk. By relaying possible sightings to the other members of their volunteer network, the group could often pin down the Hulk’s current location. It was the Teen Brigade’s call for help that assembled the *Avengers* for the very first time, and the Teen Brigade later helped the newly-revived Captain America track down a suspect who had turned the Avengers to stone. The group acted as a precursor to Captain America’s “Stars and Stripes” computer hotline network.

A second grouping of the Teen Brigade helped Rick Jones bring Bruce Banner and Betty Ross to the site of the original detonation site that turned Banner into the Hulk. The Corruptor detailed their mission, but he quickly met defeat and the Teen Brigade escaped without injury. DW

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**Factfile**

**Members:**

Rick Jones (founder), Candy, Rider, Specs, Wheels, plus other unnamed volunteers

**Base:** Mobile

*First Appearance:* Incredible Hulk Vol. 1 #5 (March 1963)

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**Still No Word from the FF, Eh?**

**Guess They Never Got the Message!**

**Or Else They Can’t Be Bothered to Answer a Bunch of Kids Like Us!**

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The Teen Brigade used shortwave radios and internet-enabled computers to keep in touch with each other.
**Terminus**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #269 (August 1984)
**REAL NAME** Terminus
**OCCUPATION** Destroyer of worlds
**BASE** Mobile
**HEIGHT** 150 ft
**WEIGHT** unrevealed
**EYES** Inapplicable
**HAIR** None
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Immeasurable strength, nearly indestructible; can regenerate body parts; carries a lance that fires atomic energy

Terminus is an intelligent creation made from living metal, grown by the alien Terminex in a failed attempt to protect them from the Celestials. A continuum of Terminex exist, from Stage 1 metallic microbes to the Stage 4 behemoths represented by Terminus. Taking revenge on planets that the Celestials had spared, Terminus claimed Earth for his own but met defeat at the hands of the Fantastic Four. The Deviant called Jorrro wore the Terminus armor and destroyed the Savage Land. Terminus defeated a duplicate and emerged as the Stage 5 "Ultarmonus," only to be vanquished by Thor. DW

At some point in the distant past, the virtually indestructible being known as Terror battled a green bear-shaped demon. The only way to defeat the demon was to sacrifice his own form, but in doing so he took on the form of the dead demon. He also gained the demon's power to bond the limbs of others to his body. His body is now made up of a collection of dead or decaying body parts. Now his associate Boneyard helps him collect body parts. He was also befriended by a half-human, half-demon being named Hellfire. Terror formed Terror Inc., an assassination bureau. MT

**Terror**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Daredevil #305 (June 1992)
**REAL NAME** Unknown (possibly Shepek)
**OCCUPATION** Criminal
**BASE** San Francisco
**HEIGHT** 6 ft 2 in
**WEIGHT** 170 lbs
**EYES** Variable
**HAIR** None
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Able to replace parts of his body with those of humans or animals, gaining the powers of those body parts, as well as their "memories." If Terror loses a body part from a superhuman being he gains that being's power. Removes limbs or other parts by generating a special acid that allows him both to tear off a body part and to bond it to his own. Expert with firearms.

**Temugin**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Iron Man #53 (June 2002)
**REAL NAME** Temugin
**OCCUPATION** Criminal leader
**BASE** China
**HEIGHT/WEIGHT** Unrevealed
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** None
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Supreme martial artist; harnesses the power of his Chi to perform feats of incredible strength, speed and agility; possesses the Mandarin's ten rings of power.

The illegitimate son of the criminal mastermind known to the world as the Mandarin, Temugin was raised in a remote monastery, where he was trained virtually from birth in the secrets of unlocking the inner power of one's own Chi, or spiritual life-force. Although he had little contact with his father during his upbringing, when Temugin received a package containing the Mandarin's ten rings of power (each of which endowed the wearer with a different ability) along with his dead hands, he learned that the Mandarin had been killed in battle with Iron Man, and he felt honor-bound to avenge his death.

Reluctantly taking over the reins of the Mandarin's criminal empire, Temugin has clashed with Iron Man on a number of occasions, but has not yet discharged this honor-debt. TB

**Terrax**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four #211 (October 1979)
**REAL NAME** Tyros
**OCCUPATION** Interstellar traveller
**BASE** Mobile
**HEIGHT** 6 ft 6 in
**WEIGHT** 7,750 lbs
**EYES** Gray
**HAIR** None
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Body covered with supple, rocky shell; animates rock and commands it to do his bidding; lifts Manhattan into orbit around Earth.

Galactus the world-devourer was looking for a new herald who would have fewer qualms than the Silver Surfer about finding worlds to satisfy his insatiable hunger. For a time, he thought Tyros, a tyrannical ruler from the planet Birj, would be a suitable candidate. Galactus was wrong. Despite being provided with new improved powers, Tyros, rechristened Terrax, remained a restless, rebellious soul. It was not long before he had betrayed his overbearing master. Terrax traveled to Earth, where he held the whole of Manhattan hostage. A happier creature nowadays, Terrax has been freed from Galactus and idles away his time travelling among the stars. AD

The spikes on Terror's face come from a demon. He can remove them and use them as weapons or regrow them.
THANOS

FIRST APPEARANCE: Iron Man #20 (February 1970)
REAL NAME: Thanos
OCCUPATION: Conqueror
BASE: Sanctuary III
HEIGHT: 6 ft 7 in
WEIGHT: 985 lbs
EYES: Red
HAIR: None
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Synthesizes ambient cosmic energy for use in a variety of ways, increasing strength and speed; also possesses a personal force-field and other devices.

Born on the Eternal colony on Titan, Saturn's moon, Thanos was ostracized because of his hideous mutant nature. Morose and withdrawn, Thanos became obsessed with death, not merely as a concept but as an actual entity. He gathered an army of intergalactic mercenaries and set out to conquer and destroy. Now infamous as the Mad Titan, Thanos' exploits include eradicating half of the lifeforms in the universe with the Infinity Gauntlet. But in every instance, Thanos' own weaknesses of character have enabled heroic opponents to thwart his schemes.

THENA

FIRST APPEARANCE: The Eternals Vol. 1 #15 (November 1976)
REAL NAME: Azura, changed by royal decree to Thena
OCCUPATION: Warrior, scholar
BASE: Olympia, Greece
HEIGHT: 5 ft 10 in
WEIGHT: 160 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Blonde
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Superhuman strength; mental control over body gives virtual immortality; cosmic abilities include flight through levitation; projects cosmic energy from eyes or hands.

Thena is the daughter of Zuras, ruler of the superhuman race called the Eternals, and his wife Cybele. As part of a pact between the Eternals and the Olympian gods, Zuras renamed Azura "Thena" after the goddess Athena. Thousands of years ago, Thena met Kro, a member of another offshoot of humanity, the Deviants. Thena and Kro became attracted to each other, and they had twin children, known as Donald and Deborah Ritter. Upon the demise of Zuras, Thena succeeded him as Prime Eternal, but she subsequently lost this position to another Eternal, Ikaris.

3-D MAN

FIRST APPEARANCE: Marvel Premiere #5 (April 1971)
REAL NAME: Charles "Chuck" Chandler
OCCUPATION: Test pilot, adventurer
BASE: None
HEIGHT: 6 ft 2 in
WEIGHT: 200 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Blond
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Strength, stamina, agility and speed three times that of a normal human; a brilliant pilot with the ability to sense the presence of alien Skrulls.

The year was 1958. Kidnapped by Skrulls, Chuck Chandler escaped from their ship causing it to explode. He crash-landed in his XF-13 plane and, as he clambered from the wreckage, Skrull radiation imprinted his essence onto the glasses worn by his brother, Hal. By concentrating hard while wearing these spectacles, Hal could resurrect his brother as 3-D Man; however, side effects caused Hal to put his glasses to one side. Some years later Hal embarked on a successful quest to bring his brother back permanently. Chuck had not aged a single day and began his life anew.

THOMPSON, Eugene "Flash"

Eugene Thompson's athletic prowess made him a football hero at Midtown High School, helping him overcome the insecurities of having a father—Harry, an alcoholic cop—who regularly beat him. At Midtown, Flash dated Liz Allan (later Liz Osborn), the most popular girl in the school. He looked down on bookish Peter Parker, and was also jealous of him, fearing that Liz was attracted to Peter. Ironically, Flash was a big fan of Spider-Man. Flash went on to attend Empire State University with Parker and, in time, the two became friends.

Thompson later joined the military and served in South-East Asia. He later had an affair with Betty Brant Leeds, the wife of Daily Bugle reporter Ned Leeds, which led to him being framed as the criminal Hobgoblin.

Depressed, Thompson sank into alcoholism. Norman Osborn (the Green Goblin) offered him a job at his company OsCorp, but only as part of his scheme to hurt anyone who was friends with Peter Parker. Osborn forced Thompson to drink whiskey and arranged for Thompson's car to crash into Midtown High, where Parker was working as a teacher.

This accident left Thompson in a coma, and Liz Osborn arranged for his full-time care.

A natural athlete in school, Flash found it difficult to achieve similar levels of popularity later in life.
**Thing, The**

*Big-hearted tough guy of the Fantastic Four*

Ben Grimm, alias The Thing, is a hot-headed member of the FANTASTIC FOUR, using his abilities to fight evil, almost as often as he does battle with himself. Ben grew up in New York City in poverty. Like his older brother, Daniel, he got involved with a street gang (see Yancy Street Gang). After his parents died, Ben was taken in by his uncle Jake, a doctor, who helped set the boy on the right track. Ben ended up going to Empire State University on a football scholarship. His first-year roommate was brilliant science student Reed Richards, who became Ben's best friend.

**A Grimm Tale**

When Reed told Ben of his plan to one day build a starship, Ben jokingly said that he would pilot the ship. After college, Ben joined the US Air Force and became an excellent pilot and astronaut. Reed's starship reached the test stage but the Federal government threatened to cut off funding. Reed decided to stage a test flight. Ben agreed to pilot the ship, though he worried that shields weren't strong enough.

Reed and Ben blasted into space along with Reed's fiancée, Susan Storm, and Sue's brother Johnny. In space, the foursome was bombarded with high levels of cosmic radiation.

**Let the Clobberin' Begin!**

The crew were altered on a genetic level and gained unusual powers. Ben's skin turned orange and rocky, and his strength grew tremendously, earning him the nickname the Thing. Reed convinced the others that they should use their powers to help humanity as the Fantastic Four. Ben would sometimes revert back to his human form unexpectedly, but neither he nor Reed could control this change.

Ben's life changed when he fell in love with blind sculptress Alicia Masters. Returning from exile after being transported to distant Battleground, Ben discovered that in his absence, Johnny Storm and Alicia Masters had become lovers. Enraged, the Thing quit the Fantastic Four, but after a stint with the West Coast Avengers and self-imposed exile on the Mole Man's Monster Island, he returned to the FF.
Thor was the God of Thunder, the beloved champion of Asgard and a figure of worship among the ancient Norns. He loved his people so much that he triggered their destruction in the end battle of Ragnarok, finally breaking a repeating cycle of futility. Thor was born to Odin, the ruler (sky-father) of Asgard, and Gaea, the mother goddess of Earth (a place known to the Asgardians as Midgard).

EARLY LIFE

Considered an early age to assume his father’s throne, Thor grew up with his best friend Balder and his first love, Sif. But Thor’s half-brother Loki hated him, and schemed to become ruler of Asgard himself. When Thor proved himself worthy of carrying the hammer Mjolnir, he took up the identity as the Thunder God.

Thor mingled with his Earthly worshippers throughout the 8th century, leading Viking into battle. He later abandoned his followers after several of them butchered a Christian monastery. Over the succeeding centuries he spent most of his time in Asgard, venturing to Earth to battle Loki in the Old West and monstrously becoming a pawn of the Nazis during World War II.

STORMY TIMES

A second incarnation of the Thunder God appeared when Thor merged his soul with Earth architect Eric Masterson. Thor entered one body for apparently killing Loki and Masterson covered by posing as Thor while wielding the hammer of Mjolnir. Masterson later reserved the identity of Thunderstrike, before involving in battle against the Egyptian god Seth and overcoming a curse laid upon them by the season of floods.

Thor subsequently assumed the civilian identity of dead IRS worker Jake Olson. Shortly after Jake’s death and a resurrected Olson continues his life. Eric Masterson’s son, Jason, later took up the role of Thunderstrike in a possible future timeline also inhabited by Spider-Man.

With such tools at his disposal, he rallied his followers and conquered Asgard. Thor, realizing that Loki’s actions preased the final configuration of Ragnarok, followed the Odinforce on a spiritual journey. The Thunder God uncovered the truth of the Ragnarok—its endless loop of creation and rebirths had been orchestrated by the hammer of Mjolnir. An impressed Odin forged a new hammer, Stormbreaker, for Bill to wield.

Thor finally gave up his Donald Blake alter ego at this time, briefly trying out a new identity as construction worker Sigurd Jokun. New trials continued to vex Thor—his father Odin seemingly perished in combat against the fire demon Surtur, and Thor refused the throne, the honor instead passing to Balder. Thor suffered unimaginable torment when a curse rendered him incapable of death. Combat wounds nearly disintegrated his body until the enchantment was reversed.

RAGNAROK

The events that led to the end of Asgard began with the true death of Odin, slain in a battle with Surtur. Thor took up the mantle of rulership and became empowered with the mystical Odinforce. Captain America, Iron Man, and the Olympian half-god Hercules were ever beset Thor in combat, but the alien Beta Ray Bill defeated the Thunder God and proved worthy of wielding the goldike Those Who Sit Above in Shadow for their amusement.

Unwilling to endure his people’s discomfort throughout yet another infinitely cycle, Thor severed the tapistry that wove the reality of Asgardian dimensions, wiping himself and all of Asgard from existence.

Will Thor return? In the past, Ragnarok had been a self-perpetuating cycle, and the circumstances of Asgardian return could spring from the same process that restored it in the past. But these thoughts are speculation. For now, Thor sleeps the sleep of the gods. DWH
**Thunderbolts**

The Thunderbolts were formed by **Baron Zemo**, from the members of his **Masters of Evil** team of Super-Villains, when it appeared that both the **Avengers** and the **Fantastic Four** had died as a result of their battle with **Onslaught**.

With the world hurting from the loss of these great heroes, Zemo plotted to give the Supervillains new identities and introduce them to the world as a team of Super-Heroes called the Thunderbolts.

The Thunderbolts were so successful in their guise of Super Heroes that many in the group began to think of themselves as heroes rather than villains. They battled evil Supervillains such as the Wrecking Crew, the **Circus of Crime**, and a new version of the Masters of Evil. When the Avengers and the Fantastic Four returned, the true identities of the Thunderbolts were revealed by Zemo, to make them dependent on him, in an attempt to ensure their loyalty.

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**Thunderball**

**First Appearance:** Defenders #17 (November 1974)

**Real Name:** Dr. Eliot Franklin

**Occupation:** Physicist, engineer, criminal

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 6 ft 6 in

**Weight:** 225 lbs, (with superhuman powers 350 lbs)

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Possesses superhuman strength and durability; wields virtually indestructible wrecking ball.

A physicist turned criminal, Dr. Eliot Franklin was in prison when he met Dirk Garthwaite, also known as the Wrecker, who had lost his superhuman powers. Garthwaite and Franklin broke out of prison along with two fellow convicts, Henry Camp and Brian Philip Calusky. All four men were holding onto the Wrecker's enchanted crowbar when it was struck by lightning. As a result, the Wrecker's superhuman powers were divided among the four, who became known as the Wrecking Crew. Franklin took the name Thunderball. Although he has operated alone, he most often appears as a member of the Wrecking Crew.

**Thunderbird**

**First Appearance:** Giant-Size X-Men #1 (1975)

**Real Name:** John Proudstar

**Occupation:** X-Man (deceased)

**Base:** New York City/Mobile/New York State

**Height:** 6 ft 11 in

**Weight:** 225 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Super strength and stamina; can run at 35 mph for long periods; leathery skin protects him from harm.

Eager to emulate his warrior ancestors, Native American John Proudstar joined the American Marines as an under-age cadet and served with distinction. John's mutant powers emerged relatively late when, at the age of 20, he wrestled a rampaging bison with his bare hands. He joined the X-Men after being sought out by Professor X, but died on only his second mission: jumping onto a criminal's escape plane, he was killed when the aircraft blew up.

John's brother, James, eventually followed in his footsteps but it was a long time before he forgave Professor X.
**Thunderstrike**

Divorced and with sole custody of his young son, Eric Masterson was an architect who was working at a building site where Thor, under a secret identity, was also employed. Thor was attacked by the Mongoose, and during the battle Eric was injured by falling girders. He was left with a permanent limp. After becoming friends with Thor, Eric was wounded again, this time mortally, and Odin merged him with the thunder god to save his life. Thereafter, Masterson would assume the form of Thor whenever the hero was needed on Earth. When Thor seemingly slew his brother Loki and was banished from this plane of reality, Eric took his place as Thor II. Eventually the real Thor returned, and Eric was given his own enchanted mace and became Thunderstrike. Thunderstrike eventually sacrificed himself to save Thor. In one possible future, Eric Masterson's son, Kevin, decides to attend art school in New York City. When he visits Avengers Mansion, he is given his father's enchanted mace and eventually merges with it. Taking on his father's name, Kevin joins the Avengers of his timeline.

**Thundra**

*First Appearance:* Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #129 (December 1972)

**Real Name:** Thundra

**Occupation:** Warrior

**Base:** United Sisterhood Republic of North America

**Height:** 5'7"

**Weight:** 150 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Red

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Enhanced strength, endurance, reflexes, and damage resistance; skilled at wielding a chain.

In an alternate future timeline, the 23rd century is led by a matriarchy where men are raised as servants or breeding stock. Thundra, born into the United Sisterhood Republic of North America, became one of its finest warriors. When men from a branching timeline invaded her own, Thundra journeyed to the modern era where she befriended the Thing. While in the modern era, she worked for a time as an operative for Roxxon Oil, where she led a team in infiltrating government energy research facility Project Pegasus. She later returned to rule the variant future timeline of Femazonia. Thundra is now the consort of her onetime enemy Arken of Polemachus, and recently lost her right eye during an internal rebellion.

**Tigra**

*First Appearance:* The Cat #1 (November 1972)

**Real Name:** Greer Grant Nelson

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 6'10"

**Weight:** 180 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** (human form) black, (cat form) orange fur with black stripes

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Enhanced strength, sharpening claws, and heightened senses of smell, hearing, and vision.

Greer Nelson received catlike powers from Dr. Joanne Tumulo, a member of the mystical race known as the Cat People. Taking on the identity of the Cat, Nelson began a career as a costumed adventurer in San Francisco. When Nelson suffered near-fatal injuries during a clash with HYDRA, the Cat People saved her life, imbuing her body with a cat-soul. She became her legendary champion, Tigra, and proved her worth as a member of the West Coast Avengers while struggling to keep her feline instincts in check. In her identity as Greer Nelson, she has recently become a New York City police officer.

**Tiger Shark**

*First Appearance:* Sub-Mariner #6 (September 1968)

**Real Name:** Todd Arliss

**Occupation:** Amorphous criminal

**Base:** The deep blue sea

**Height:** 6'1"

**Weight:** 450 lbs

**Eyes:** Gray

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Amphibious—able to withstand great water pressure and swim at up to 60mph; also possesses superhuman strength.

His genes spliced with those of Namor the Sub-Mariner and a tiger shark, Todd Arliss, former Olympic-level swimmer, became a superpowered amphibian. Namor was angered by his forced involvement in the process, and he and Tiger Shark became vengeful foes. When Tiger Shark's powers began to fade, he kidnapped Namor's father, Leonard MacKenzie, and blackmailed Namor into donating more powers. Chaos ensued during the transfer process and Tiger Shark ended up killing MacKenzie with a lead pipe. He remains at large, more deadly than ever—it seems his face is bound up with Namor's.
TITANIA

Dauida DeVito, alias Titania, was the leader of the original Grapplers, a team of female professional wrestlers. Titania and her teammates were hired by the Roxxon Oil company to sabotage the government's Project: Pegasus. They were defeated and sent to prison. After her release, Titania's strength was enhanced to superhuman levels by the Power Broker. She continued to lead an expanded Grapplers team. However, Titania was assassinated by a new Grappler called Goldfinger, who appears to have been working with the vigilante Scourge.

Mary "Speek" MacPherran lived in a Denver suburb that was transported by the Beyonder to his "Battleworld." There Doctor Doom gave her super-strength to serve in his army of criminals during the first "Secret War." This new Titania and her teammate, "Crusher" Creel, the Absorbing Man, grew attracted to one another. After returning to Earth, Titania sometimes operated on her own and had a personal feud with the She-Hulk. Titania also served as a member of the Masters of Evil and the Frightful Four.

Titania and the Absorbing Man were married. Creel stayed with Titania when she contracted cancer. After her cure, Titania and Creel seemed to reform. They later separated. PS
Titanium Man

First Appearance: Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #09 (Sept. 1960)

Real Name: Boris Bullski

Occupation: Former Russian champion

Base: Mobile

Height: 7 ft 1 in

Weight: (without armor) 475 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Unusual strength proportionate to his giant size, armor provided flight, enhanced strength, near-invincibility, and the ability to fire energy bolts from hands.

Russian inventor Boris Bullski devised the Titanium Man armor in order to crush Iron Man and win favor with his superiors. As Titanium Man, Bullski lost to Iron Man in a televised slugfest of East vs. West. A second Titanium Man, the mutant known as the Gremlin, died when his armor exploded. Boris Bullski later returned as an agent of AIM, but died in battle with Iron Man. A new Titanium Man recently appeared, failing in his bid to sabotage Tony Stark’s mission to destroy a comet that was on course for Earth. DW

Topaz

First Appearance: Werewolf By Night #13 (January 1974)

Real Name: Unrevealed, possibly Topaz

Occupation: Sorceress

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 10 in

Weight: 100 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: A trained sorceress with a multitude of mystic spells at her command, primarily empathy-based in nature.

Branded a witch after she made a flower bloom in the desert as a child, Topaz was incarcerated in a prison camp, where she was adopted and trained in the mystic arts by Taboo. Taboo served as the familiar for Taboo’s sorcery until, in pursuit of Jack Russell, the Werewolf By Night, Topaz turned against her mentor rather than allow Russell and his friends to come to harm. It has been prophesied that, one day, Topaz will be capable of wiping away the evils of the world. Topaz recently joined forces with Jennifer Kale and Satana as the Witches to recover the stolen Tome of Zhered-Na. TB

Trainer, Dr. Seward

First Appearance: Peter Parker: Spider-Man Vol. 1 #54 (January 1995)

Real Name: Seward Trainer

Occupation: Geneticist

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 10 in

Weight: 200 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Special Powers/Abilities: A genius in the fields of biology and genetic engineering.

So brilliant that he was once employed by the High Evolutionary, geneticist Seward Trainer gave in to Green Goblin, Norman Osborn’s blackmailing and participated in a plot to crush Spider-Man Peter Parker’s morale. By tampering with the Jackal’s research, Trainer made it appear that Parker was a clone. Dr. Trainer became a father figure to the real clone, Ben Reilly (Scarlet Spider), but died at the hands of the villain Gaunt before he could confess his role in the scheme. His daughter Carolyne Trainer briefly took the identity of Doctor Octopus II. DW

Tombstone

First Appearance: Web of Spider-Man #36 (March 1990)

Real Name: Lonnie Thompson Lincoln

Occupation: Professional Hitman

Base: Mobile

Height: 6 ft 7 in

Weight: Unknown

Eyes: Pink

Hair: White

Special Powers/Abilities: Enhanced strength, speed, stamina, and reflexes; skilled hand-to-hand fighter and assassin.

Lonnie Lincoln was born an African-American albino. He grew up in Harlem, New York City with Joe “Robbie” Robertson, whom he coerced into keeping quiet regarding a murder that Lincoln had committed. Lincoln became an assassin for mob figures such as the Kingpin, and gained superhuman powers after exposure to an experimental gas. Following a stint with the Sinister Twelve, Tombstone served a prison term in the Cage and received a heart bypass operation. He escaped, and remains at large. DW

Torpedo

First Appearance: Daredevil Vol. 1 #126 (October 1975)

Real Name: Brock Jones

Occupation: Crimefighter

Base: Clifton, West Virginia

Height: 6 ft

Weight: 200 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blond

Special Powers/Abilities: Battle suit provides damage resistance; projectiles at wrists and ankles add power to punches; suit also generates shockwaves, and permits supersonic flight.

Inventor Michael Stivak became the first Torpedo when his uncle, Senator Eugene Stivak, convinced him to build a battlesuit. In truth, Senator Stivak had been promised to do so by the extraterrestrial Dire Wraiths, who wanted a weapon capable of defeating their enemy Rom: the Spaceknight. After the younger Stivak’s death, Brock Jones fought crime while wearing the costume and fended off Senator Stivak’s efforts to retrieve it. He died in his adopted hometown of Clifton, West Virginia while battling the Dire Wraiths. DW

Trapster

First Appearance: Strange Tales #104 (January 1963)

Real Name: Peter Petruski

Occupation: Criminal

Base: New York City

Height: 5 ft 10 in

Weight: 180 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Special Powers/Abilities: Carries assorted weapons at all times, most of them applications of his paste-formula.

Chemist Peter Petruski happened upon a formula for a super-strong, quick-hardening adhesive. He constructed a special handgun that could project it without clogging, and set out to make his name among the criminal fraternity as Paste-Pot Pete. However, not even a name-change to the Trapster and an alliance with the Wizard, the Sandman, and Medusa as the Frightful Four has brought him the respect he craves. Something of a laughing stock because of his first villainous alias and his choice of weapon, the Trapster nonetheless remains a persistent threat—no matter how often heroes like the Fantastic Four or Spider-Man defeat him, he always comes back for more. TB
Famous criminal psychologist Dr. Judas Traver was lecturing in Europe when he became aware of the Brotherhood of Sciers, a secret criminal organization. The Sciers sent an assassin to inject Traveller with a fatal drug. Instead of killing him, the drug triggered Traveller's mutant abilities and he suffered a nervous breakdown. The Sciers supervised his recovery and assigned four agents—Mr. Naith, Medea, Boone, Chakra, and a Scier—to watch over him 24 hours a day. After Spider-Man freed him from the Sciers' control, Traveller went into hiding.

An Olympic sprinter brought low and disgraced by a steroid scandal, Delroy Garrett Jr. joined a philosophical movement known as the Triune Understanding, hoping to realize his latent potential. Jonathan Tremont, leader of the Triune Understanding, merged Garrett Jr. with the cosmic energy shard of the 3-D Man and gave his new recruit virtually superhuman abilities. As the hero Triathlon, Garrett Jr. joined the Avengers. During a fight against the Triple-Evil, he temporarily gained cosmic powers when he absorbed three cosmic energy shards.

Triton is a member of the royal family of the Inhumans, a genetic offshoot of the human race. The son of the Inhuman priest and philosopher Mander and his biologist mother Azur, Triton was exposed to mutagenic Terrigen mist when a year old. The resulting mutations adapted him to live and breathe underwater. Along with other members of the royal family, Triton was banished when Maximus first usurped the throne. While in exile, Triton first encountered and fought the Fantastic Four. Since then, however, Triton has become the ally of the Fantastic Four and Prince Namor.

Turbo

Mickey Musashi never wanted to be a hero. In fact, the journalism student thought that being a Super Hero was a ridiculous notion... until she came across the Turbo suit. This remarkable piece of equipment was created by a human scientist under the orders of the Dire Wraiths. When the suit's inventor learned that the suit was to be used for evil purposes, he gave it to a man named Brock Jones, who donned it to fight crime as the hero Turbo.

Eventually, the Wraiths found and killed Brock Jones, and the suit passed to Brock's cousin Mike Jeffries, who shared it with Musashi. As it turned out, the suit worked better for her than for Jeffries and she reluctantly became the hero known as Turbo.

While teamed with the New Warriors team, Turbo battled the Dire Wraiths, as well as the criminal team known as Heavy Mettle.

Retiring from battling evil as Turbo, Musashi pursued her journalism career. More significantly, Musashi set up a group named Excelsior with the express purpose of dissuading super-powered teenagers from choosing to risk their lives as heroes.
Adopted as a child by multi-millionaire Morgan MacNeil Hardy, Clifford Michaels had a sheltered upbringing where he learnt all about America's declining morals. As an adult, Clifford ventured into San Francisco and railed against lax morality as Turner D. Century. Clifford's impact was negligible and he became increasingly militant, burning buildings and killing iniquitous individuals. During a clash with Spider-Woman, his surrogate father died in a fire. Before Clifford could make amends, he was killed by the Scourge. TEB.

Childhood abuse caused Mary to develop a dissociative identity disorder, giving her three distinct personalities: timid Mary, lustful Typhoid, and vicious Bloody Mary. Through therapy, a fourth personality has sometimes emerged that is a stable combination of all three. Typhoid Mary worked as an assassin for theKingpin, and played a cruel game with Daredevil by charming him as Mary and tormenting him as Typhoid. Many times she has attempted to leave her criminal past behind her, but her Typhoid identity always reasserts itself. She recently escaped from the Raft prison. DW.

Created by Galactus billions of years ago, Tyrant draws his power from living worlds, and thus loses energy each time a planet is consumed by Galactus. Driven by a lust for power, Tyrant enslaved entire civilizations and protected himself with a robot army. Among the few who successfully opposed him were the women warriors of the Spinsterhood. In the modern era, Tyrant nearly succeeded in killing Galactus until Galactus' herald Morg unleashed the unstoppable energies of the Ultimate Nullifier. Tyrant and Galactus both vanished, though Galactus has since returned. DW.

TYRANNUS

Romulus Augustus, better known as Tyrannus, served as the last emperor of the Roman Empire, until his defeat by the forces of King Arthur Pendragon in the 6th century. Merlin the Magician banished Tyrannus by teleporting him to the underground world of Subterranea. There, the would-be despot discovered the Fountain of Youth and ruled the Subterraneans, who took the name Tyrannoids.

In the modern era, Tyrannus launched a war against the Mole Man for control of Subterranea, and became a frequent foe of the Hulk. He incurred the green giant's wrath by accidentally kidnapping his girlfriend, Betty Ross (see Banner, Betty).

Tyrannus journeyed to the fabled city of El Dorado and used the city's Sacred Flame of Life in a bid to take over the world. Reduced to a disembodied spirit after a failed attempt to merge with the Flame of Life, Tyrannus briefly inhabited the Abomination before winning back his original body. Tyrannus allied with the Avengers to defeat the Deviant army that had invaded Subterranea, but the Tyrannoids later turned on their master. His current fate is unknown. DW.

Psycho powers including mind-control, telepathy, and the ability to drain life energy. The Fountain of Youth provides Tyrannus with immortality, giving him plenty of time for devising ways to conquer the surface world.
Uatu the Watcher

Self-appointed observers of the universe, the Watchers vowed never to interfere in the affairs of others. As the Watcher responsible for Earth and its solar system, Uatu has broken this rule several times since encountering the Fantastic Four. His most significant intervention in human affairs came just before Earth's first visit from Galactus and the Silver Surfer, when he warned the Fantastic Four of the impending alien threat. Cautioned for his repeated interference, Uatu was stripped of his role as Watcher but he has since been reinstated. AD

Virtually immortal, has superhuman intelligence, is telepathic and can teleport from Earth to the Moon.

U-Foes

Hoping to duplicate the process by which the Fantastic Four had gained their powers, millionaire Simon Utrecht enlisted rocket pilot Mike Steel, engineer Jimmy Darnell, and technical specialist Ann Darnell to accompany him into space. The experiment worked, and the cosmic radiation they were exposed to gave each a unique power. Steel became a metal-coated being; Jimmy gained control over radiation, his sister Ann converted into a gaseous state, and Utrecht himself discovered that he could repel objects. As Ironclad, Vapor, X-Ray, and Vector, the four new superhumans formed a group they called the U-Foes. They first unleashed their powers on Bruce Banner, whom they blamed for grounding their test flight prematurely, but were unable to control their new powers and lost badly once Banner transformed into the Hulk. Over time, the U-Foes became more disciplined and, after honing their powers, found work as professional mercenaries. Their employers have included the Leader and the Master of the World. DW
Ultron
Robot with an evil mind of its own

Henry Pym built Ultron as a robotic servant and programmed his creation with his own brain patterns. But Ultron immediately rebelled against his maker, escaping to plot the extermination of all humanity.

Engineering a succession of upgraded bodies for himself, he finally emerged as Ultron-5 to fight Pym's teammates in the Avengers.

**BODYHOPPING**

By posing as the villainous Crimson Cowl, Ultron assembled a second grouping of the Masters of Evil. He then created theandroid Vision, using a duplicate body from the original Human Torch and brainwave patterns from Wonder Man. Ironically, just like Ultron himself, the Vision rebelled against his creator and defected to the Avengers, setting the pattern for most of Ultron's subsequent creations.

Ultron incorporated indestructible adamantium into his frame beginning with the Ultron-6 body. Ultron-7 was a gargantuan construct, while Ultron-8 was responsible for creating his robotic "wife," Jocasta.

Ultron-9 perished in a vat of molten adamantium, and Machine Man deactivated Ultron-10. Ultron-11 participated in the Beyonder's Secret Wars. Ultron-12, initially a member of the Lethal Legion, repented and tried to atone for his criminal past until destroyed by Ultron-11. During the Acts of Vengeance conspiracy, Doctor Doom programmed Ultron-13 with all previous personalities running simultaneously, making it easy for Daredevil to beat the addled robot. Ultron-14 created a new mate called Alkhema, though the two robots could not agree on their differing approaches to genocide.

**MULTIPLYING MACHINES**

Ultron-15 built hundreds of duplicates and conquered the eastern European country of Slovena, meeting defeat when Henry Pym exposed him to metal-disintegrating vibration. Hidden "Ultron Impervious" programming within Alkhema led to Ultron's return, and after a battle, Ultron affixed his decapitated head to a suit of Iron Man's armor. Several Ultron robots appeared during the Avengers Disassembled event, though these may have been projections by the Scarlet Witch. One of Ultron's old plots recently came to light when the teenager Victor Mancha learned of his cybernetic origins as Ultron's pawn for infiltrating the Avengers.
U-MAN

FIRST APPEARANCE: Invaders Vol. 1 #3 (November 1975)
REAL NAME: Meranno
OCCUPATION: Warrior, former scientist
BASE: Mobile
HEIGHT: 7 ft
WEIGHT: 450 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Gray
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Enhanced strength and stamina, able to breathe both air and water, can swim at high speed; devious scientific mind.

The Atlantean Meranno allied himself with Nazi Germany in the late 1930s, betraying his people by orchestrating an attack that crippled the Atlantean fleet. Namor, the traitor, and Namor used Nazi science to augment his strength.

As U-Man, he became a member of the Super-Axis team and frequently battled Namor, Captain America, and the other Invaders throughout World War II. In the modern era, U-Man has been an ally of the Atlantean warlord Attuma. DW

UNICORN

FIRST APPEARANCE: Tales of Suspense #50 (August 1964)
REAL NAME: Milos Masaryk
OCCUPATION: Intelligence agent, former criminal
BASE: Mobile
HEIGHT: 6 ft 2 in
WEIGHT: 220 lbs
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Red
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Possesses superhuman strength and durability; wears helmet with "power horn" that can project concussive energy blasts, lasers, and microwaves; wears rocket belt permitting flight.

A Czech-born operative for Russian intelligence, Milos Masaryk was assigned to guard Professor Anton Vanko's laboratory. Vanko invented the harness, helmet, and "power horn" that Masaryk wore as the Unicorn. While spying on Stark Industries, the Unicorn first battled his longtime enemy Iron Man. The Unicorn underwent treatment that endowed him with superhuman strength but caused rapid cellular deterioration. His sanity deteriorated as well, and he seemingly committed suicide by walking into the sea. PS

UMAR

FACTFILE
REAL NAME: Umar
OCCUPATION: Sorceress
BASE: Dark Dimension
HEIGHT: Unknown
WEIGHT: Unknown
EYES: Black
HAIR: Black
FIRST APPEARANCE: Strange Tales #150 (November 1968)

Umars possess extensive mystic knowledge, which allows her to cast powerful spells for a variety of purposes.

The sister of the dread Dormammu and a member of the mystical Faltine race, Umar was exiled with her brother from their home dimension, and sought sanctuary within the Dark Dimension. But Dormammu, who had magically altered himself so as to become a being of pure energy, eventually conquered the Dark Dimension, and banished Umar, whom he saw as the only threat to his power base. But with Dormammu's defeat at the hands of Doctor Strange, Umar was released from imprisonment, and herself battled Strange, both in order to avenge her brother and in order to expand her power base. In the years that have followed, Umar has remained a constant threat to Doctor Strange and to Earth, whether allied with Dormammu or on her own, and despite the fact that her daughter, Clea, has become Strange's disciple in the mystic arts. TB

Umars invokes the power of the Lamp of Lucifer in order to learn her brother's defeat—and how to avoid meeting a similar fate herself.

Over the years, Umar has often allied herself with her brother Dormammu in her attempts to gain power.
**Union Jack**

The original Union Jack, Lord James Fabworth, fought for the British during World War I as a member of the heroic team Freedom's Five. After an injury, he succeeded as Union Jack by his son, Brian (formerly known as the Destroyer), while his daughter Jacqueline went on to become Spitfire. Both heroes joined the World War II-era Invaders, where they fought alongside Captain America and Namor the Sub-Mariner; Brian also founded the heroic post-war V-Battalion.

The third Union Jack is Joey Chapman, who took up the mantle when Spitfire’s son, Kenneth Crichton, refused to follow in his uncle’s footsteps. Chapman joined the Knights of Pendragon and received superhuman abilities through possession of the Pendragon spirit. As Union Jack, Chapman has served with the most recent Invaders team. DW

**Unus the Untouchable**

First Appearance: X-Men #3 (November 1964)

Real Name: Angelo Unusco

Occupation: Professional criminal

Base: Mobile

Height: 5'11" in

Weight: 220 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Special Powers/Abilities: Generates an impenetrable force-field around body; redoubtable hand-to-hand combatant.

Unus was invited to join the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants if he could defeat an X-Man. Fighting Beast, Unus was beaten when his opponent employed a device to magnify Unus’ force-field out of his control. As a criminal in partnership with the Blob, Unus again lost control of his force-fields.

Unable to breathe, he collapsed and was thought to have died until Quicksilver discovered him in the ruins of the decimated island of Genosha (see Genoshians). AD

**Upstarts**

First Appearance: Uncanny X-Men Vol. 1 #281 (October 1991)

Former Members and Powers:

- Gamesmaster: Telepath who reads billions of minds simultaneously [1]
- Siena Blaze: Controlled the Earth's electromagnetic field [2]
- Shendi Shaw: Can change his body from rock-solid to intangible [3]
- Fabian Cortez: Could overload the abilities of other mutants [4]
- Trevor Fitzy: Drained victims’ life energy to control time [5]
- Andrea and Andreas von Strucker (Fennis Twins): Could project energy blasts when in contact with one another [6] and [7]
- Graydon Creed: Wore strength-boosting battle armor [8]

Looking for a new challenge, the Gamesmaster gathered a group of young humans and mutants to compete in a murderous game. The contestants, who called themselves the Upstarts, carried points if they killed powerful targets such as members of the X-Men, the New Mutants, or the Hellfire Club. The Upstarts launched a number of high-profile hits during their short career, and often fought each other.

Eventually many members died, and the survivors, bored with the sport, disbanded. DW

**Urich, Ben**

First Appearance: Daredevil #153 (July 1979)

Real Name: Benjamin Urich

Occupation: Reporter for the Daily Bugle

Base: New York City

Height: 5'9" in

Weight: 140 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Gray

Special Powers/Abilities: None; a skilled and responsible investigative journalist.

Ben Urich started his journalism career as a copy boy at the Daily Bugle. He worked his way up to become a reporter. Urich began gathering information about Daredevil, and soon learned the hero's true identity and personal history. He thought about publishing an article revealing all of this to the public, but then realized that such an article would destroy Daredevil. So he burned all his notes and files and told Daredevil what he knew. The two became friends, and Daredevil's secret remained safe. MT

**U.S. Agent**

First Appearance: Captain America #203 (November 1969)

Real Name: John F. Walker

Occupation: Government agent

Base: Washington, DC

Height: 6'4" in

Weight: 270 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Blond

Special Powers/Abilities: Superhuman strength and stamina; carries a shield made of Vibranium, which can absorb vibrations from concussive forces directed against it.

Walker's older brother was a soldier who died in the Vietnam War, and Walker joined the military to honor his memory. After completing his service, he heard that the Power Broker had developed a process to give normal people superhuman strength. Walker duly became the Super-Patriot.

When the Commission on Superhuman Activities forced Steve Rogers to give up being Captain America, it assigned Walker to replace him. Rogers later reclaimed his mantle, and Walker became the U.S. Agent. He was assigned to the West Coast Avengers and stayed on the team until it renamed itself Force Works. He also led a team called the Jury against the Thunderbolts and was later drafted to lead the government's new Invaders team. TD
**Valkyrie**

Odin, ruler of Asgard, made Brunhilde the leader of the Valkyries, giving her the task of selecting worthy warriors from among the slain and bringing them to Valhalla. Brunhilde fulfilled her role ably until the villainous Enchantress trapped her spirit within a crystal and kept it there for centuries, using it to invest herself and others of her choosing with Valkyrie powers. As well as stealing her powers, in modern times the Enchantress also assumed Brunhilde's form to deceive the Avengers. She gave the powers of Valkyrie to the socialite Samantha Parrington, and later to Barbara Norris, intending to use them as her pawns. However, Brunhilde eventually succeeded in restoring her consciousness into Norris's body, and soon won back her original body.

As Valkyrie, Brunhilde joined the Defenders and seemingly sacrificed her life to defeat the evil entity known as the Dragon of the Moon. She later returned by inhabiting new host bodies, but perished in the events surrounding Thor's unleashing of Ragnarok. The Samantha Parrington version of Valkyrie has regained her powers, and has continued her adventuring career.

**Vanguard**

Born in the Soviet Union, Nikolai Krylenko lived a life that was marked by deception and duplicity right from the start. Born with mutant powers, he and his twin sister Laynia were adopted by the state after their mother died in childbirth. Their father, a nuclear physicist, was told they were stillborn. Raised by the Soviet machine to be a counterweight to the increasingly prolific mutant menaces, Nikolai and Laynia became members of the state-sponsored super-team, the Super-Soldiers. Inevitably, they learnt the truth about their background and since then Nikolai has pursued more semi-autonomous roles. He is currently a member of super-team, the Winter Guard.

Due to her excellent fighting skills, the woman known as the Vamp was selected to become one of the first Super-Agents of SHIELD. Unfortunately, the Vamp was a double-agent, secretly working for the criminal Corporation, and assigned to infiltrate SHIELD. She had also been subjected to a genetic modification, which allowed her to transform into a psionically-powered creature called Animus.

Eventually, the Vamp's true loyalties were exposed and she was incarcerated. She subsequently became yet another victim of the notorious serial killer of Super-Villains the Scourge of the Underworld.
Rachel Van Helsing was the descendant of Dr. Abraham Van Helsing, the 19th century nemesis of Dracula. As a child she saw Dracula murder her parents to get back at Dr. Van Helsing. Rachel was raised by another of Dracula's enemies, Quincy Harker. She became the most formidable member of his band of vampire slayers, frequently battling Dracula. After a troubled romance with her teammate Frank Drake, Rachel moved to New York State, where Dracula finally turned her into a vampire. On her request, Wolverine impaled her through the heart, and she died peacefully.

Vapor was born in 1405 on Ruk Island, Mira began life as a priestess. In 1419 she was recruited into the Young Gods by the goddesses of Earth's pantheon, Mira was taken to train in combat under Katos on the Celestial Mothership where she became Varua. After the Sea Witch had a prophetic dream, the Celestials granted the Young Gods 3 days on earth to investigate evil threats. Varua was held captive by the Deviants who used a brain wave to make her help them awaken Ghaur. Varua was forced to Ghaur to create a Uni-Mind with other prisoners to give its power to him. This was cut open by the Black Knight, who set everyone free. Varua departed with Delta Force.

The mysterious Vanisher built a criminal organization around his ability to commit crimes using teleportation. He tried to extort money from the US government by stealing defense plans until foiled by the original X-Men. The Vanisher acted as the mentor to a gang of teenage runaways known as the Fallen Angels. The being called Darkling later took control of the Vanisher and set him against the New Warriors. The Vanisher subsequently joined a new team of Enforcers.
**VENOM**

While Spider-Man was on the run,Sonider's "Battleworld," he acquired a black costume, which turned out to be an alien being that bonded itself to him. Spider-Man rejected this alien symbiote, which then hatched onto an ex-Daily Globe columnist Eddie Brock. He had wrecked his career by identifying the wrong man as a murderer known as the Sin-Eater—an error revealed by Spider-Man. Brock also had cancer and had resolved to kill himself. When the symbiote bonded with Brock, the cancer went into remission. As Venom, Brock became one of Spider-Man's deadliest rivals and foes.

When Brock's cancer returned, he sold the symbiote to crime boss Don Fortunato, who gave it to his son Angelo. As a second Venom, Angelo attacked Spider-Man, but the symbiote deserted him in mid-battle, and Angelo fell to his death. The symbiote then bonded with Spider-Man's enemy Mac Gargan, the Scorpion, who became the third Venom.

**Verdugo, Sandra**

A one-time member of the US Special Forces, Sandra Verdugo worked as a mercenary before becoming pregnant by Doc Samson. When Sandra's eight-year-old son was kidnapped, the clandestine organization Home Base offered her a deal. Home Base would retrieve her son if Sandra would agree to become one of their operatives. Her mission would be to capture the Hulk.

Sandra agreed but it wasn't long before she turned on her new employers. With the help of Doc Samson and the Hulk, Sandra was reunited with her son just before Home Base's headquarters were destroyed.

**Vermin**

The being now called Vermin grew up on the streets of New York City where he was found by Baron Helmut Zemo, the son of a Nazi scientist, and Arnim Zola, a Nazi geneticist. These two changed Vermin so that he resembled a rat, and gained rat-like abilities. He was sent out to kill Zemo and Zola's longtime enemy, Captain America. Vermin sent a pack of rats to attack the hero, who managed to survive and captured him. Vermin escaped and was taken to Zemo's base in Mexico, but later returned to New York, where he was eventually captured by Captain America and Spider-Man and taken to a high security mental institution.
**Vernard, Kristoff**

**First Appearance:** Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #247 (October 1982)

**Real Name:** Kristoff Vernard

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**BASE:** Latveria

**Height:** 4 ft 11 in (in suit) 6 ft 7 in

**Weight:** 103 lbs (in suit) 293 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Enhanced strength; damage resistance; ability to generate force fields or fire concussive beams.

Kristoff Vernard is believed by some to be the biological son of Nathaniel Richards, making him the half-brother of Reed Richards (Mister Fantastic). After the death of Kristoff's mother in Latveria, Doctor Doom discovered the boy and groomed him as his heir. When Doom appeared to have died, his Doombots brainwashed Kristoff into believing that he was Doom. Kristoff donned an armored suit and attacked the Fantastic Four, though his enemies eventually helped restore his true identity. Kristoff later teamed up with Nathaniel Richards to reclaim Latveria from usurpers.  

**Vibraxas**

**First Appearance:** Fantastic Four Vol. 1 #290 (July 1994)

**Real Name:** N'Kano

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**BASE:** Mobile

**Height:** 5 ft 10 in

**Weight:** 165 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Can generate intense vibratory force.

The young Wakandan N'Kano gained his powers when an experimental Vibrasurge project backfired, seemingly killing his mother. Taken in by the Black Panther, he traveled to America and became a member of the Fantastic Force under the name Vibraxas. When he accidentally murdered a gang member, Vibraxas went back to Wakanda to stand trial, but he was exonerated. After the Fantastic Force disbanded, Vibraxas found love with Queen Divine Justice, a member of the "Dora Milaje" who serve the Wakandan king as bodyguards and wives-in-training.

**Vindicator**

**First Appearance:** Uncanny X-Men #129 (November 1980)

**Real Name:** Heather McNeil Hudson

**Occupation:** Member of Alpha Flight

**BASE:** Tamarind Island, British Columbia, Canada

**Height:** 5 ft 6 in

**Weight:** 120 lbs

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Red

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Thermal-energy battlesuit provides ability to fly, generate force fields and fire concussive blasts.

Heather McNeil Hudson and her husband James Hudson helped found the Canadian Super Hero group Alpha Flight. James took leadership of Alpha Flight as the costumed hero Guardian, and Heather did the same after his apparent death. As the new leader of Alpha Flight, Heather called herself Vindicator and wore a modified version of her husband's battlesuit. She and James later had a baby girl and left on a mission to deep space. Recent manipulations of the time stream have created copies of the original Alpha Flight members, including Heather, who are active on Earth.

**Viper**

**First Appearance:** Captain America #110 (February 1969)

**Real Name:** Unrevealed

**Occupation:** Terrorist

**BASE:** Mobile

**Height:** 5 ft 9 in

**Weight:** Unknown

**Eyes:** Green

**Hair:** Black with green highlights

Viper is a superb strategist and a trained terrorist with extensive knowledge of weaponry, tactics, and lighting styles. She is skilled in a number of martial arts and an expert in the use of various weapons, including whips.

Her face scarred at some point in her nebulous past, the woman who would one day be known as Viper began her career as a member of the international terrorist organization called Hydra. After the leadership of Hydra was captured by Nick Fury and S.H.I.E.L.D., she assumed command of the remnants of the organization and, as Madame Hydra, excelled at creating panic and terror until Captain America brought her down. Madame Hydra later surfaced in Virginia, where she murdered Jordan Styrke, a costumed criminal known as Viper, as he was being escorted by US marshals to Washington DC to testify about his criminal connections. She stole his costume and, assuming his name, took command of the Serpent Squad he had assembled. Under the new Viper's leadership, the Serpent Squad became a terrorist unit. Since then, both alone or in concert with allies such as the Silver Samurai, Baron Strucker, and the Red Skull, Viper has continued to hatch plans resulting in chaos and anarchy. Although she has declared her intention for world domination, Viper has been known to launch attacks where there is no obvious advantage to be gained. Though her injured face has long since healed, the scars in her psyche run deep, and whatever unknown demons plague her constantly drive Viper to acts dedicated to the destruction of world governments and innocent people.
Virgo

**First Appearance:** Avengers #72 (January 1970)
**Real Name:** Elaine McLaughlin
**Occupation:** Professional criminal
**Base:** Denver, Colorado
**Height:** 5 ft 5 in  
**Weight:** 125 lbs  
**Eyes:** Green  
**Hair:** Red
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Sharp criminal mind; good organizer; a skilled hand-to-hand combatant.

Gang boss Virgo was recruited to be a member of Cornelius Van Lunt's Zodiac crime cartel, in which each member would adopt the guise of a different sign of the zodiac, and control a territory in a different American city. Zodiac was equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry and their ultimate goal was global domination. However, their bid for power was foiled by the combined forces of S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers. Later, a rogue Zodiac faction led by former Cartel member Scorpio and using androids to represent the twelve zodiacal symbols targeted the original Zodiac leaders for death. In the end, Virgo was slain by her robot counterpart.

Vulture

Adrian Toomes gained self-esteem from criminality. A founder of B & T Electronics with his friend Gregory Bestman, Toomes had just completed his electromagnetic harness—which enabled him to fly—when he discovered his partner had been defrauding the company. Desperate for revenge, Toomes destroyed the company's factory and found a substantial cache of money. He then embarked upon a life of crime, throughout which he has been continually dogged by Spider-Man.

**Factfile**

**Real Name:** Adrian Toomes
**Occupation:** Inventor; criminal
**Base:** Staten Island
**Height:** 5 ft 11 in  
**Weight:** 175 lbs  
**Eyes:** Hazel  
**Hair:** None

**First Appearance:** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #32 (May 1963)

Electromagnetic harness worn beneath costume enables the Vulture to fly at speeds of up to 95 mph. It also augments his strength, agility, and endurance to superhuman levels.

Vision

See opposite page

Von Doom, Cynthia

**First Appearance:** Astonishing Tales #8 (October 1971)
**Real Name:** Cynthia von Doom
**Occupation:** Sorceress
**Base:** Astral plane
**Height:** 5 ft 9 in  
**Weight:** 150 lbs  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Hair:** Brown
**Special Powers/Abilities:** Knowledge of magic allowed her to contact demons; however, she often unleashed forces that were beyond her abilities to control.

Cynthia von Doom was a sorceress who belonged to a group of Latverian gypsies called the Zephe. She married Werner von Doom, a healer. Their son Victor grew up to become Doctor Doom. Cynthia summoned the demon Mephisto, who offered her great power so she could overthrow Latveria's ruthless king and give her people a homeland. She unleashed terrible magic but could not control it. One of the king's guards killed her, and her soul joined Mephisto in Hell. After Cynthia's death, young Victor found his mother's trunk of magic paraphernalia. Every year since then he has tried to summon her back from Mephisto's realm.

While Toomes was in prison, his cellmate, Blackie Drago, discovered the location of Toomes' spare Vulture suit. Finding it difficult to use, Drago also suffered defeat at Spider-Man's hands, before being beaten by Toomes, who had escaped incarceration. Since then, Toomes' criminal shenanigans have continued to be interspersed with battles with the wallcrawler. Although now an old man, Toomes' hatred of Spider-Man is likely to keep him alive for years to come.
The synthozoid who would become the Vision was programmed with the brain patterns of Wonder Man, who was believed to be deceased at the time. The synthozoid was created by Ultron, the Avengers' robotic archenemy, with the help of Professor Phineas T. Horton, the scientist responsible for the original Human Torch.

**EMOTIONAL SIGNALS**
Utron immediately sent the Vision to lure the Avengers into a death trap. Like Wonder Man before him, the Vision grew to admire the Avengers and couldn't betray them. He broke free of Ultron's control and helped the Avengers defeat him. The grateful heroes rewarded the Vision by inviting him to join the team. He was so shaken by the gesture that he actually shed a tear. The Vision's human emotions began to surface over time and he slowly realized that he was falling in love with Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch. When she returned his feelings, they were married and took a leave of absence from the Avengers, settling in Leonia, New Jersey.

**A MATTER OF TRUST**
The Vision later returned to action to aid the Avengers against Annihilus, and was severely injured. Starfox attempted to cure him by linking him with ISACC, a massive computer complex that controlled the moon of Saturn called Titan. ISACC tapped into a control crystal left in the Vision by Ultron and used it to alter the android's way of thinking. When the Vision was elected chairman of the Avengers, he decided to bring a new golden age to humanity by taking control of every computer on Earth. However, the other Avengers convinced him to abandon his ambitious plan. Believing he could no longer be trusted, the government kidnapped and disassembled the Vision.

**VICTIM OF MADNESS**
He was rescued by the West Coast Avengers and rebuilt by Dr. Pym and the Black Panther, but he had lost all his human emotions and could no longer return the Scarlet Witch's love. Their marriage eventually ended in divorce. The Vision's android body was later destroyed when the Scarlet Witch's madness destroyed the Avengers. A version of the Vision was recently revived when his programming was integrated into the neuro-kinetic armor of the Young Avenger known as Iron Lad.
**WAR**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Factor #11 (December 1986)
**REAL NAME** Abraham Lincoln Keros
**OCCUPATION** Former Horseman of Apocalypse
**BASE** Unknown
**HEIGHT** 6'6" in **WEIGHT** 270 lbs **EYES** Blue **HAIR** Brown
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** As the Horseman of the Apocalypse War, Abraham could shatter objects just by concentrating on them and clapping his hands.

Vietnam war veteran Abraham Keros was forced to live out his days in an iron lung. When Apocalypse offered to heal Abraham if he became one of his Four Horsemen, Abraham seized the opportunity. As the Horseman War, Abraham helped the group to win their first victory over X-Factor, but after that they suffered repeated defeats. Eventually, Apocalypse disbanded the group and Abraham returned to his paralyzed state. He would have remained in this condition if Archangel, another former Horseman, had not healed him. Abraham is now determined to make the most of this new life. The role of War has since been filled by the Hulk, Deathbird, and Gazer.

**WAR MACHINE**

While serving with the US Marines in Southeast Asia, helicopter pilot James Rhodes encountered Tony Stark, who had just escaped from a warlord by using a suit of powered armor. Rhodes became Tony Stark's pilot, and took the role of Iron Man during one of Stark’s bouts with alcoholism.

During a period when Stark was believed dead, Rhodes became CEO of Stark Industries. He later wore a variant version of the Iron Man armor as the heroic War Machine, and briefly changed his armor to an alien construct called the Eidolon Warwear. After the events known as the Crossing, Rhodes temporarily gave up his career to start a salvage company.

He returned to fight mercenary Parnell Jacobs, who became a new, villainous War Machine.

**WARBIRD**

Carol Danvers served with US Air Force intelligence and NASA, before exposure to Kree technology gave her superhuman powers. As the hero Ms. Marvel, she joined the Avengers. The villain Immortus kidnapped her, took her to the Limbo dimension, brainwashed, and imprecated her. She escaped to Earth, but lost her powers and memories to the absorbing mutant Rogue. Ms. Marvel worked with the X-Men until she received cosmic power in genetic experiments conducted by the alien Brood.

As Binary, she joined the galaxy-hopping Starjammers. After her return home and a slight dip in power levels, she took the identity of Warbird.

Danvers resigned from the Avengers when problems with alcoholism came to light, and sought treatment for her addiction. She became the superhuman liaison for US Homeland Security and, after the events of House of M, she took the codename Ms. Marvel once more.
Warlock
Genetically created life form

Adam Warlock was the genetic creation of a maverick group of scientists known as the Enclave. He was the prototype for what they hoped would be an invincible army, with which they planned to conquer the world. While forming in his cocoon, Warlock overheard his creators' plans. When he hatched, he rebelled against them, destroyed their base, and used his cosmic power to take off into space.

High Evolutionary
At this point, drifting through space, Warlock met the High Evolutionary, a human who had learned how to control evolution, who was creating an artificial world called "Counter-Earth." He was hoping to create a planet free from evil, but the creature Man-Beast brought evil to this pure world.

The High Evolutionary gave Warlock the Soul Gem, which could draw souls into another dimension, and Warlock battled Man-Beast. In the end, however, Warlock was unable to defeat evil on Counter-Earth, and left to fight the good fight elsewhere in the universe.

The Magus
In his travels, Warlock encountered the Magus, the power-crazed leader of the Universal Church of Truth, an armed militia trying to spread their religious empire throughout the universe. This Church destroyed the populations of planets that refused to convert. To his horror, Warlock discovered that the Magus was actually an alternate future version of himself.

Warlock subsequently battled the Titan Thanus, who mortally wounded him. Warlock's soul retreated into the Soul Gem, where it lived peacefully for many years until he emerged to battle Thanos once more.

Factfile
REAL NAME: Adam Warlock
OCCUPATION: Avenger, Savior of Worlds
BASE: Counter-Earth
HEIGHT: 6 ft 2 in
WEIGHT: 240 lbs
EYES: White
HAIR: Blond
FIRST APPEARANCE: Fantastic Four #66 (September 1967)

Essential Storylines:
• The Infinity Abyss Miniseries
While living in one of his self-generated cocoons, Warlock is revived to battle six clones of Thanos.
• Warlock Miniseries: The Enclave create another Warlock to rule the Earth, but he turns out to be an illusion in the mind of Janlo, placed there by the real Adam Warlock to teach her compassion.

Pip the Troll, Adam Warlock's friend, helped him battle the Titan Thanos.

Warlock's interdimensional travels brought him into conflict with the mutant team known as the X-Men, including their field leader Cyclops.

Adam Warlock has golden colored skin.
**WARRIORS THREE**

The Warriors Three were champions of Asgard, although their reckless exploits also brought them notoriety. Fandral was dashing, as quick with a blade as he was with his wit. Tactitious Hognir, nicknamed the Grim, came from a faraway land and Asgard's dimension and wielded a mace in battle. Volstagg was the heart of the band, though his boisterous nature often got the others into trouble.

The Three often fought at the side of the thunder god Thor, helping put down threats from Loki and going on quests, such as the retrieval of apples from the world-tree Yggdrasill or securing a magic pig from Dionysus of Olympus. When Thor triggered Ragnarok (see Gods of Asgard), Asgard was wiped from existence, with the Warriors Three presumably among the casualties. DW

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**WATCHERS, THE**

The Watchers are an ancient race of extraterrestrial who, eons ago, took upon themselves the task of observing the planets, peoples, and phenomena of the universe, without taking an active part in the affairs of the peoples under observation.

The Watchers adopted their policy of passive observation after a disastrous experiment. A group of Watchers, including Uatu the Watcher who eventually came to observe Earth, once gave the knowledge of atomic power to the inhabitants of the planet Prosilicus, believing this would advance the race technologically.

However the Prosilicans used the knowledge to create nuclear weapons and waged war on their own planet, and against others. After this, the Watchers vowed to only passively observe, never to interfere. Uatu, however, met Reed Richards and came to look kindly on the Fantastic Four. He has helped the team numerous times, especially during their conflicts with the world-eater Galactus. MT
WASP
Buzziest hero of the Avengers team

Janet Van Dyne was with her scientist father Vernon when he visited Dr. Henry Pym to ask him to collaborate on a project to use an energy beam to detect signals from extraterrestrial civilizations. Pym declined, but was attracted to Janet, who reminded him of his late wife Maria. Van Dyne proceeded with his experiment. However, a criminal from the Kosmosian race tracked Van Dyne's beam to Earth and murdered him.

PYM PARTICLES
Janet told Pym she was determined to bring her father's killer to justice. Impressed, Pym revealed his dual identity as Ant-Man and offered to endow her with superhuman abilities and make her his crimefighting partner. Janet agreed and became the Wasp. Pym taught her to use gas containing subatomic "Pym particles" to shrink herself and regain normal size. He also implanted cells beneath her shoulderblades that enabled her to grow wings at insect size. Ant-Man and the Wasp duly defeated the creature from Kosmo. Pym and Janet also fell in love. It was Pym who suggested that he, the Wasp, the Hulk, Iron Man, and Thor band together, and Janet who suggested the name "The Avengers."

A STORMY MARRIAGE
Pym adopted other costumed identities, Giant-Man and Goliath, and then an alternate, aggressive personality named Yellowjacket. Realizing that he was still Pym, Janet married him anyway, and he soon regained his true personality. Pym later had a nervous breakdown, and he and Janet were divorced; however time healed the rift and they became friends, and eventually lovers, once more.

Over the years the Wasp's powers have altered. She can now change size by mental command, and vary in size anywhere between insect size and her normal height. Whereas she formerly used weapons called "wasp's stings," she can now project bioelectricity from her hands.

The Wasp has served with great distinction as chairman of the Avengers. A wealthy heiress, she has also led a second career as a fashion designer. PS

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Avengers #59-60
  Janet Van Dyne marries Henry Pym in his new Yellowjacket identity.
- Avengers #214-219
  Janet Van Dyne divorces Henry Pym and becomes an Avengers member.
- Avengers #270-277
  In her final mission as chairman, Wasp leads Avengers in battling Masters of Evil's takeover of Avengers Mansion.
**Weapon X**

In 1945, a liberated concentration camp unearthed the genetics research of MISTER SINISTER, giving birth to the US government's Weapon Plus program. The government's previous Super-Soldier project (which produced Captain America) retrospectively became Weapon I. Weapons II and III used animal subjects. Weapons IV, V, and VI experimented on ethnic minorities, and Weapons VII, VIII, and IX relied on mutants. In the 1960s, Weapon X (conducted in conjunction with the Canadian government's Department K) produced memory-wiped operatives including WOLVERINE and SABRETOOTH, and used Shiva robots to eliminate rogue agents. Wolverine escaped and became a member of the X-MEN.

Weapon X eventually disbanded, but Weapon Plus continued under the leadership of John Sublime, who took the program up to Weapon XV. Sublime reopened Weapon X, recruiting mutants as field operatives and executing surplus mutants in the Neverland concentration camp. Wolverine teamed with Agent Zero and Fantomex (a product of Weapon XIII) to investigate the program, but found that it had seemingly gone underground. **DW**

**Wendigo**

An ancient curse dooms anyone who consumes human flesh in the Canadian wilderness to become a Wendigo, a savage and near-mindless being covered with shaggy white fur. The hunter Paul Cartier became one of the earliest Wendigos, after resorting to cannibalism to survive in a snowed-in cave. Cartier tried to transfer the curse to the Hulk, but his hunting companion Georges Baptiste voluntarily became the new Wendigo.

Many more Wendigos have since appeared, including fur trapper François Lartigue and cryptozoologist Michael Fleet. The Canadian government, apparently hoping to exploit the creature's superhuman attributes, employed a Wendigo operative codenamed Yeti as part of its Weapon PRIME program.

During its time with Weapon PRIME, Yeti attacked Cable's X-FORCE as well as the hero NORTHSTAR. Most recently, the sorcerer Mauvais assumed the identity of a Wendigo, and was dragged into the otherdimensional realm of the Great Beasts after a fight with WOLVERINE. **DW**
WEREWOLF

Jack Russell's ancestor, Grigori Rusoff, had the misfortune to be bitten by a female werewolf in 1795 in his home country of Transylvania. The curse eventually afflicted Jack. When he turned 18, Jack was transformed into a mindless, savage werewolf during the three nights of the full moon.

The mystical, extradimensional beings known as "The Three Who Are All" gave Jack the power to change into a werewolf at will, while retaining his human mind. He used this ability as a crimefighter. However, on the nights of the full moon, he still changes into a werewolf involuntarily and his mind becomes that of the beast. On those nights, he protects others by locking himself away in an escape-proof room.

In his career as a crimefighter, Werewolf has crossed paths with Spider-Woman, Moon Knight, Tigra and others. Once, while on the rampage as a werewolf, Jack Russell was subdued by the West Coast Avengers.

Whiteout

A native of the Savage Land, situated somewhere in Antarctica, little is known about the creature known as Whiteout. She was briefly a member of Zallman's Savage Land mutants, and it is thought that her first and only mission with this group involved an attack on the X-Men in Chile, where that mutant team was searching for their lost team-mate, Polaris.

Subsequently, Whiteout was a member of Superia's Femizons and their effort to put women in charge of the world. Her appearances since have been both sporadic and fleeting.
**White Tiger**

**First Appearance:** Deadly Hands of Kung Fu #15 (December 1975)

**Real Name:** Hector Ayala

**Occupation:** Student

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5'10"

**Weight:** 180 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities:** Amulet gave him enhanced strength and agility, and an innate understanding of the martial arts.

Student Hector Ayala discovered amulets once worn by the Sons of the Tiger that granted him superhuman strength, speed, agility, and martial arts skills. As the White Tiger, Hector fought crime in his poverty-stricken neighborhood, but he was badly injured during Gideon Mac's campaign to wipe out Super Heroes and retired his costumed identity for years. On Hector's first night back as the White Tiger he was mistaken for a criminal. He ended up shot dead. His amulets have been passed on to his niece, Federal Agent Del Toro, who seems poised to become a new incarnation of the White Tiger.

**White Wolf**

**First Appearance:** Black Panther vol. 3 #4 (February 1999)

**Real Name:** Hunter

**Occupation:** Leader of the Hatut Zeraze

**Base:** Wakanda, later mobile

**Height:** 6'2"

**Weight:** 210 lbs

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Black

**Special Powers/Abilities:** A formidable hand-to-hand combatant and master spy. His costume is made of vibranium microweave fabric, protecting him from physical impact.

When his parents died in a plane crash in Wakanda, Africa, Hunter, a Caucasian, was adopted by Wakanda's king, T'Chaka. Later T'Chaka fathered an heir, T'Challa, and Hunter lost his status as the king's favored son, developing a jealous hatred of T'Challa. Hunter was made the leader of the Hatut Zeraze ("Dogs of War"), who served as the Wakandan secret police. But when T'Challa became king, he disbanded the Hatut Zeraze, objecting to their brutality. Hunter and his men left Wakanda and became mercenaries. T'Challa and Hunter became enemies as the Black Panther and the White Wolf.

**Whizzer**

Bitten by a poisonous snake as a child, Bob Frank's scientist-father gave him a transfusion of mongoose blood in an attempt to save his life. This transfusion sparked Bob's latent mutant abilities, and granted him superspeed. Reaching manhood, Bob became the Whizzer, and set out to battle crime and the Axis powers. During the World War II, the Whizzer was a member of the Liberty Legion, where he met Miss America, his future wife and then the Invaders. After the war, both the Whizzer and Miss America served in the All-Winners Squad, they then retired from the heroic life to raise children.

Tragically, Miss America died in childbirth, and the Whizzer's son was a horrifically mutated radioactive mutant known as Nuklo.

**Factfile**

**Real Name:** Robert Frank

**Occupation:** Adventurer

**Base:** New York City

**Height:** 5 ft 10 in

**Weight:** 180 lbs

**Eyes:** Brown

**Hair:** Brown, later gray

**First Appearance:** Gent-Size Avengers #1 (August 1974)

The Whizzer possessed superhuman speed, which allowed him to run at several hundred miles per hour.

**A Sad End**

Years later, while trying to cure his son's condition, the Whizzer was attacked and suffered a fatal heart attack. The Whizzer should not be confused with the member of the Squadron Sinister, who now operates as Speed Demon, nor with the member of the other-Earth Squadron Supreme.
**Wild Thing**

**First Appearance**: X-Men #1 (February 1963)

**Real Name**: Rina Logan

**Occupation**: High-school student

**Base**: Saddle River, New Jersey

**Height**: 5 ft 2 in

**Weight**: 99 lbs

**Eyes**: Brown

**Hair**: Black

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Superhuman strength, speed, agility, and a healing power giving immunity from poisons, gases, or drugs. Psychic claws can cut through virtually any substance.

In a possible future, the former assassin Elektra_metrics Wolverine of the X-Men and has a daughter. Named Rina, she inherits many of her father's physical powers and also possesses the mutant ability to generate psychic claws. Ignoring her parents' objections, Rina trains her powers and becomes Wild Thing. When J2, son of the original Juggernaut, reveals himself to the public, she hunts him down and challenges him to a fight, which Wolverine breaks up. Rina later joins with Spider-Girl and the Avengers to prevent the god Loki from ending the age of heroes.

**Wild Child**

**First Appearance**: Alpha Flight #1 (August 1983)

**Real Name**: Kyle Gibney

**Occupation**: None

**Base**: Mobile

**Height**: 5 ft 8 in

**Weight**: 152 lbs

**Eyes**: Green-blue

**Hair**: Blond

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Superhuman strength, speed, agility and has superhuman senses and claw-like fingernails; can see in the dark.

A traumatic and abusive childhood turned Kyle Gibney, or Wild Child, into a desperately unstable and unhappy adult. After he was thrown out by his parents when his feral mutation manifested, he found his way into a clandestine organization and sought to exaggerate his bestial nature.

Unable to control his animal urges, Wild Child began to drift and although he has had help from various individuals and organizations, he has repeatedly reverted to his bestial nature. Alpha Flight and Omega Flight, Wolverine and Aurora, Weapon X and Department H—they have all taken an interest in Wild Child, but he remains a deeply unsettled individual.

**Wilson, Jim**

**First Appearance**: Incredible Hulk #131 (September 1970)

**Real Name**: Jim Wilson

**Occupation**: Former thief

**Base**: Mobile

**Height**: 6 ft

**Weight**: 200 lbs

**Eyes**: Brown

**Hair**: Black

**Special Powers/Abilities**: No superhuman powers, but a loyal friend despite—or because of—his tough upbringing.

Growing up as tough street kid no one ever gave Jim Wilson a break. So it was perhaps no surprise that he was destined to become friends with the well-known outlaw, the Hulk. Jim was homeless and starving when he snatched a woman’s purse. However, he became overcome with guilt and left the purse where the woman could find it.

Jim was hiding out in an abandoned tenement when he encountered the Hulk and offered him his last candy bar. Wilson agreed to help the Hulk find Banner and avoid the army, and he gives the Hulk some of his bestial nature.

**Windshear**

**First Appearance**: Alpha Flight Vol. 1 #95 (April 1991)

**Real Name**: Colin Ashworth Hum

**Occupation**: Adventurer

**Base**: England

**Height**: 6 ft

**Weight**: 183 lbs

**Eyes**: Brown

**Hair**: Brown

**Special Powers/Abilities**: Mutant ability to create solid molecules of air and project them as force waves; can transform liquid into gas, Roxton armor enables him to fly.

A former operative of Roxton Oil, Windshear used his air-shaping abilities to further Roxton’s corrupt schemes. Roxton supplied him with a battlesuit that enabled him to fly; the suit was also fitted with a radio receiver and a retractable plexiglass visor. In time, Windshear became disillusioned with Roxton, and joined the Canadian superteam Alpha Flight to fight on the side of heroism.

When the Canadian government temporarily disbanded Alpha Flight, Windshear used the opportunity to retire from adventuring. He returned to his native England and opened a curio shop selling his own hard-air constructs.
Pamela Shaw was driven to despair after her child died and her husband left her, and was hospitalized following a failed suicide attempt. There, the death god Seth (see Gods of Hel) transformed her and two other patients into superhumans so he could set them against the Asgardian champion Hogn the Grim (a member of the Warriors Three). As Wind Warrior, Shaw joined Earth Lord and Skyhawk to form a team they called Earth Force. Later, learning of Seth's malevolent intentions, Earth Force turned on its creator and the members became independent agents. DW

Wyatt Wingfoot is a member of the Keewazi tribe of Native Americans. Born on a reservation in Oklahoma, Wingfoot went to Metro College near New York City, where Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, was his roommate. The two became close friends, and soon Wingfoot was accompanying the Fantastic Four on their adventures proving to be a valuable ally.

Wingfoot eventually went to live with the Fantastic Four and began a romance with Jennifer Walters, the She-Hulk. However, when oil was discovered on the Keewazi reservation, he returned home to help his people manage their newfound resource and ensure they were not exploited by multinational oil companies. MY

Peter Wisdom was a special operative for Black Air, a British government organization that investigated paranormal phenomena. He discovered that Black Air was secretly working with the London branch of the Hellfire Club, procuring extraterrestrial weaponry and performing genetic experiments on humans. As a result, Wisdom turned against Black Air and joined the Super Hero team Excalibur.

Wisdom eventually left Excalibur and took over the team of young mutants known as X-Force. Wisdom was seemingly shot dead during an X-Force mission. However, he turned up alive and joined a new, second British-based Excalibur team. PS
**Wolfsbane**

Born in Scotland, the orphaned Rahne Sinclair was raised by a fanatical minister, Reverend Craig. At puberty, her mutant power to transform into a wolf emerged. Believing she was possessed by the devil, Reverend Craig led a mob in pursuit of Rahne, who fled in wolf form. Shot by one of the mob, Rahne transformed back to human form. Geneticist Dr. Moira MacTaggert rescued Rahne, and made Rahne her ward.

Rahne joined the New Mutants, organized by MacTaggert's colleague Professor X, remaining with the team after Cable reorganized it into X-Force. Sinclair eventually joined the second version of X-Factor. After X-Force collapsed, Sinclair lived with MacTaggert at her Muir Island base.

After MacTaggert's death, Sinclair taught at Xavier Institute. She now works for Jamie Madrox's X-Factor Investigations.

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**Wizard**

Once an inventor and escapist who lived up to his stage name the Wizard, Bentley Whitman was furious that his fame was being eclipsed by the new Super Heroes, especially Johnny Storm, the Human Torch.

Determined to regain mass acclaim, the Wizard turned to villainy, and tried to destroy the Torch and his sister, Invisible Girl (see Invisible Woman).

After several defeats, the Wizard organized a sinister counterpart to the Fantastic Four comprised of himself, the Trapster, the Sandman and Medusa. This team, known as the Frightful Four, has challenged the heroic FF on numerous occasions, and come perhaps the closest to destroying them.

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**FACTFILE**

**REAL NAME** Rahne Sinclair

**OCCUPATION** Adventurer

**BASE** Mutant Town, New York City

**HEIGHT** (lupine form) Up to 12 ft standing on hind legs

**WEIGHT** (lupine form) Up to 1,050 lbs

**EYES** Blue-green

**HAIR** Reddish-brown

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Marvel Graphic Novel #4: The New Mutants (1983)

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**Wiz Kid**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Terminators #1 (October 1986)

**REAL NAME** Takashi "Taki" Matsuoka

**OCCUPATION** Student

**BASE** New York City

**HEIGHT** 4 ft 11 in

**WEIGHT** 87 lbs

**EYES** Brown

**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Mutant ability to technof orm machines: able to mold objects into any configuration that his imagination can conceive.

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The accident that killed his parents, left Takashi Matsuoka (Taki to his friends) wheel chair bound and depressed. Taki focused his attentions on building highly sophisticated devices; when his ability to technof orm objects manifested, his engineering abilities became even more prodigious. Captured by N'Starih, Taki agreed to create a bridge between the Limbo dimension and Earth. However, when he realized the devastation being caused, Taki helped to foil N'Starih's plan. Taki has since returned to school. }
Born at the turn of the century, James Howlett, the man who would one day become known and feared as Wolverine, was a sickly child. But he was also born a mutant, gifted with the remarkable ability to heal virtually instantaneously from almost any wound. He also had razor-sharp claws made of bone, a fact he first became aware of when, during a domestic dispute, he accidentally unsharpened his claws for the first time, killing his assailant.

THE WANDERER

Forced by his nature to leave behind the pampered world in which he grew up, Howlett began a life of wandering, moving from place to place. His own healing factor acted upon his mind to suppress the traumatic memories of his childhood, leaving him a man without a past. Over time, he took on a succession of menial jobs, building up his strength and stamina, and losing himself in the repetitiveness of simple work. By this point, he had adopted the name Logan, after the groundskeeper at the Howlett estate, who might have been his real father. But both the man and the estate were long lost among the indistinct memories buried deep within his mind.

Logan lived the life of a drifter, moving from one adventure to another, learning all there was to know about fighting along the way. He fought in both world wars, spent time in Japan, and made his home-ship, the Shogun, in the tiny city of Madripoor, a haven for smugglers and pirates. His miraculous healing factor prolonged his natural lifespan, making him appear far younger than he truly was. For a time, he operated as a secret agent for the Canadian government, a vocation and association that would come to have dire ramifications. A secret project of the Canadian government was attempting to create a more perfect breed of operative, a super-solder along the lines of the

ESSENTIAL STORYLINES
- Origins
- Wolverine Limited Series
- Wolverine: Weapon X
- Weapon X vol. 2

A hallowed figure, Logan spent much of his youth wandering the world.

With an unbreakable adamantium skeleton, Wolverine endured countless wounds and injuries, punchings his Weapon, Wolverine is an almost unbreakable opponent.

A New Name

Attempting to put together an equivalent team of Super Heroes in the service of the Canadian government, Hudson brought Logan into Alpha Flight, where he was given the codename Wolverine. Hudson had intended Wolverine to be the leader of this new strike force, but all that changed when a man in a wheelchair entered the scene.

The man was Professor Charles Xavier (Professor X), the mutant telepath who had founded the clandestine team of mutant Super Heroes called the X-Men.

famous CAPTAIN AMERICA, Kidnapped off the streets and used as a guinea pig, Logan, now referred to as Weapon X, was subjected to intractable pain and torture as his captors attempted to mold him to their liking. Realizing that Logan’s healing factor would allow him to survive procedures which would kill any ordinary man, the scientists of the Weapon X project laced his skeleton with a nearly unbreakable metal alloy known as adamantium. They also attempted to control his mind through brainwashing, which only served to scorch Logan’s memories even further.

But eventually, they could contain Logan no longer. Reduced to a brainless, more animal than man, Logan broke free, annihilated the Weapon X project and all of its personnel, and fled into the Canadian wilderness. He lived there for many years, hunting small game to survive. But a chance meeting with James MacDonald Hudson and his wife Heather put Logan on the road to humanity. They took the beast-man back into their homes, and nursed him back to health.

Hudson himself was a scientist doing work for the Canadian government, where he has developed a battlefield that he hoped would make him a hero on a par with the nearly revealed American group, the Fantastik Four.

A CHANCE TO REJOIN THE HUMAN WORLD

"Rebirth" A new Wolverine and the X-Men to join Professor Charles Xavier’s mutant team of X-Men.

As a result of the healing abilities of the Adamantium, Wolverine gained immortality at all of his lost memories. This knowledge remained with Logan even after the world referred to his normal status.

Wolverine and the X-Men

Recognizing Wolverine’s mutant nature, Professor X offered him a place among others of his kind. Desiring to escape the rules and regulations of life as a government operative, Wolverine accepted Xavier’s offer, coming to live in his School for Gifted Youngsters, which doubled as the X-Men’s headquarters.

At his Wolverine had found his place in the world. While his savage nature initially alienated him from his fellow mutants, he found friendship among them, and came to be one of the strongest believers in Professor X’s dream of co-existence between mutants and normal humans—though this belief was tinged with a healthy cynicism. Although he continually struggles with the darker, animalistic side of himself, Wolverine has found honor, and truly regained his humanity as an X-Man.

Recently, as a result of the world-altering adventure known as House of M, Wolverine regained all of his memories of his past. Where this newly-recovered knowledge will take him in his life’s journey remains to be seen. TB
Born the wealthy inheritor of a family business, Simon Williams ran the company into near-bankruptcy and embezzled funds to invest with the criminal MAGGIA. Nursing a grudge toward the competing Stark Industries and its champion, IRON MAN, Williams underwent ionic energy treatments from BARON ZEMO and the original MASTERS OF EVILL. As Wonder Man, he infiltrated the AVENGERS, but refused to follow through on Zemo's scheme to destroy the team and perished after aiding his Avengers teammates. The homicidal robot ULTRON later copied Wonder Man's brain patterns to help program the android VISION.

BACK TO LIFE
Believed dead, Wonder Man hibernated in an ionic coma until restored, in a zombie-like state, by his unstable brother Eric, the GRIM REAPER. The resurrected Wonder Man returned to the Avengers, befriending the Beast and forging a close bond with the Vision, whom he viewed as a brother due to their shared brain patterns. Wonder Man became a part time actor and stuntman, and also helped to establish the WEST COAST AVENGERS. At this time he realized he loved the SCARLET WITCH, who had since married the Vision.

After the Vision's dismemberment and reassembly, Wonder Man refused to allow his brain patterns to be copied a second time, driving a wedge between him and the Scarlet Witch. Nevertheless, as time went by, the two began a romance, and Wonder Man pursued a successful acting career in Hollywood movies.

SECOND CHANCES
After the West Coast Avengers disbanded, Wonder Man joined Iron Man's spinoff crew, FORGE WORKS. On the team's first mission, KREE agents apparently killed Wonder Man. However, the hero lived on as a disembodied being of ionic energy, occasionally materializing in a semi-corporeal state through the powers of the Scarlet Witch. The Grim Reaper attempted to exploit this spectral Wonder Man by assembling a new LEGION OF THE UNLIVING to attack the Avengers. Eventually, Wonder Man successfully reconstituted himself, and he has since established the non-profit Second Chances Foundation, and struck up a romance with Carol Danvers (see WARBIRD). DW
**Wong**

The youngest surviving member of a bloodline whose members served the mystical Ancient One, Wong was offered into service of the master mage at the time of his birth. He was tutored and became skilled in those arts which would make him of value to the Ancient One, including a deep study of the martial arts of Kamar-Taj.

When Wong became an adult, the Ancient One dispatched him to the United States, so that he could become the manservant of the Ancient One’s former disciple, Doctor Strange.

Since that time, Wong has been a faithful retainer to Strange, dealing with all the trivial earthly matters that would otherwise distract the master sorcerer from his noble mission: defending the Earth from mystic peril.

Wong journeyed from a remote Tibetan monastery to New York’s Greenwich Village to serve Doctor Strange.

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**Woodgod**

They tried to kill the creature using a canister of deadly nerve gas invented by David Pace. Woodgod proved to be immune to the gas, but the Paces were both killed. The grief-stricken Woodgod discovered the Paces’ notes and created a race of half-human, half-animal beings, which he called Changeldings. The Changeldings found a secret home away from humanity in the Colorado Rockies. Woodgod dreams one day the Changeldings will be able to come out of hiding and live in harmony with the human race.

Woodgod is a genetically engineered being, created by scientists David and Ellen Pace. Combining human and animal genetic material, the Paces created Woodgod, who resembles the half-human, half-goat Satyr of Greek myth. The townsfolk of Liberty, near the Pace’s farm in New Mexico, convinced themselves that Woodgod was a dangerous monster.

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**Wrecker**

Wrecker was a violent criminal who used a crowbar to demolish the scenes of his crimes thereby hindering investigation. When he was accidentally given magic powers by Karnilla, the Norn Queen, Wrecker went on a rampage that attracted the attention of Thor. Placed in prison by the Asgardian automaton named Destroyer, Wrecker escaped with three other inmates who took on the consumed identities of Thunderball, Bulldozer, and Piledriver, collectively known as the Wrecking Crew. This foursome later joined Baron Zemo’s Masters of Evil.

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**Wraith**

Responding to an incident, police officer Brian DeWolff was crippled when a bullet lodged in his spine. In his efforts to heal his son, Phillip DeWolff transformed him into a superpowered, flesh-and-blood automaton that only he could control. Turning his son into a vigilante named the Wraith, Phillip’s control of Brian came to an end following the intervention of Spider-Man and Iron Fist. Free at last, Brian continued his career as a costumed crimefighter, until slain by the Scourge A.D.
**X-Cutioner**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Men Annual #1 (1970)
**REAL NAME** Carl Denti
**OCCUPATION** Vigilante; former FBI agent
**BASE** Washington, DC
**HEIGHT** 6 ft 1 in **WEIGHT** 210 lbs
**EYES** Brown **HAIR** Brown
**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Possesses nuro-stun gauntlets, ps-ionic, laser sword, teleporter, cloaking field, phasing unit, grappling claws, propulsion boots and a genetic scanner. Shi'ar battle-armor enhances strength to almost superhuman levels.

Special Agent Denti had been partnered with Fred Duncan, who had secretly aided Professor X on many occasions. Duncan often stored equipment and weaponry that the X-Men had confiscated from alien races and other supermonstes. After Duncan was murdered by unknown parties, Denti vowed revenge. He discovered Duncan's connections to the X-Men and used the impounded weaponry to hunt down mutants who had not been convicted for their crimes. He crossed paths with the X-Men, and also assisted the Punisher on occasion. After Denti gave up his hunt, he was briefly replaced by a second X-Cutioner who was an alternate reality version of Gambit, but later died in action.

**X-Corps**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Uncanny X-Men #401 (January 2002)
**BASE** Paris, France
**MEMBERS AND POWERS**
- **Blob** Superhuman size and strength; can create a gravity field that makes him invincible [3].
- **Avalanche** Generates destructive vibrations from his hands [2].
- **Banshee** Projects sonic screech [3].
- **Jubilee** Eats rubber: sheds skin to reveal transformed body beneath [4].
- **Jubilee II** Projects “fireworks” from her fingers [5].

Following the death of his lover, Motra MacFaggert, and the collapse of the Massachusetts Academy where he was headmaster, Sean Cassidy lost his way. Establishing X-Corps, a paramilitary operation, Sean sought to enforce good behaviour between mutants. After releasing a number of criminal mutants from jail, he imprisoned the telepathic mutant, Mastermind and used her to control these mutants' activities. It wasn't long before the organization began to collapse, a process accelerated by the shapechanger Mystique who brought X-Corps to its knees, by freeing Mastermind and stabbing Sean in the throat.

**X-Factor**

The name X-Factor has been used by a succession of mutant teams over the years. Originally, it was an alias adopted by the original X-Men, who decided to go undercover as monster hunters so as to be able to secretly recruit and train young mutants. Eventually, they abandoned this deception, but the X-Men proper. After that, the X-Factor title was adopted by the team of government-sanctioned mutants led by Havok, who maintained it through several lineup shifts and changes of mission statement. Most recently, the name was appropriated by Jaime Madrox, one of the former members of Havok's X-Factor, as the name of his Mutant Town detective agency.

**X-Factor I**
1. Archangel
2. Iceman
3. Marvel Girl
4. Cyclops
5. Beast

**X-Factor II**
1. Wolfsbane
2. Polaris
3. Multiple Man, with two duplicates
4. Strong Guy
5. Havok

**FACTFILE**
**MEMBERS AND POWERS**
- **Madrox** Creates duplicates of himself.
- **Strong Guy** Transforms kinetic energy directed against himself into strength.
- **Siryn** Vocal chords can create sonic blasts.
- **M** Super-strength, durability and flight.
- **Rictor** Currently powerless; formerly could create seismic shifts in the Earth.
- **Butterfly** Instinctively understands causality and creates a desired effect through a small action.
- **Wolfsbane** Can transform into a wolf-like creature.

**BASE** Mutant Town, New York City

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Factor #1
(June 2002)
X-FORCE

Professor X founded a young mutant team, the New Mutants, for training. After Xavier had journeyed into outer space and a new headmaster, Magneto, had come and gone, Cable became the team's mentor. He trained his young charges to become soldiers against mutant threats and renamed the team X-Force. The initial roster included Boom (later Meltdown) and Cannonball, Feral, Shatterstar, Warpath, and the shapeshifter Copycat, who posed as Cable's ally Domino. The real Domino later joined X-Force, as did Bedlam, Caliban, Moonstar, Rictor, Siryn, and Sunspot.

After Cable left, former British intelligence agent Peter Wisdom briefly took over as leader, turning the team into an even more aggressive commando squad. X-Force then disbanded.

Two other teams have been called X-Force. The first, predating Cable's group, consisted of members of the US armed forces who underwent artificial mutation. A third group briefly usurped the name "X-Force" before adopting the more original name X-Statix. PS

X-MAN

Even on the alternate Earth known as the Age of Apocalypse, Mister Sinister is as obsessed with the progeny of Jean Grey and Scott Summers (see Cyclops) as the Mister Sinister of Earth-616. After obtaining genetic material from these two individuals, he created their child artificially, naming him Nathan Grey. By greatly accelerating the child's growth and development, Sinister intended to use Nathan's mutant powers to fight Apocalypse.

Ultimately, the Age of Apocalypse timeline was doomed. After killing Sinister—an act which gave him no pleasure—Nate managed to escape to the mainstream Earth. Following his arrival, he made it his goal to prevent this Earth from suffering the same dystopian fate. Although initially at odds with the X-Men, he eventually joined the team, before becoming a shaman and dedicating himself to healing and guiding others. Sadly, Nate's life was to end prematurely when he sacrificed himself to protect his adopted home reality. AD

FACTFILE

NOTABLE MEMBERS
Bedlam (Jessie Aaronson)
Can disrupt electronic devices.
Domino
Can alter luck in her favor, formidable combatant.
Cannonball
Can propel himself through the air by releasing energy
Danielle Moonstar
Could create images from the minds of others
Wahnap (Proudstar)
Superhuman strength, speed, and durability.
Meltdown (Boom Boom)
Creates explosive energy balls.
Sunspot
Absorbs solar energy for superhuman strength
Siryn
Sonlic scream
BASE
Various

FIRST APPEARANCE
X-Force #1
(August 1991)

FACTFILE

REAL NAME
Nathan "Nate" Grey
OCCUPATION
Shaman
BASE
Mobile
HEIGHT
5 ft 9 in
WEIGHT
171 lbs
EYES
Blue
HAIR
Brown

FIRST APPEARANCE
X-Man #1
(March 1995)

POWERS
A telepath of vast power, able to read and control minds, project his astral form across the world, and create complex psionic illusions; and "psionic spikes." Also possesses considerable telluric powers, allowing him to move heavy objects at will.
X-Men: Earth's mightiest team

The X-Men are a team of superhuman mutants that was founded by Professor Charles Xavier (Professor X), who is not only a mutant himself, but is also one of the world's leading authorities on mutation. In founding the X-Men, Xavier had two principal purposes. First, he sought to find young mutants and train them in utilizing their superhuman powers. Second, Xavier intended the X-Men to serve as a combat team to defend "ordinary" humans against attack by other mutants. Further, Xavier recognizes that "normal" humans tend to fear and distrust the mutants who are appearing in their midst, and that therefore mutants often suffer persecution.

Xavier's dream

In founding the X-Men, Xavier created a community of mutants living together on his estate. Xavier is a visionary who hopes to bring about peaceful coexistence between mutants and the rest of the human race. The X-Men are dedicated to this goal, which they call "Xavier's dream." Xavier has explained that he named the team "X-Men" after the "extra" powers that his mutant students possess. (Of course, "X" is also the first letter of Xavier's last name.)

As a young man, Xavier battled another mutant telepath, Annullam Faoro, alias the Shadow King, in Egypt. This encounter made him aware of the need to protect humanity from malevolent mutants.

Road to recovery

Xavier subsequently lost the use of his legs in a club with an alien who called himself Lucifer. Deeply depressed, Xavier led a reclusive existence at his family's mansion. However, he began treating a ten-year-old girl named Jean Grey whose mutant powers had manifested prematurely.

Years later, the FBI initiated an investigation of mutants, headed by agent Fred Duncan. Xavier met

with Duncan and volunteered to locate young mutants and train them in managing their potentially dangerous abilities. Duncan agreed to the plan and pledged to keep Xavier's work with mutants secret. Xavier soon recruited five adolescent mutants to his school, giving each of them codenames: Cyclops, Iceman, the Angel (or Archangel), the Beast, and Marvel Girl (the teenage Jean Grey). All five were enrolled at Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, a private school hidden in Xavier's mansion, in the town of Salem Center in New York City's Westchester County. There Xavier educated them in conventional academic subjects, while secretly teaching them how to utilize their mutant abilities.

The next member of the X-Men, who served only briefly as the Music Man, who was not a mutant but had the ability to initiate mutant powers. During a period when Xavier was in seclusion, he was reprogrammed by the Changeling, a shape-shifting mutant who died heroically. The mutants Havok and Ororo Munroe, better known as Polaris, joined the team subsequently.

New recruits

Most of the X-Men became trapped on the island of Krakoa, which is professed to be a giant mutant mutant organism. Xavier then recruited a new team of X-Men from many countries. The new members included the Banshee, from Ireland; Colossus, from Russia; Nightcrawler, from Germany; Storm, from Central African Republic; New Mutants; Liefeld, from Canada; and Web of Venom, from Canada. Led by Cyclops, the new recruits rescued the X-Men from Krakoa. After the senior X-Men left the team, except for Cyclops, who remained as de facto leader. Sunfire quit, and Thunderbird was killed during the new X-Men's second mission.

Over subsequent years, many other members have joined the X-Men, including Kitty Pryde, also Shadomage, Rogue, Rachel Summers, known both as the second Phoenix and the current Marvel Girl; Psylocke, the Dark Phoenix and Lady Deathstrike. During a temporary retirement, even the X-Men's arch-enemy Magneto even joined the team.

After forming their own group, X-Factor, the five founding X-Men returned to their original team. Xavier's school was renamed the Xavier Institute. Further new members included Forge, Jubilee, Bishop, Beerenbrood, Cassadore, Joseph (a clone of Magneto), and De Guine.

Cerebro

Cerebro is a machine invented by Professor Charles Xavier for the X-Men possessing superhuman abilities. Cerebro simulates a human brain, detecting psychic energy emitted by the minds of superhuman mutants. Cerebro operates best when it is linked to the mind of a telepath, such as Storm or Jean Grey. The latter was the headquarter. Xavier utilized an early version of Cerebro, called Cerebra. In later, the scion Scott Summers, who became Cyclops. On overcoming the with his superintelligent technology, Cerebro's been improved, it now scans the entire planet until Xavier destroys it. Since then Xavier has created two other versions, named Cerebra.

For a team of X-Men, nothing is impossible. The X-Men in this issue are just a part of the many stories that have formed the X-Men. In the past, they have faced many challenges, from the original five mutants to the current lineup of nine. Each member of the X-Men has played a vital role in shaping the team's destiny.

Open secret

Recent new X-Men members have included Bobby, Sam, andic, Northstar, Stany X, the Beast, Warriors, and former X-Men boes Emma Frost (the White Queen), and the Guardians of the Galaxy. The team has been a mix of new and old members, with new members like Forge, Jubilee, Bishop, Beerenbrood, Cassadore, Joseph (a clone of Magneto), and De Guine.

Among the X-Men's adversaries are Sabretooth, Angel, Wolverine, and the powerful enemies of the X-Men, Magneto and Mystique. The X-Men's challenges are not just physical, but also emotional and psychological, as they navigate the complexities of being mutants in a world that often treats them as outcasts.
**X-Men 2099**

In an alternate future, the Earth is ruled by malevolent, self-serving corporations and mutants have been outlawed—forced underground.

In the year 2099, one mutant dedicated himself to overthrowing this oppressive world order. Gathering some of the surviving mutants together to form a new band of X-Men, the almost messianic Xi'an Chi Xan (also known as the Desert Ghost) began challenging this status quo.

Initially based at a mountain fortress in New Mexico that had once belonged to an enemy named Master Zhao, these X-Men were to become the protectors of Halo City in California, which had been declared a safe haven for mutants. However, when an approaching Phalanx planetoid caused severe flooding, mutants and humans were forced to flee to the Savage Land, in the Antarctic. Following the Phalanx's defeat, humanity is now in a position to rebuild.

With humans and mutants now united, the future is once again, full of possibilities. AD

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**X-Statix**

Rather than hide their mutant abilities from a bigoted humanity, the members of X-Statix took a completely opposite approach. They used their mutant powers to become rich and famous. The team was known as X-Force, having stolen the name from another mutant band.

The members of this new X-Force battled criminals to protect the public. But their adventures were telecast as a reality show, and members became celebrities. They paid for their success with their lives. During one show, most of the team, including the leader Zeitgeist, were massacred. Only the Anarchist, the teleporter U-Go Girl, and Doop survived.

Guy Smith, alias the Orphan and Mister Sensitive, became the leader of the team. Other recruits included Blake, Dead Girl, El Guapo, Phat, Saint Anna, the Spike, Venus Doc Milo, and the Vivisector. Smith was succeeded as leader by the Anarchist and mutant pop star Henrietta Hunter. To avoid potential legal action, the group changed its name to X-Statix. The team continued to suffer fatalities, and the roster was completely wiped out on X-Statix's final mission. PS
A would-be master sorcerer into whose possession half of the mystic Wand of Watomb fell, Xandu desired the power that would be his if he could unite both halves of this magical talisman. Recruiting several thugs at the waterfront and casting a spell that turned them into robots, Xandu sent them to recover the other half of the Wand from Dr. Strange. But Strange gained an unexpected ally when Spider-Man stumbled on the robbery, and together they defeated Xandu's agents. Strange caused Xandu to forget all of his magical knowledge, but this didn't prevent the renegade sorcerer from returning again and again to challenge the two heroes. TB

In an alternate future in which Earth's population rose up against their oppressors, the Sentinels, a mutant police force was formed to ensure peace between mutants and humans. This group, founded by the mutant Hecate, called itself Xavier's Security Enforcers in tribute to the idealism of the X-Men's Professor X. The XSE eventually arrived in our world's current reality while pursuing renegade member Trevor Fitzroy. A traitorous splinter group, Xavier's Underground Enforcers, included Greystone (1), Archer (2), and Fixx (3). DW

Although he cuts a lonely, tragic figure, Xemnu the Titan remains a very real threat to mankind. The one-time ruler of his native world, Xemnu left there to travel the galaxy. Upon returning home he discovered it had been ravaged by plague, and his people were dead. Having felt most at home on Earth, Xemnu returned there and made several attempts to transform its citizens into members of his own race. He was repeatedly rebuffed, the Hulk, Dr. Strange, and the Thing all taking turns to defeat him. Xemnu looks set to be the last of his kind. AD
**YAMA, JIMMY**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Spider-Girl Vol. 1 #1 (October 1998)
**REAL NAME** Jimmy Yama
**OCCUPATION** High school student
**BASE** New York City
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 6 in
**WEIGHT** 145 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Jimmy is an ordinary teenager with no special powers.

In a future timeline populated by a second generation of Earth's heroes, Jimmy Yama is a Midtown High School student and friend to Mary Parker (Spider-Girl). Yama is a nemesis of Midtown bully Moose Mansfield. When Yama lashed out at Moose and inadvertently injured him, he stood trial for punitive damages until Moose's parents dropped the case.

Yama has tried several times to establish a romantic relationship with Mary, but his efforts have been hindered by his shyness. DW

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**YASHIDA**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** X-Men #118 (February 1978)
**REAL NAME** Mariko Yashida
**OCCUPATION** Head of Clan Yashida
**BASE** Japan
**HEIGHT** 5 ft
**WEIGHT** 100 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** Black

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** An exceptional businesswoman; had the normal fitness of a woman of her age and weight, but no special powers.

For many years, Mariko Yashida was the love of Wolverine's life. Meeting her during a mission to Japan, their relationship blossomed in New York, and they remained in contact even after her forced marriage to a brutal criminal associate of her father. The deaths of Mariko's husband and her father presented them with the opportunity for marriage, but Mariko wanted to wait—she had inherited the family business and wished to sever its criminal links first. In the end, the pair never wed—when she was poisoned by an assassin, Wolverine was forced to kill Mariko in order to end her terrible suffering. AD

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**YANCY STREET GANG**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Fantastic Four vol. 1 #6 (September 1962)
**BASE** Yancy Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan

Based around the tough neighborhood of Manhattan's Lower East Side, the Yancy Street Gang was at one time led by Daniel Grimm, the wayward younger brother of Ben Grimm, fated to transform into the Thing. Daniel was killed during a rumble between the Yancy gang and a rival street gang, and Ben eventually replaced his brother as the leader. But when Ben moved out west after the death of his mother, the Yancy Gang took it as a betrayal.

After Ben was transformed into the Thing and became one of the Fantastic Four, the Yancy Street Gang made it their mission to hassle and bedevil their former member. Some pranks attributed to the Yancy Street Gang were actually perpetrated by the Human Torch—and there is every indication that, beneath their seeming dislike of the Thing, the Gang actually admires their former leader and the Fantastic Four. TB

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**YELLOW CLAW**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Yellow Claw #1 (October 1956)
**REAL NAME** Unrevealed
**OCCUPATION** Conqueror
**BASE** Various hidden bases around the world
**HEIGHT** 6 ft 2 in
**WEIGHT** 210 lbs
**EYES** Brown
**HAIR** Bald

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Knowledge of biochemistry, genetics, robotics, and sorcery (can reanimate the dead); can mentally create illusions in the minds of others.

Born in China in the 19th century, the Yellow Claw has long been determined to conquer the world. Through eclectes he has created, the Yellow Claw has extended his lifespan into the present. Early schemes to conquer America were repeatedly thwarted by FBI agent Jimmy Woo, whom his granddaughter Susan was in love. In more recent times, S.H.I.E.L.D. Director Nick Fury battled a "Yellow Claw" that was actually a robot created by Doctor Doom. However, the real Yellow Claw reemerged, and has clashed with Fury, Captain America, the Avengers, and other heroes. PS

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**YELLOWJACKET II**

**FIRST APPEARANCE** Avengers Vol. 1 #284 (February 1988)
**REAL NAME** Rita DeMara
**OCCUPATION** Adventurer; former criminal
**BASE** Mobile
**HEIGHT** 5 ft 6 in
**WEIGHT** 115 lbs
**EYES** Blue
**HAIR** Blonde

**SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES** Battlesuit provided flight, the ability to shrink via Pym particles, and gloves that fired "disruptor" blasts of electricity.

Rita DeMara adopted the identity of Yellowjacket after stealing Hank Pym's original battlesuit from Avengers Mansion. She embarked on a life of crime as the second Yellowjacket, joining the Masters of Evil until eventually turning against that group.

Her efforts to go straight earned her reserve member status in the Avengers, and a place with the Guardians of the Galaxy. Yellowjacket II tragically died at the hands of Iron Man, who at the time was under the mental control of Immortus. DW
Young Avengers

In a possible alternate future, a young robotics student named Nathaniel Richards is saved from death in the year 3016 by his future self. Nathaniel also learns that he is destined to grow up to become Kang the Conqueror. Horrified, the 16-year-old flees to modern-day Earth, hoping to circumvent his fate by securing help from the Avengers, Kang's greatest enemies.

Unfortunately, Nathaniel arrives soon after the Scarlet Witch has disassembled the current team. He breaks into Stark Industries (see Iron Man) and uploads the central processing unit of the recently destroyed android the Vision, finding a fake file program that pinpoints the next generation of super-powered youths. Calling himself Iron Lad, Nathaniel quickly recruits them and trains them for a battle with Kang.

When Captain America and Iron Man learn of this new team, they try to convince the teenagers to disband before they get hurt, but Kang arrives and demands the return of Iron Lad so that destiny could fulfill its predetermined course. Otherwise Kang would not exist! In the resulting battle, Kang kills Iron Lad and Must accept his destiny in order to prevent the destruction of the current timeline.

Young Gods

The finest examples of humanity, the Young Gods were chosen by Gaia, the spirit of the Earth, and the combined heads of the various pantheons of Earthly gods to be presented to the space-faring Celestials at the time of their Fourth Host, as an example of the potential of mankind. Gathered over a thousand-year period, endowed with godlike powers and kept in a state of stasis until they were needed, the Young Gods did impress the Celestials as to the worthiness of the species they had created years before, and ensured the survival of the Earth.

Thereafter, the Young Gods vanished into outer space with the Celestials. They have seldom been seen since.

Yukio

Yukio started out as a thief, running capers with Gambit, before becoming an assassin in the service of the Japanese underworld kingpin Lord Shingen of Clan Yashiki. Her employer sent her after Wolverine; however, she eventually befriended him and his X-Men teammates, particularly Storm. Wolverine grew to trust Yukio so much that he left his foster daughter Amiko in her care. Yukio and Amiko were later attacked by Omega Red and Lady Deathstrike. During the fight, Yukio suffered crippling injuries from which she has only recently recovered.
ZABU
FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men #10 (March 1965)
REAL NAME: Zabu
OCCUPATION: Companion to Ka-Zar
BASE: The Savage Land, Antarctica
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: Unrevealed
eyes: Green hair: Orange
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Has two long, sharp sabre-like teeth that he uses as weapons; possesses great strength and agility; and is unusually intelligent for a sabertooth tiger.

Zabu is the last known sabertooth tiger on Earth. The dominant predators during the Ice Age, sabertooths still survived in the Savage Land, until nearly all of them were exterminated by Savage Land natives. When Maa-Gor and his Swamp Men slew Zabu's mate, the infuriated tiger hunted them down. Zabu attacked Maa-Gor just as he was about to kill Kevin Plunder, the orphaned son of an explorer. In the ensuing struggle, Kevin shot Maa-Gor, wounding him, and thereby saving Zabu's life.

Ever since, Zabu and Kevin have been loyal companions, and Kevin is known today as the jungle lord Ka-Zar, which means "Son of the Tiger." PS

ZALADANE
FIRST APPEARANCE: Astonishing Tales Vol. 1 #1 (December 1970)
REAL NAME: Zala Dane (alias)
OCCUPATION: High priestess
BASE: The Savage Land
HEIGHT: 5 ft 7 in
WEIGHT: 125 lbs
EYES: Blue hair: Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Zaladane is a sorceress who possesses assorted spell-based abilities.

The High Priestess of Garrok, Zaladane led believers against the other tribes of the Savage Land in a bid for power. Zaladane's sorcery transformed Kirk Marson into the avatar of Garrok on Earth, and she supported him as his second in command. After her bid to conquer the Savage Land had been foiled, Zaladane's mutates abducted Lorna Dane, the X-Man known as POLARIS. Posing as Lorna's long-lost sister, Zaladane succeeded in transferring Polaris' magnetic abilities to herself, albeit temporarily. Thereafter, in a failed bid to control all of the magnetic forces on Earth, Zaladane ran afoul of MAGNETO, who overwhelmed her with his own superior magnetic might, and left her for dead. TB

ZARAN
FIRST APPEARANCE: Master of Kung Fu #77 (June 1979)
REAL NAME: Maximillian Zaran
OCCUPATION: Mercenary
BASE: Mobile
HEIGHT: 6 ft 1 in
WEIGHT: 235 lbs
EYES: Blue hair: Red
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Skilled with a wide range of ancient weapons, including samurais, shurikens, maces, bows and arrows, slings, and knives; he can also fire a gun.

A former British MI6 agent and now a mercenary, Maximillian Zarans's career has been chequered to say the least. After defecting from the British secret service, Zarans worked for Fah Lo Suee, Fit Manchu's daughter, but she cut his contract short. For a time his own apprentice usurped Zarans's identity, but this situation has since been resolved and Zarans is now a member of BATROC's Brigade. The Brigade undertook an assignment for Maelstrom, during which Zarans was responsible for killing Grasshopper, mere seconds after the man-sized insect joined the GREAT LAKES AVENGERS. AD

ZARATHOS
FIRST APPEARANCE: Marvel Spotlight Vol. 1 #5 (August 1972)
REAL NAME: Zarathos
OCCUPATION: The Spirit of Vengeance
BASE: The netherworld dimension of Mephisto
HEIGHT: 6 ft 10 in
WEIGHT: 205 lbs
EYES: Red hair: Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Zarathos is a demon who journeyed to Earth before the Dawn of Man. He slumbered until a sorcerer awoke him and offered to trade souls for his aid, Mephisto, lord of the underworld, grew jealous of a cult that grew around Zarathos and enslaved him, sending him to possess humans in the causes of sin, corruption, and vengeance. In recent years, Zarathos became bound to stunt motorcyclist Johnny Blaze and later to bike messenger Danny Ketch, transforming both of them into the demonic GHOST RIDER. TD

Z'NOX
FIRST APPEARANCE: X-Men #65 (February 1970)
BASE: Z'nox, Hisday's solar system, Andromeda galaxy
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Vilious race boasts highly sophisticated technology and are able to move their home world through space.

Although unable to subvert the SRULL dominance of their home galaxy Andromeda, the warlike Z'nox were highly sophisticated and deadly race of world conquerors. When PROFESSOR X learned that a Z'nox invasion force was heading towards Earth, he went into complete seclusion, leaving the mutant shape-shifter the CHANGELING to stand in for him. As the fleet approached, Xavier combined his mind with those of the X-MEN and the Earth's entire population to psychically repel the attack. AD

ZODIAC
See opposite page

ZOLA, ARMIN
FIRST APPEARANCE: Captain America Vol. 1 #202 (April 1977)
REAL NAME: Armin Zola
OCCUPATION: Criminal biochemist
BASE: Wiesenzorn Mountain, Switzerland
HEIGHT: 6 ft 10 in
WEIGHT: 200 lbs
EYES: Brown hair: None
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES: Brilliant geneticist, can mentally project his intelligence into any of his creations.

During the late 1930s, Swiss geneticist Armin Zola discovered a tome of Deviante science and learned how to create artificial life. He built himself a new body, with a brain inside its chest, a holographically-projected face, and an "ESP box" for a head. Zola became a valued member of Hitler's Third Reich, preserving Hitler's consciousness after his death in the form of the Hate-Monger. Zola's creations have included Primus and Doughboy, as well as bio-plastoids that can impersonate any being. A frequent foe of CAPTAIN AMERICA, Zola is also responsible for resurrecting the RED SKULL into a copy of Captain America's own body. DW
ZODIAC

Zodiac is a criminal organization, made up of intelligent androids. Each member of Zodiac is based on a zodiac sign. There was also another organization called Zodiac made up of 12 human criminals. The original human Zodiac was formed by Cornelius van Lunt and intended to rule humanity. Eventually they were all killed battling the android Zodiac. The second (android) Zodiac was formed when Jacob Fury (Scorpio from the original human Zodiac and brother of Nick Fury) gained possession of the powerful Zodiac Key. The Key unlocked Fury's potential for evil. Fury became the android Scorpio and with 11 other androids, each representing a sign of the Zodiac, he began a battle against Earth's greatest heroes.

ZODIAC ATTACK

The battle raged on, and in time, the Defenders joined the fight to stop Zodiac. Eventually, the Avengers defeated the android Zodiac. Some were destroyed and others were taken into custody, (though these Zodiac soon escaped).

During a clash with the West Coast Avengers, Scorpio used the Zodiac Key to transport them all to the dimension of the Brotherhood, where the Zodiac androids fell inert.

Scorpio wields the Zodiac Key, which can fire energy bolts and teleport people and objects from one dimension to another. It was sent to Earth by the Brotherhood, a cult from another dimension that believes that the Key's existence depends on constant conflict between good and evil.

ZODIAC

ZODIAC

1 Aquarius 2 Virgo 3 Gemini 4 Aries 5 Leo 6 Capricorn 7 Sagittarius
8 Libra 9 Taurus 10 Pisces 11 Cancer

ZEBRA

FIRST APPEARANCE Tales of the Zombie #1 (August 1973)
REAL NAME Simon William Garth
OCCUPATION Former businessman BASE New Orleans
HEIGHT 6 ft 2 in WEIGHT 220 lbs
EYES White HAIR Black
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Superhuman strength and regenerative ability.

A ruthless businessman named Simon Garth treated his employees with contempt. Eventually, his gardener, Gyps, became so upset that he killed Garth and resurrected him as a zombie. For two years the zombiefied Garth wondered the Earth, initially controlled by Gyps and later by one despicable individual after another. However the love of a good woman restored Garth to life for a short spell, enabling him to put his affairs in order. Although he then became a zombie once more, a benevolent voodoo priest intervened to help Garth end his undead existence.

Zzzax

FIRST APPEARANCE Incredible Hulk #166 (August 1973)
REAL NAME Inapplicable OCCUPATION Purveyor of destruction
BASE Mobile HEIGHT Variable (max. 40 ft)
WEIGHT Negligible EYES/HAIR Inapplicable
SPECIAL POWERS/ABILITIES Unlimited electricity-manipulating powers including flight, super-strength, and the ability to fire electrical bolts of concussive force.

Zzzax is a living electromagnetic field, formed by a bizarre accident that took place at a Consolidated Edison nuclear power plant. By absorbing the electromagnetic brainwave energies of its victims, Zzzax gained a limited degree of sentience and fashioned itself into a crude humanoid form. Zzzax can grow in size by draining energy from its surroundings, a tactic that it has employed when battling its most frequent foe, the Hulk.

For a time, the consciousness of the irascible General "Thunderbolt" Ross inhabited the form of Zzzax. Recently, Zzzax escaped from captivity after Electro sprang a horde of Super-Villains from the Raft jail.
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