

Comic books have been around for more than a hundred years. The first comic is thought to be *The Yellow Kid in McFadden's Flats* which was published in 1897. The first comic book to introduce a well-known superhero was *Action Comics*. The first issue introduced Superman in 1938. Batman turned up less than a year later.

## THE GOLDEN AGE

Sales of comics have always been a lot higher in the United States than anywhere else. The Golden Age of comics was between 1938 and 1956. This is when they sold more copies than ever and they rose in popularity the most. Many of the most popular superheroes today owe their fame to the Golden Age of comics.



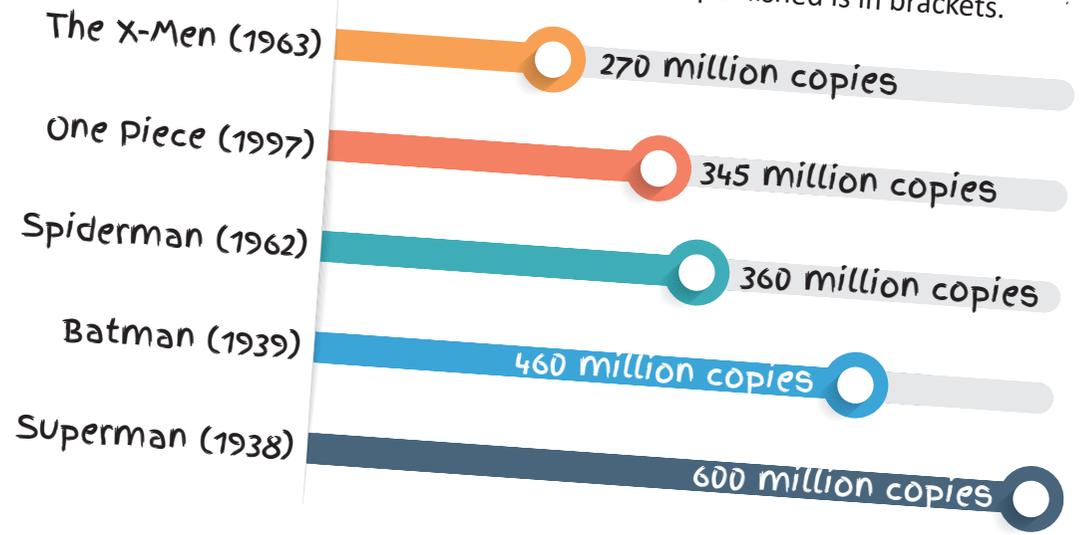
## DID YOU KNOW?

Stan Lee created Iron Man in 1963. He wanted to create a character, who children at the time mightn't like, as a dare. He challenged himself to make the character likeable even though it represented one thing most children in the 1960s hated, which was war.



## TOP FIVE

These are the top five selling comics of all time. The year each one was first published is in brackets.



## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. When was Iron Man created?
2. When was the Golden Age of comics?
3. Which character was first introduced in 1938?
4. Which comic introduced Superman?
5. In what year was the comic that has sold 345 million copies first published?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

Which comics have sold more copies than Spiderman?

**I**

Why was it called the Golden Age for comics?

**I**

Why do you think Stan Lee dared himself to create an unlikeable character?

**V**

Find a word or phrase that means “arrived”.

**V**

What does the phrase “owe their fame” mean?

Answers:

1. 1963
2. 1938 - 1956
3. Superman
4. Action Comics
5. 1996

S: Batman and Superman

I: They sold more copies than before and grew in popularity

I: To see if he could make it likeable and have people still buy it/as a challenge to himself

V: Turned up

V: They are famous because of