

= Avatar : The Last Airbender =

Avatar : The Last Airbender ( Avatar : The Legend of Aang in some regions ) is an American animated television series that aired for three seasons ( referred to as " books " in each episode 's title card ) on Nickelodeon from 2005 to 2008 . Avatar : The Last Airbender is set in an Asiatic @-@ like world in which some people are able to manipulate the classical elements by use of psychokinetic variants of Chinese martial arts , known as " bending " . The show combines the styles of anime and American cartoons , and relies on the imagery of various East Asian , Inuit , Southeast Asian , South Asian , and New World societies . Therefore , whether or not the series can be considered as an anime work is often discussed .

The series follows the adventures of protagonist twelve @-@ year @-@ old Aang and his friends , who must bring peace and unity to the world by ending the Fire Lord 's war against the other three nations . The pilot episode first aired on February 21 , 2005 , and the series concluded with a widely praised two @-@ hour episode on July 19 , 2008 . The show is obtainable from various sources , including DVD , the iTunes Store , the Zune Marketplace , the Xbox Live Marketplace , the PlayStation Store , Netflix , Amazon Video , and the Nicktoons Network .

Throughout its run , Avatar : The Last Airbender was universally acclaimed by audiences and critics alike . Praises went to the art direction , humor , cultural references , characters , and themes . It was also commercially successful , garnering 5 @.@ 6 million viewers on its best @-@ rated showing and receiving high ratings in the Nicktoons lineup , even outside of its 6- to 11 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . The series has been nominated for and won awards from the Annie Awards , the Genesis Awards , a Primetime Emmy Award and a Peabody Award , among others . The first season 's success prompted Nickelodeon to order second and third seasons .

In other media , the series has spawned a critically panned , but financially successful , live @-@ action film , titled The Last Airbender , directed by M. Night Shyamalan ; scaled action figures ; a trading card game ; three video games ; stuffed animals distributed by Paramount Parks and two Lego sets . An art book was also released in mid @-@ 2010 . A sequel series , The Legend of Korra , aired from 2012 to 2014 .

= = Overview = =

Avatar : The Last Airbender takes place in a world home to humans and hybrid animals , adjacent to a parallel Spirit World . Human civilization is divided into four nations : the Water Tribes , the Earth Kingdom , the Fire Nation , and the Air Nomads . Each nation has a distinct society , wherein people known as " benders " have the ability to manipulate and control the element of their nation using the physical motions of martial arts . The show 's creators based each bending style on an existing Chinese martial art , leading to clear visual and physical differences in the techniques used by Waterbenders ( tai chi ) , Earthbenders ( Hung Ga kung fu ) , Firebenders ( Northern Shaolin kung fu ) and Airbenders ( Baguazhang ) . In addition to these four types of bending , there are several minor subcategories of bending within them , including but not limited to : Metalbending , Sandbending ( Earth ) ; Lightning generation and redirection ( Fire ) and Bloodbending , Healing , Plantbending ( Water ) .

At any given time , only one person in the world is capable of bending all four elements : the Avatar , who serves as an international arbiter . When the Avatar dies , the Avatar spirit is reincarnated into the next one of the four nations in the Avatar Cycle : the Fire Nation , Air Nomads , Water Tribe , Earth Kingdom , in order . An Avatar incarnation is born male or female , and is required to master each bending art in seasonal order , starting with its native land 's element . Additionally , the Avatar can enter a trance known as the Avatar State : normally a defense mechanism until placed , by mental discipline , under control , wherein the current Avatar briefly gains the knowledge and abilities of all past Avatars . If an Avatar were to be killed while in the Avatar State , the reincarnation cycle would end and the Avatar would never again be reborn . Through the various incarnations , the Avatar maintains a relative equality among the nations while serving as mediator between humans and spirits . The origin of the Avatar cycle is revealed in the sequel series The Legend of

Korra , as the result of a young man named Wan combining his soul with the spirit Raava to imprison her opponent , Vaatu . The sequel series also revealed that bending was originally bestowed by the immense Lion Turtles , before these giant creatures renounced their roles as mankind 's protectors upon the creation of the Avatar .

= = = Backstory = = =

The backstory of the series ( told largely through flashback sequences ) extends backward to over 100 years before the time period in which the bulk of the series takes place , but these prelude events are revealed slowly in a fragmented , non @-@ linear manner . More than a century before the opening events of the series , Fire Lord Sozin , ruler of the Fire Nation , planned a world war to expand his nation 's territory and influence , but was prevented from carrying out his plans by Avatar Roku .

After Roku 's death , the Avatar was reincarnated as an Airbender , named Aang , who learned of his Avatar status when twelve years old . Aang , frightened of his new responsibilities and of separation from his mentor Gyatso , fled his home on his flying bison , Appa . The two were forced into the ocean by a storm , with Aang entering the Avatar State and encasing them both in an iceberg , in suspended animation , for one hundred years .

Sozin , knowing the nature of the Avatar 's reincarnation cycle , carried out genocide of the Air Nomads during the passing of a comet that increased the Firebenders ' firepower , with the comet later renamed after him as a result , and spent his remaining days searching for the eponymous " Last Airbender " . As the Fire Nation 's Hundred Year War continued , Sozin was succeeded as Fire Lord by his son , Azulon , who in turn passed the title to his youngest son , Ozai , who becomes the primary antagonist of the series .

= = = Season One ( Book One : Water ) = = =

Katara , a fourteen @-@ year @-@ old Southern Tribe Waterbender , and her older brother , Sokka , find and revive Aang and Appa . Aang learns of the war occurring in his absence , and the siblings join him to reach the Northern Water Tribe at the North Pole , so that he and Katara can learn Waterbending from a master . Aang 's return attracts the attention of prince Zuko , the exiled son of Ozai , who pursues the three thereafter . Aang is also pursued by Zhao , a Fire Nation militant who intends to win Ozai 's favor and rob Zuko of his redemption .

En route to the North Pole , Aang meets the Kyoshi Warriors ( established by an eponymous previous Avatar ) and his childhood friend , King Bumi , attempts to learn Firebending from the deserter Firebending master , Jeong Jeong , and gains a traveling companion in a winged lemur he names Momo . Aang discovers the genocide of his people while visiting the Southern Air Temple . During the winter solstice , Aang meets his predecessor , Roku .

At the Northern Water Tribe , Aang and Katara learn advanced Waterbending from its Master , Pakku , while Sokka falls in love with Princess Yue , the tribal chief 's daughter . Zhao lays siege to the Northern Water Tribe , seizing the mortal forms of the Ocean and Moon Spirits , the source of waterbending , and thus causing a lunar eclipse . Zhao kills the moon spirit to render the Waterbenders powerless . Aang uses his Avatar State and combines with the Ocean Spirit to drive off the enemy 's fleet while Princess Yue sacrifices her life to revive the Moon Spirit . When Ozai hears of Iroh 's resistance to Zhao , he sends his daughter , Azula , to capture Iroh and Zuko .

= = = Season Two ( Book Two : Earth ) = = =

After leaving the Northern Water Tribe , Aang continues to master Waterbending under Katara 's tutelage as the group searches for an Earthbending teacher . Their search brings them to Toph Beifong , a twelve @-@ year @-@ old blind tomboy and Earthbending prodigy who wants independence from her upper @-@ class family . Pursued by Azula , Zuko and Iroh lead new lives in the Earth Kingdom , first as wanderers and later as refugees in the capital of Ba Sing Se . At a

library guarded by the spirit Wan Shi Tong , Aang and his group learn that an imminent solar eclipse could allow them to stop the Fire Nation before Sozin 's Comet arrives . Their journey to Ba Sing Se to inform the Earth King of this is complicated when Appa is kidnapped . At the city , they find the Earth King Kuei and Ba Sing Se manipulated by Long Feng , the leader of the Dai Li secret police .

After Aang 's group finds Appa and exposes Long Feng , Toph is captured , but escapes by " Metalbending " , while Aang attempts to consciously access the Avatar state . The Dai Li join Azula to instigate a coup d'état of Ba Sing Se ; and Zuko , having tried to ignore his past obsession , relapses when the Avatar appears to rescue Katara . As Aang tries to enter the Avatar state , Azula nearly kills him . With Ba Sing Se and the Earth Kingdom now under Fire Nation rule , the group escapes thanks to Iroh , who is imprisoned for betraying the Fire Nation , and Kuei goes into hiding .

= = = Season Three ( Book Three : Fire ) = = =

Aang recovers from a long coma to find his friends and allies disguised as soldiers on a Fire Nation ship , preparing invasion of the Fire Nation . Despite receiving credit for the Avatar 's apparent death , Zuko regrets his role therein . Although the invasion meets great success at first , Aang and his friends are unable to find Ozai and are forced to retreat with many of their allies captured . At the same time , having learned of his father 's intention to destroy the Earth Kingdom at the time of Sozin 's Comet , Zuko leaves the palace to teach Aang Firebending .

As the comet approaches , Aang becomes reluctant to kill Ozai , and goes alone to consult his predecessors ' spirits . Katara and the others unsuccessfully search for Aang , and find the newly escaped Iroh , joined by the other members of a secret society called the Order of the White Lotus : Bumi , Master Pakku , Jeong @-@ Jeong , and Master Piandao ( a master swordsman who taught Sokka ) . Together , the Order of the White Lotus liberates Ba Sing Se . Sokka , Toph , and Kyoshi Warrior Suki hinder the Fire Nation 's airships , while Zuko and Katara prevent Azula from becoming the new Fire Lord . As Sozin 's Comet arrives , Aang confronts Ozai , but finds himself in a losing battle until Ozai mistakenly re @-@ establishes Aang 's connection to the Avatar State . Thus enabled , Aang strips Ozai of his firebending powers , instead of killing him .

Soon after , Zuko is crowned the new Fire Lord and initiates an armistice . The series ends in a meeting of all the protagonists at Ba Sing Se in Iroh 's tea shop , the Jasmine Dragon , where Aang and Katara hug and then kiss beneath the sunset . The camera then zooms up and into the sunset , displaying the words " The End " with their Chinese counterparts above them .

= = Characters = =

Aang ( voiced by Zach Tyler Eisen ) is the twelve @-@ year @-@ old , fun @-@ loving , Airbending protagonist of the series . Although averse to fighting , Aang is fiercely protective of his friends . He is the current incarnation of the planet 's Avatar Spirit , and is therefore required to act as arbiter among the various people . According to DiMartino and Konietzko , the arrow @-@ like tattoos on his forehead and arms mark Aang as an Airbending master ; Aang being the youngest Airbender in history to have earned them . His mentor , Monk Gyatso , was the greatest Airbender who had ever lived , according to Aang .

Katara ( voiced by Mae Whitman ) is the fourteen @-@ year @-@ old last Waterbender of the Southern Water Tribe . She and her brother Sokka accompany Aang on his quest to defeat the Fire Lord . Eventually she becomes his Waterbending master . Katara is one of the only two surviving waterbenders of the Southern Water Tribe ( the other being Hama ) and one of only two Waterbenders able to manipulate and control human bodies by bending the water and liquids therein , known as bloodbending ( an ability used twice in the series ) . Katara is usually kind @-@ hearted and generous , but is deeply hurt , hostile , and often angered by the slightest betrayal or ingratitude .

Sokka ( voiced by Jack DeSena ) is a fifteen @-@ year @-@ old non @-@ bender warrior of the Southern Water Tribe . With his younger sister Katara , he accompanies Aang on his quest to defeat

the Fire Lord . Sokka describes himself as " meat @-@ loving " and " sarcastic " , and is often a source of comic relief . Sokka 's first love interest is Suki , the leader of the Kyoshi Island Warriors . At the end of season one , he falls in love with Princess Yue of the Northern Water Tribe . Following her transformation into the moon spirit , he mourns for her , but returns to Suki . Unlike his companions , Sokka does not have any bending ability ; his skill lies largely in mechanics and the sword . His chief weapons are a metallic boomerang , a blunt metal battle club , a Water Tribe machete , and later a black jian created from the metals of a meteorite .

Toph Beifong ( voiced by Jessie Flower ) , a twelve @-@ year @-@ old blind female Earthbending prodigy , and Aang 's Earthbending instructor . Being blind , Toph " sees " by feeling vibrations in the ground through her feet using Earthbending . This ability also enables her to feel the pulses of one 's heart , allowing her to tell if someone is lying . She is later shown developing a method of ' Metalbending ' by detecting impurities in the metal . She was strictly taught only the basics of Earthbending by a tutor but learned its original form from badger @-@ moles , the original Earthbenders . Toph also has a crush on Sokka .

Zuko ( voiced by Dante Basco ) is the sixteen @-@ year @-@ old Firebender , exiled prince of the Fire Nation . He is the original antagonist of the first season , an antihero in the second season , and a protagonist in third season . He is determined and strong @-@ willed , and rarely shows compassion until the third season . During season two , Zuko struggles to deal with his anger , self @-@ pity , and complex familial relationships , as well as the choice between good and evil . He takes on the vigilante identity of the " Blue Spirit " throughout season one and season two . In season three , he defects from the Fire Nation to become Aang 's firebending master . At the end of the series , he is crowned ruler of the Fire Nation .

Appa ( voiced by Dee Bradley Baker ) is Aang 's flying bison , who serves as the protagonists ' mode of transport around the world . He remains in suspended animation with Aang for one hundred years and shares a strong bond with him . He possesses the ability to fly and can use his tail to create powerful gusts of air . According to Aang , the flying bison were the first Airbenders .

Momo ( voiced by Dee Bradley Baker ) is an intelligent and curious winged lemur discovered by Aang at the Southern Air Temple . He often picks fights with other winged and smaller creatures and with Appa over food . He can understand Aang 's speech , but less so of others ' . In " Tales of Ba Sing Se " , Momo 's name was written as ?? ( mó mó ) . Momo means " peach " in Japanese ( he grabbed a peach out of Sokka 's hand just as Aang was about to name him ) , but it is written ? ( táo ) .

Iroh ( voiced by Mako Iwamatsu / Greg Baldwin ) is a former general of the Fire Nation , known as the Dragon of the West , and Prince Zuko 's paternal uncle and mentor . Iroh was the heir to the Fire Nation throne until Ozai usurped the throne . On the surface , Iroh is a cheerful , kind , optimistic , eccentric old man , but remains a powerful warrior and a devoted surrogate parent to Zuko . Iroh is a Grand Master of the Order of the White Lotus , a secret society of men from all nations . Unlike most Firebenders , Iroh does not use anger as the source of his strength , relying instead on Firebending secrets learned from the Dragons .

Azula ( voiced by Grey DeLisle ) is the princess of the Fire Nation , Zuko 's younger sister and one of the primary antagonists of the series . Although she is much older in appearance , it is confirmed by the official website that she is intended to be 14 , making her two years younger than her brother . Azula is a Firebending prodigy and is one of the few living Firebenders capable of casting lightning . She is a cunning master at manipulation and a great leader , using fear to control her subjects and friends alike , reserving loyalty solely for her father . She is meticulous and calculating , but also a perfectionist . At the end of season three , she loses her sanity altogether as a result of a fragile mental state broken by the betrayal of her friends , the loss of her father , and her elevation to a position of power . She is defeated by Zuko and Katara in a duel .

Suki ( voiced by Jennie Kwan ) is the leader of the young and exclusively female Kyoshi Warriors , a sect established by Avatar Kyoshi . She is an exceptionally skilled fighter and staunch ally of the protagonists . She was imprisoned by the Fire Nation after the Kyoshi Warriors were defeated by Azula , but she was ultimately released by Sokka and Zuko . She remained with the protagonists thereafter and fought with Toph and Sokka to disable the Fire Nation 's air force . She was Sokka 's

love interest immediately following the end of the War .

Mai ( voiced by Cricket Leigh ) is the best friend of Ty Lee . Mai herself lacks bending , but she is agile , swift , and skilled in throwing darts and knives . She assists Azula throughout most of her role , but she ultimately decides to abandon Azula . She is also Zuko 's girlfriend .

Ty Lee ( voiced by Olivia Hack ) is an acrobat who fights alongside Azula against the protagonists , notable for her appearance of vivacity , innocence , and youth , and for her ability to disable enemies by temporarily obstructing the chi in their limbs . Having abandoned Azula , she joins the Kyoshi Warriors , whom she had earlier impersonated .

Fire Lord Ozai ( voiced by Mark Hamill ) ruler of the Fire Nation , is the father of Zuko and Azula , younger brother of Iroh , and the supreme antagonist of the series . Ozai is depicted as a cruel and merciless leader , and is described as " the worst father in the history of fathers " by his son Zuko , of whom he reportedly thought banishment too light a punishment . He favors Azula over Zuko , because he sees her as a firebending prodigy and sees his own beliefs embodied in her . In " Sozin 's Comet : The Final Battle " , he renames himself the Phoenix King , ruler of the world , and appoints Azula to watch over the Fire Nation alone ; but is defeated by Aang , who removes Ozai 's ability to firebend .

= = Production = =

Avatar : The Last Airbender was co @-@ created and produced by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko at Nickelodeon Animation Studios in Burbank , California . Animation work was mostly done by three animation studios in South Korea : JM Animation , DR Movie , and MOI Animation . According to Bryan Konietzko , the program was conceived in the spring of 2001 when he took an old sketch of a balding , middle @-@ aged man and re @-@ imagined the character as a child . Konietzko drew the character herding bison in the sky , and showed the sketch to Mike DiMartino . At the time , DiMartino was studying a documentary about explorers trapped in the South Pole . Konietzko described their early development of the concept :

The co @-@ creators successfully pitched the idea to Nickelodeon vice president and executive producer Eric Coleman just two weeks later .

The series was first revealed to the public in a teaser reel at Comic @-@ Con 2004 , and aired February 21 , 2005 . In the United States , the first two episodes of the series were shown together in a one @-@ hour premiere event . A second twenty @-@ episode season ran from March 17 , 2006 , through December 1 . A third and final season , beginning September 21 , 2007 , featured twenty @-@ one episodes rather than the usual twenty . The final four episodes were packaged as a two @-@ hour movie .

Avatar : The Last Airbender is notable for borrowing extensively from East Asian art and mythology to create its universe . The series ' character designs are heavily influenced by Chinese art , history , Hinduism , Taoism and Buddhism , and Yoga . Traditional Chinese calligraphy styles represent nearly all the writing in the series . For each instance of calligraphy , an appropriate style is used , ranging from seal script ( more archaic ) to clerical script . The show employed a cultural consultant , Edwin Zane , and calligrapher Siu @-@ Leung Lee as consultants for the series ' cultural influences . The choreographed martial art bending moves were affected by Asian cinema . In an interview , Bryan revealed that , " Mike and I were really interested in other epic ' Legends & Lore ' properties , like Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings , but we knew that we wanted to take a different approach to that type of genre . Our love for Japanese anime , Hong Kong action and kung fu cinema , yoga , and Eastern philosophies led us to the initial inspiration for Avatar : The Last Airbender . "

All music and sound used in the series was done by Jeremy Zuckerman and Benjamin Wynn , who formed The Track Team . They experimented with use of a wide range of different instruments , the guzheng , pipa , and duduk , to compose background music .

The term " Avatar " comes from Sanskrit ( ????? ) , wherein means " descent " ; its roots are ava , " down , " and tri , " to pass " . In the Hindu scriptures , avatar signifies the mortal incarnation of a god ( usually Vishnu ) . The Chinese characters apparent at the top of the show 's title card mean " the divine medium who has descended upon the mortal world " . According to the plot , Aang

unknowingly revealed he was the Avatar when by choosing four toys out of thousands , each of which were the childhood toys of previous Avatars . In Tibetan Buddhism , there is a similar test for reincarnations of a Tulku Lama . In Magic and Mystery in Tibet , Alexandra David @-@ Neel writes that " a number of objects such as rosaries , ritualistic implements , books , tea @-@ cups , etc . , are placed together , and the child must pick out those which belonged to the late tulku , thus showing that he recognizes the things which were theirs in their previous life " . Each successor is expected to show signs of continuity with the previous Avatar , being born within a week of the death

Avatar : The Last Airbender draws on the four classical elements for its bending arts : Water , Earth , Fire , and Air . Although each has its own variation , most ancient philosophies incorporate these four elements : examples include the classical Hindu , Buddhist , and Greek elemental traditions . In the show 's opening , each element is accompanied by two Chinese characters : an ancient Chinese seal script character on the left representing the element being shown and a modern Chinese character on the right describing some feature of the element . The character ? ( pinyin : shu? ) , which stands for water , is shown with ? ( pinyin : shàn ) , which means good and benevolent . The character ? ( pinyin : t? ) , which stands for earth , is shown with ? ( pinyin : qiáng ) , which means strong and powerful . The character ? ( pinyin : hu? ) , which stands for fire , is shown with ? ( pinyin : liè ) , which means intense and fierce . Finally , the character ? ( pinyin : qì ) , which stands for air , is shown with ? ( pinyin : hé ) , which means peace / peaceful and harmony / harmonious .

In addition to the use of four classical elements in the series , the fighting styles associated with each element are derived from different styles of Chinese martial arts , for which the film @-@ makers employed Sifu Kisu of the Harmonious Fist Chinese Athletic Association as a consultant . Each fighting style was chosen to represent the element it projected . T 'ai chi was used for " Waterbending " in the series , which focuses on alignment , body structure , breath , and visualization . Hung Gar was used for " Earthbending " in the series , and was chosen for its firmly rooted stances and powerful strikes to present the solid nature of earth . Northern Shaolin , which uses strong arm and leg movements was used to represent " Firebending " . Ba Gua , which uses dynamic circular movements and quick directional changes , was used for " Airbending " . The only exception to these styles is Toph , who can be seen practicing a Chu Gar Southern Praying Mantis style .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

When the series debuted , it was rated the best animated television series in its demographic ; new episodes averaged 3 @. @ 1 million viewers each . Many people regard it as a major animated series , and it has gained somewhat of a cult following . A one @-@ hour special showing of " The Secret of the Fire Nation " which aired on September 15 , 2006 , consisting of " The Serpent 's Pass " and " The Drill " , gathered an audience of 5 @. @ 1 million viewers . According to the Nielsen Media Research , the special was the best performing cable television show airing in that week . In 2007 , Avatar : The Last Airbender was syndicated to more than 105 countries worldwide , and was one of Nickelodeon 's top rated programs . The series was ranked first on Nickelodeon in Germany , Indonesia , Malaysia , The Netherlands , Belgium , and Colombia .

The four @-@ part series finale , Sozin 's Comet : The Final Battle , received the highest ratings of the series . Its premiere averaged 5 @. @ 6 million viewers , 95 % more viewers than Nickelodeon had received in mid @-@ July 2007 . During the week of July 14 , it ranked as the most @-@ viewed program for the under @-@ 14 demographic . Sozin 's Comet : The Final Battle also appeared on iTunes ' top ten list of best @-@ selling television episodes during that same week . Sozin 's Comet : The Final Battle 's popularity affected online media as well ; " Rise of the Phoenix King " , a Nick.com online game based on Sozin 's Comet : The Final Battle , generated almost 815 @, @ 000 game plays within three days . IGN listed the complete series as 35th in its list of Top 100

## Animated TV Shows .

== Awards and nominations ==

== Other media ==

== Art ==

Dark Horse Comics released an art book titled *Avatar : The Last Airbender ? The Art of the Animated Series* , on June 2 , 2010 , which contains 184 pages of the original art and creation behind the *Avatar : The Last Airbender* animated series .

== Comics ==

Several comic book short stories were published in *Nickelodeon Magazine* , and on June 15 , 2011 , Dark Horse released a collection of these and new comics in a single volume , *Avatar : The Last Airbender ? The Lost Adventures* .

Dark Horse also publishes a graphic novel series by Gene Yang that continues Aang 's story after the Hundred Years ' War . *Avatar : The Last Airbender ? The Promise* , published in three volumes in 2012 , is about the fate of the Fire Nation colonies that eventually become The Legend of Korra 's United Republic . A second set of three comic books , *Avatar : The Last Airbender ? The Search* , focuses on Zuko and Azula and the fate of their mother , Ursa . The third set , *Avatar : The Last Airbender - The Rift* , shifts the focus to Aang and the process of creating Republic City , as well as Toph 's relationship with her family .

== Promotion and merchandising ==

*Avatar : The Last Airbender* 's success has led to some promotional advertising with third @-@ party companies , Burger King and Upper Deck Entertainment . *Avatar : The Last Airbender* @-@ themed roller coasters at Nickelodeon Universe in the Mall of America and one formerly at Kings Island also appeared . During the show 's runtime , Nickelodeon published two special issues of *Nick Mag Presents* dedicated entirely to the show . Various members of the *Avatar : The Last Airbender* staff and cast appeared at the 2006 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International convention , while Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko appeared with Martial Arts Consultant Sifu Kisu at the Pacific Media Expo on October 28 , 2006 . *Avatar : The Last Airbender* also has its own line of T @-@ shirts , LEGO playsets , toys , a trading card game , a cine @-@ manga , and three video games , as well as an MMO .

The Fisher @-@ Price @-@ produced action figure toy line generated some controversy with its exclusion of any female characters . Mattel came to release information stating that they have taken account of Katara 's increased role within the program , and that she would be included in the figure assortment for a mid @-@ 2007 release . The figure ultimately went unreleased , however , as the entire line was canceled before she could be produced .

Nickelodeon executives have since released optimistic plans for upcoming marketing strategies in regards to *Avatar : The Last Airbender* . Nickelodeon President Cyma Zarghami openly stated her belief that the franchise " could become their Harry Potter " .

== Video games ==

A video game trilogy about *Avatar : The Last Airbender* has been created . *Avatar : The Last Airbender* , the video game , was released on October 10 , 2006 . *Avatar : The Last Airbender ? The Burning Earth* was released on October 16 , 2007 . *Avatar : The Last Airbender ? Into the Inferno*

was released on October 13 , 2008 . The three games were loosely based on seasons one , two and three , respectively . Players can select characters and complete quests to gain experience and advance the storyline . The games were met with mixed to positive reviews ( the ratings improved with each game ) , and the games did extremely well commercially ; for example , Avatar : The Last Airbender was THQ 's top selling Nickelodeon game in 2006 and even reached Sony CEA 's " Greatest Hits " status .

Avatar : Legends of the Arena , a massively multiplayer online role @-@ playing game ( MMORPG ) for Microsoft Windows , was launched on September 25 , 2008 , by Nickelodeon . Each user was able to create their own character , choose a nation , and interact with others across the globe . Since the 2012 holiday season , the game 's servers have been closed .

= = = Film = = =

The first season of the show became the basis for the 2010 live @-@ action film The Last Airbender , written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan . It was intended as the first movie of a trilogy , with each of the three films to be based upon one of the three television seasons , but the film 's reception was overwhelmingly negative from both critics and series fans alike , earning it a 6 % rating on Rotten Tomatoes and five Razzies in 31st Golden Raspberry Awards of 2011 , including Worst Picture . The film originally shared the title of the television series , but it was changed to simply The Last Airbender because producers feared it would be confused with the James Cameron film Avatar . The film stars Noah Ringer as Aang , Nicola Peltz as Katara , Jackson Rathbone as Sokka , Dev Patel as Zuko , and Shaun Toub as Iroh .

= = = Sequel ( The Legend of Korra ) = = =

The Legend of Korra , a sequel series to Avatar : The Last Airbender , was announced at the Comic @-@ Con in San Diego on July 22 , 2010 . It is written and produced by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko , the creators and producers of the original series . Initially titled Avatar : Legend of Korra , then The Last Airbender : Legend of Korra , it takes place seventy years after the end of Avatar : The Last Airbender . The first season of 12 episodes aired from April to June 2012 , and a second season of 14 episodes aired from September 2013 to November 2013 ; a third season of 13 episodes aired from June 2014 to August 2014 , and a fourth and final season of 13 episodes aired from October 2014 to December 2014 .

The series ' protagonist is Korra , a 17 @-@ year @-@ old girl from the Southern Water Tribe and the reincarnation of the Avatar after Aang 's death . The character was partly inspired by Avatar Kyoshi of the original series , whom the creators say was popular among fans . To avoid repetition of Aang 's adventures during the original series , the creators wanted to root the show in one place : Republic City . A concept drawing of the city , released with the announcement of the series , shows the city 's design as inspired by Shanghai , Hong Kong , Manhattan , and Vancouver with a steampunk vibe . In the show 's first season , Korra has to learn airbending from Tenzin , the youngest son of Aang and Katara , and contend with Amon 's anti @-@ bender revolution taking place in the city . The show 's second season also provides the origins of the Avatar Cycle .