



### SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

### NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking troublemaker. His goal: to become the village's next *Hokage*.

### SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.





### **Gaara** 我愛羅

Bloodthirsty Gaara is one of the scariest ninja competing in the Chûnin Exams.



### **Rock Lee** ロック・リー

Lee has been carefully observing the other students' fights while his anticipation for his own battle builds. Now it's about to begin!



### **Might Guy** マイト・ガイ

The flamboyant Master Guy is Lee's idol...and Kakashi's rival!



### **Kakashi** カカシ

Although he doesn't have an especially warm personality, Kakashi is protective of his students.



### **Orochimaru** 大蛇丸

This nefarious master of disguise placed a mysterious curse-mark on Sasuke and hopes to mold Sasuke into his successor.



### **Kabuto** カブト

A spy for Orochimaru's village of Otogakure (The Village Hidden in the Sound), Kabuto has been living a double life in Konohagakure since childhood.

## **THE STORY SO FAR...**

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The *Hokage*, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of *ninjutsu* with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura (along with six other teams of student ninja) have moved on to the third portion of the Chûnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam—a series of no-holds-barred, one-on-one bouts that begin with a set of preliminary matches. As the preliminaries continue, the battles become increasingly vicious and it's clear that lives are on the line. After the fight between Hyuga Hinata and her cousin Hyuga Neji ends with Hinata being rushed to the emergency room, tensions are at an all-time high. Then the next two combatants are announced: Rock Lee and Gaara!