



Stan Lee

Stan Lee is a comic book writer and artist who created Spider Man, Thor, Doctor Strange, the X-Men, and the Incredible Hulk. Stan was born in Manhattan in 1922, and he grew up in the early part of the Great Depression. He graduated from high school at the age of sixteen, and at seventeen, he got a job as an office assistant at Timely Comics. At the time, Timely Comics was publishing thinly veiled copies of the same kinds of comic stories everyone else of the time was producing. One of Timely's contemporary rivals, D.C. Comics, was the creator of the Justice League of America. Timely asked Stan Lee to create a similar comic, but Stan didn't want to just imitate others. Instead, he worked with Jack Kirby to create a new set of characters with their own original story: The Fantastic Four. To make his characters stand out from what other publishers were doing, he created well-rounded, three-dimensional characters that readers could identify with. The Fantastic Four was such a success that it launched Stan's career. Timely Comics changed its name to Marvel Comics, and the modern age of comic books began.

1. During what period of American History did Stan Lee grow up?
2. What was Timely Comics' known for?
3. How did Stan Lee change comic book history?