

= Mewtwo =

Mewtwo (Japanese : ????? , Hepburn : My?ts?) is a fictional creature from Nintendo and Game Freak 's Pokémon media franchise . Created by Ken Sugimori , it first appeared in the video games Pokémon Red and Blue and their sequels , and later appeared in various merchandise , spinoff titles , as well as animation adaptations of the franchise . Masachika Ichimura voiced the franchise 's original Mewtwo character in Japanese , and the creature 's younger self is voiced by Fujiko Takimoto in the Sound Picture Box : Mewtwo 's Origin CD drama and Showtaro Morikubo in the anime adaptation . In English , Jay Goede voiced Mewtwo in Mewtwo Strikes Back and the Pokémon Live ! musical . For the former production , he was credited under the pseudonym " Philip Bartlett " . Dan Green provided the voice in Mewtwo Returns . Actress Reiko Takashima voices a separate Mewtwo character in the prequel special Mewtwo : Prologue to Awakening and the film ExtremeSpeed Genesect : Mewtwo Awakens ; this second Mewtwo is voiced by actress Miriam Pultro in the English dub .

In the video games , the player can fight and capture Mewtwo to pit it against other Pokémon . The player first learns of Mewtwo late in Pokémon Red and Blue by reading research documents left in a ruined laboratory on Cinnabar Island . The documents reveal that a solitary scientist spent years genetically engineering a descendant of the Pokémon Mew . Mewtwo eventually escaped after proving too strong to contain .

Regarded as one of the series ' strongest Pokémon , it changed the way players approached the games by forcing them to find ways to counteract those using Mewtwo . Studies found the character popular with older male children , which contrasted with its counterpart Mew . Reactions to the creature 's first anime portrayal have been divided , as reviewers such as Daily Record cited it as a cliché villain , while others such as Animerica and Sight & Sound praised the character 's depth .

= = Design and characteristics = =

Japanese video game designer Ken Sugimori designed Mewtwo for the first generation of Pocket Monsters games , Red and Green , known outside Japan as Pokémon Red and Blue . Its name , which means the " second of Mew " , derives from its existence as a genetic duplicate of the original Mew . Until the first Pokémon movie was released in the United States , Mewtwo was rarely referred to as a " clone " in Japanese sources . Kubo Masakazu , executive producer of Mewtwo Strikes Back , explained that they " intentionally avoid using the term ' kuron ' [clone] ? because the word has a frightening feel " . Despite being Mew 's descendant , Mewtwo directly precedes Mew in the game 's numerical Pokémon index owing to the latter 's secret inclusion by Game Freak programmer Shigeki Morimoto . During an interview , Pokémon Company president Tsunekazu Ishihara stated that Mewtwo was expected to be popular with North American audiences , citing their preference for strong , powerful characters .

Its build is very different compared to Mew 's , appearing as a large bipedal feline , with a white body , pronounced purple tail and stomach , feline head , and a mass of flesh connecting the center of its back to its head behind its neck . Its appearance has been likened to " an oversized cross of cat , squirrel and kangaroo " . In the original games , Mewtwo is intended to be " the strongest Pokémon ever " . It is psychic , uses telekinesis for flight and telepathy to speak . When fighting , it uses its abilities to shield itself or throw opponents to compensate for its lack of speed . Otherwise , it conserves its energy until needed . It can regenerate as well , and is able to quickly recover from near @-@ fatal injuries . Mewtwo stands 6 feet 7 inches (201 cm) tall .

As a character in the games , Mewtwo seldom has spoken dialogue , but when it does it is presented as vicious and primarily interested in proving its own strength . The franchise 's non @-@ video game media , particularly the anime , has expanded upon the character , giving Mewtwo a male voice and , while aware of why it was created , actively questioning its own existence .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In video games = = =

In Pokémon Red and Blue , the player learns of Mewtwo 's existence by reading research notes left in the ruined " Pokémon Mansion " on Cinnabar Island . The notes say that the island 's scientists discovered a new Pokémon in a Guyana jungle , that they christened it Mew , and that it later gave birth to a creature they called Mewtwo ; the game 's Pokédex entry states that Mewtwo was " created by a scientist after years of horrific gene splicing and DNA engineering experiments " . Mewtwo proved too mighty to control , destroying the laboratory and escaping . The player is later given an opportunity to capture Mewtwo in the Cerulean Cave (called the ' Unknown Dungeon ' in the original games) , which is accessible only after defeating the game 's final bosses , the Elite Four and Blue ; in the remake titles Pokémon FireRed and LeafGreen this prerequisite was expanded , requiring the player to explore more thoroughly and record information on sixty Pokémon species before access to the cave would be granted . Mewtwo is catchable in Pokémon HeartGold and SoulSilver in the same location as before after defeating all of the gym leaders in Kanto . The character was the focus of a promotion and downloadable content giveaway for Pokémon Black and White . Mewtwo appears in Pokémon X and Y after completing the main story and is one of several Pokémon that is able to use the new Mega Evolution mechanic , becoming either Mega Mewtwo X or Mega Mewtwo Y .

Since its debut , Mewtwo has appeared in other Nintendo games . In Pokémon Stadium and Pokémon Pinball , Mewtwo appears as a final boss after all competitions have been completed . In Pokémon Puzzle League , Mewtwo serves not only as the final opponent , but also as the main antagonist responsible for the game 's events . Other games , such as Super Smash Bros. Melee and the Pokémon Mystery Dungeon series have featured Mewtwo as an unlockable player character that must be defeated before it may be used , while games such as Pokémon Snap have featured the character in cameos , appearing once certain conditions have been met . For all appearances in which the character has spoken dialogue , Mewtwo is voiced by Masachika Ichimura , with the exception of Pokémon Puzzle League , where it is voiced by Philip Bartlett . After failing to make a playable appearance in Super Smash Bros. Brawl , Mewtwo became available as a DLC character in Super Smash Bros. for Nintendo 3DS and Wii U on April 28 , 2015 , though it was made available to Club Nintendo members who registered both versions on April 15 , 2015 . In 3DS / Wii U , its Final Smash involves becoming Mega Mewtwo Y and using Psystrike . A new form of Mewtwo , Shadow Mewtwo , appears as a boss character in Pokkén Tournament , becoming Mega Mewtwo X as its special attack . The traditional Mewtwo appears as a playable character in the Wii U version as well .

= = = In anime and related media = = =

Mewtwo is featured in the 1998 animated film Pokémon : The First Movie as the main antagonist , in which it is shown to be the creation of the criminal organization Team Rocket . After Mewtwo destroys the laboratory where it was born , Team Rocket 's leader , Giovanni , convinces it he can help it control its powers . He instead uses Mewtwo as a weapon . After escaping Giovanni , Mewtwo questions its reason for existence and declares revenge on its creators . To this end , it lures several Pokémon trainers , among them movie protagonist Ash Ketchum , to its island in order to clone their Pokémon . Once it does so , Mewtwo forces the originals to battle the clones in an effort to determine which set is superior , while Mewtwo faces its own original , Mew . Ash sacrifices himself to stop the fighting , though he is later revived . Mewtwo , Mew , and the clones then leave to find a sanctuary , striking memory of the events from those gathered . In localizing the film for English @-@ language audiences , Mewtwo 's personality became more arrogant and megalomaniacal ; localization director Norman Grossfield ruled the changes necessary , as he believed American audiences needed a " clearly evil " rather than ambiguous villain . In the film , Mewtwo is voiced by Philip Bartlett in English , and by Ichimura in Japanese . In this film , Mewtwo displayed unique abilities and powers unseen in other Pokémon , such as blocking all Pokémon

moves in his arena when the clones face off against the originals .

In September 1999 , Nintendo published Sound Picture Box Mewtwo , which included The Birth of Mewtwo : Pokémon Radio Drama , a CD drama that expands upon Mewtwo 's origins . Created by scientist Dr. Fuji , Mewtwo is one of several cloning attempts , which also include a clone of Fuji 's deceased daughter . The young Mewtwo befriends her , communicating telepathically ; however the cloning process proves unstable , and she dies . To save the traumatized Mewtwo , Fuji erases its memories and puts it under sedation until its body finishes developing , leading to the events of the film . The CD drama was later adapted into a short anime , and was included with Japanese home releases and broadcasts of Mewtwo Strikes Back and later in North America in December 2001 as part of Mewtwo Returns . Mewtwo as a child is voiced in Japanese by Fujiko Takimoto for the CD drama and Showtaro Morikubo for the anime , while in the English localization the voice actor is uncredited .

In December 2000 , the film was followed by a sequel , Pokémon : Mewtwo Returns , which was broadcast on Japanese television in December 2000 and released worldwide on home video and DVD in 2001 . Voiced by Dan Green in English with Ichimura reprising the role in Japanese , Mewtwo and the clones have since found peace in another region . However , Giovanni , whose memories were left intact after the first film , locates and pursues Mewtwo . Assisted by Ash and his companions , Mewtwo comes to terms with its existence and defeats Giovanni , removing any memory of itself from his and his soldiers ' minds , while leaving the others unaffected . As everyone departs , Mewtwo sets out on its own .

Mewtwo also appears in the musical Pokémon Live ! , a live action adaptation of the anime set after Pokémon : The First Movie , and is portrayed by Marton Fulop . In it , Mewtwo faces a robotic replica of itself , MechaMew2 , created by Giovanni and able to learn any attacks used against it . However , after learning compassion from Mewtwo , the machine rebels and self @-@ destructs . The 2006 television special Pokémon : The Mastermind of Mirage Pokémon features a hologram version of Mewtwo , created and controlled by the story 's antagonist Dr. Yung . With help from a hologram Mew , Ash and his companions destroy the Mewtwo hologram and defeat Yung .

Another Mewtwo appears in the anime special Mewtwo : Prologue to Awakening and the film Genesect and the Legend Awakened , voiced by the actress Reiko Takashima , to protect Ash , Iris , Cilan , and Eric from the rampaging Genesect army . This Mewtwo is able to Mega Evolve into Mega Mewtwo Y , referred to in the film as Mewtwo 's " Awakened Form " (????? , Kakusei @-@ shita Sugata) .

A Mewtwo , which was created by Mr. Fuji , appears in the anime miniseries Pokémon Origins , which is generally based on the plot of the video games Pokémon FireRed and LeafGreen . As such , Red goes to Cerulean Cave , and uses the Mega Evolution mechanic introduced in Pokémon X and Y to Mega Evolve his Charizard for the fight with Mewtwo , whom Red captures .

= = = In printed adaptations = = =

Mewtwo has appeared as a central character in several books related to the Pokémon franchise , including novelizations of Mewtwo Strikes Back and Mewtwo Returns , both of which closely follow the events of the films . In December 1999 , Viz Media published the children 's picture book I 'm Not Pikachu ! : Pokémon Tales Movie Special , which featured children taking on traits of the characters from the film , including Mewtwo . In May 2001 , Viz released a second children 's book , Mewtwo 's Watching You ! , which featured a shy Mewtwo interestedly watching other Pokémon play .

In the manga series Pokémon Adventures , Team Rocket creates Mewtwo , but some of his DNA is placed inside of the Gym leader Blaine . Because of the DNA that they share , the two are unable to be separated for very long without becoming ill . Later , another Pokémon , Entei is able to break the bond between the two by removing the DNA in Blaine 's arm , at which point Mewtwo leaves . It eventually helps the main character of the series , Red , fight against Team Rocket leader Giovanni and his Deoxys .

In 1998 , Toshihiro Ono was asked to write a story detailing Mewtwo 's origin to coincide with the release of Mewtwo Strikes Back . The 52 @-@ page comic , presented in the form of a flashback ,

was replaced midway by the " The Birth of Mewtwo " animated short , resulting in little connection between Ono 's work and the film . Regardless , it saw print as a side story for Pokémon : The Electric Tale of Pikachu in the July 1998 issue of CoroCoro Comic . In it , Mewtwo 's creator Dr. Fuji takes on the role of a coach for the fully developed Pokémon , while his employer , Team Rocket , tests its abilities . Learning of a plan to mass @-@ produce it as a weapon , Fuji approaches Mewtwo and tells it to destroy the lab and Fuji himself . Mewtwo refuses , stating it cannot harm the doctor , who it regards as its father . Once captured by Team Rocket , Fuji tells Mewtwo that he is honored by the statement , and is then killed . Angered by his death , Mewtwo destroys the lab and escapes . In the present , Mewtwo cries in its sleep as it dreams of the events .

= = Reception and legacy = =

In the games , Mewtwo is consistently noted as being one of the strongest opponents , and has been described in Pokémon Red and Blue as being " the best Pokémon in the game " , as well as " one of the rarest ? and hardest to catch " . Because of the character 's multiple strengths and few weaknesses , it changed how players approached playing against each other , causing players to either develop strategies solely to defeat an opposing Mewtwo , or prohibit its use when battling other players . IGN 's staff bemoaned its exclusion from Super Smash Bros. Brawl . A poll by IGN on whether the character was missed by others in Brawl shared a similar sentiment , though they also described it as one of Super Smash Bros. Melee 's weakest characters . Professional Super Smash Bros. player Jason " Mew2King " Zimmerman takes his handle from Mewtwo , although he uses other characters in competition . Authors Tracey West and Katherine Noll called Mewtwo the fifth best Legendary Pokémon and the sixth best Pokémon overall .

The book Pikachu 's Global Adventure : The Rise and Fall of Pokémon noted Mewtwo as popular with older male children who tend to be drawn to " tough or scary " characters ; Mew in contrast was described as a polar opposite , a character popular with young girls who tend to be drawn to " cute " characters . Others books , such as Media and the Make @-@ believe Worlds of Children , have noted a similar comparison , citing Mewtwo as " more aggressive @-@ looking " compared to Mew and emphasizing the importance of the contrast for children . The book Gaming Cultures and Place in Asia @-@ Pacific compares Sugimori 's design of Mewtwo to that of Japanese tokusatsu films , namely monster films like the 1954 Godzilla in creating " monstrous yet familiar silhouettes from the past renewed agency in the form of eyes and expressions which cut through the viewer " .

In reception to extended media for the Pokémon franchise , Mewtwo has been likened to Frankenstein 's monster as a being born from artificial means and discontent with the fact . Theology Secretary for the Church of England Anne Richards described Mewtwo as representing a " parable about the pointlessness of force " , and praised the character for displaying the Christian value of redemption . Other reactions have been mixed . While it has been cited as a " complex and compelling villain " by some critics , its goal of world domination was received as a trait shared by " ? every anime villain ? " , and likened to a James Bond villain by Daily Record . However , Animerica praised Mewtwo as a character with " philosophical depth " as well as for serving as " an adversary of almost infinite power and genuine malice " that the anime series had been lacking . Ken Hollings of Sight & Sound described Mewtwo as " brooding , articulate and vengeful where the other Pokémon remain bright blobs of wordless energy " , and " Like a troubled elder brother , Mewtwo represents an older order of experience . " Anime Classics Zettai ! : 100 Must @-@ See Japanese Animation Masterpieces praised the character as the best villain of the Pokémon film series , and one of Mewtwo Strikes Back 's strongest elements . The Los Angeles Times cited its behavior as a point of humor in relation to its appearance as a " decidedly feline character . "

Mewtwo 's image is utilized for merchandise related to the Pokémon franchise , which includes toys , children 's toothbrushes , and a playing piece for a Pokémon @-@ themed version of Monopoly . Several action figures have been made , such as a posable figure by Hasbro in 2006 that included accessories to recreate its " Hyper Beam " and " Light Screen " attacks , and a six @-@ inch @-@ tall " talking " figurine by Jakks Pacific as part of a series to commemorate the anime 's Battle Frontier story arc . Items marketed for adults featuring Mewtwo have also been sold and distributed

by Nintendo , such as T @-@ shirts . The island nation of Niue released a one @-@ dollar coin featuring the character as part of a commemorative promotion for the Pokémon franchise , with Mewtwo on one side and the nation 's coat of arms on the other . Mewtwo also appears on the port side of All Nippon Airways 's Pocket Monsters Boeing 747 jumbo jet , alongside Mew .