[Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates" \o "Template:Use mdy dates) [Template:Superherobox](/wiki/Template:Superherobox) **Namor the Sub-Mariner** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) (**Namor McKenzie**) is a [fictional character](/wiki/Fictional_character) appearing in [American comic books](/wiki/American_comic_book) published by [Marvel Comics](/wiki/Marvel_Comics). Debuting in early 1939, the character was created by writer-artist [Bill Everett](/wiki/Bill_Everett) for [Funnies Inc.](/wiki/Funnies_Inc.), one of the first "packagers" in the early days of comic books that supplied comics on demand to publishers looking to enter the new [medium](/wiki/Mass_media). Initially created for the unreleased comic [*Motion Picture Funnies Weekly*](/wiki/Motion_Picture_Funnies_Weekly), the Sub-Mariner [first appeared](/wiki/First_appearance) publicly in [*Marvel Comics*](/wiki/Marvel_Mystery_Comics) #1 (Oct. 1939) – the first comic book from [Timely Comics](/wiki/Timely_Comics), the 1930s–1940s predecessor of the company [Marvel Comics](/wiki/Marvel_Comics). During that period, known to historians and fans as the [Golden Age of Comic Books](/wiki/Golden_Age_of_Comic_Books), the Sub-Mariner was one of Timely's top three characters, along with [Captain America](/wiki/Captain_America) and the original [Human Torch](/wiki/Human_Torch_(android)). Everett said the character's name was inspired by [Samuel Taylor Coleridge's](/wiki/Samuel_Taylor_Coleridge) poem, "[The Rime of the Ancient Mariner](/wiki/The_Rime_of_the_Ancient_Mariner)".[[1]](#cite_note-1) Everett came up with "Namor" by writing down noble sounding names backwards and thought Roman/Namor looked the best.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The [mutant](/wiki/Mutant_(Marvel_Comics)) son of a human sea captain and a princess of the mythical undersea kingdom of [Atlantis](/wiki/Atlantis_(Marvel_Comics)), Namor possesses the super-strength and aquatic abilities of the [*Homo mermanus*](/wiki/Homo_mermanus) race, as well as the mutant ability of flight, along with other superhuman powers. Through the years, he has been alternately portrayed as a good-natured but short-fused superhero, or a hostile invader seeking vengeance for perceived wrongs that misguided surface-dwellers committed against his kingdom. The first known comic book [antihero](/wiki/Antihero),[[3]](#cite_note-3) the Sub-Mariner has remained a historically important and relatively popular Marvel character. He has served directly with the [Avengers](/wiki/Avengers_(comics)), the [Fantastic Four](/wiki/Fantastic_Four), the [Invaders](/wiki/Invaders_(comics)), the [Defenders](/wiki/Defenders_(comics)), the [X-Men](/wiki/X-Men), and the [Illuminati](/wiki/Illuminati_(comics)) as well as serving as a [foil](/wiki/Foil_(literature)) to them on occasion.

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## Publication history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

### Golden Age[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Namor the Sub-Mariner first appeared in April 1939 in the prototype for a planned giveaway comic titled [*Motion Picture Funnies Weekly*](/wiki/Motion_Picture_Funnies_Weekly), produced by the comic book packager [Funnies Inc.](/wiki/Funnies_Inc.)[[4]](#cite_note-4) The only eight known samples among those created to send to theater owners were discovered in the estate of the deceased publisher in 1974. When the giveaway idea fell through, creator [Bill Everett](/wiki/Bill_Everett) used the character for *Marvel Comics* #1, the first comic book by Funnies, Inc. client [Timely Comics](/wiki/Timely_Comics), predecessor of [Marvel Comics](/wiki/Marvel_Comics).[[5]](#cite_note-5) The final panel of the earlier, unpublished eight-page Sub-Mariner story had included a "Continued Next Week" box that reappeared, sans lettering, in an expanded 12-page story. The series *Marvel Comics* was retitled [*Marvel Mystery Comics*](/wiki/Marvel_Mystery_Comics) with issue #2 (Dec. 1939). [199px|left|thumb|Namor's first cover appearance:](/wiki/Image:Marvel_Mystery_Comics_4.png) [*Marvel Mystery Comics*](/wiki/Marvel_Mystery_Comics) #4 (Feb. 1940). Art by [Alex Schomburg](/wiki/Alex_Schomburg). In his first appearances Namor was an enemy of the United States. Comics historian [Les Daniels](/wiki/Les_Daniels) noted that "Namor was a freak in the service of chaos. Although the Sub-Mariner acted like a villain, his cause had some justice, and readers reveled in his assaults on civilization. His enthusiastic fans weren't offended by the carnage he created as he wrecked everything from ships to skyscrapers."[[6]](#cite_note-6) Everett's antihero would eventually battle [Carl Burgos'](/wiki/Carl_Burgos) [android](/wiki/Android_(robot)) superhero, the [Human Torch](/wiki/Human_Torch_(android)), when in 1940 Namor threatened to sink the island of Manhattan underneath a tidal wave.[[7]](#cite_note-7) When the U.S. entered [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Namor would aid the [Allies of World War II](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) against [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) and the [Axis powers](/wiki/Axis_powers).[[8]](#cite_note-8) Supporting characters included Betty Dean, a [New York City policewoman](/wiki/New_York_City_Police_Department) introduced in *Marvel Mystery Comics* #3[[9]](#cite_note-9) (and later known as Betty Dean-Prentiss), who was a steady companion, and his cousins [Namora](/wiki/Namora) and [Dorma](/wiki/Lady_Dorma).

Namor starred in the Golden Age comic book *Sub-Mariner Comics*, published quarterly, then thrice-yearly, and finally bimonthly, from issues #1–32 (Fall 1941 – June 1949).[[10]](#cite_note-10) A backup feature each issue starred the detective-superhero the [Angel](/wiki/Angel_(Thomas_Halloway)). Along with many other Timely characters, Namor disappeared a few years after the end of World War II and the decline in popularity of superhero comics.[[11]](#cite_note-11) He briefly fought crime as a member of the post-war superhero team the [All-Winners Squad](/wiki/All-Winners_Squad), and, through a 1970s [retcon](/wiki/Retroactive_continuity), was given a history of having fought with the Allies during World War II in the superhero team the [Invaders](/wiki/Invaders_(comics)). Both these super-groups were built around the core of Namor, Captain America, and the original Human Torch.

The Sub-Mariner experienced a brief revival in the mid-1950s at [Atlas Comics](/wiki/Atlas_Comics_(1950s)), the 1950s iteration of Marvel. Along with Captain America and the original Human Torch, he was revived in *Young Men* #24. Soon afterward, *Sub-Mariner Comics* was revived with issues #33–42 (April 1954 – Oct. 1955).[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) During this time, Namora had her own spin-off series. A planned live-action television program starring Namor did not appear and the revival of the comic book series was cancelled a second time.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)

### Silver Age and after[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Namor returned in [*Fantastic Four*](/wiki/Fantastic_Four) #4 (May 1962), where a member of the titular superhero team, Johnny Storm, the new [Human Torch](/wiki/Human_Torch), discovers him living as an [amnesiac](/wiki/Amnesia) [homeless](/wiki/Homelessness) man in the [Bowery](/wiki/Bowery) section of [Manhattan](/wiki/Manhattan).[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17) Storm helps him recover his memory, and Namor immediately returns to his undersea kingdom – identified, for the first time in the Marvel canon, as [Atlantis](/wiki/Atlantis). Finding it destroyed from [nuclear testing](/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_testing), Namor assumes his people are scattered and that he will never find them. He again becomes an [antihero](/wiki/Antihero) during this period, as two elements – a thirst for vengeance and a quest for identity – would dominate the Sub-Mariner stories of the 1960s. He was both a villain and a hero – striking against the human race who destroyed his home, but showing a great deal of [*noblesse oblige*](/wiki/Noblesse_oblige) to individuals.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [thumb|](/wiki/Image:Sub-Mariner1968n1.jpg)[Silver Age](/wiki/Silver_Age_of_Comic_Books) *Sub-Mariner* #1 (May 1968). Cover art by [John Buscema](/wiki/John_Buscema) and [Sol Brodsky](/wiki/Sol_Brodsky).

Initially, Namor variously finds himself allied with the [supervillains](/wiki/Supervillain) [Doctor Doom](/wiki/Doctor_Doom) and [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)), but his royal nobility and stubborn independent streak make these alliances-of-convenience short-lived. Namor's revival was a hit with readers, but Marvel could not give him his own title due to publication and distribution restrictions that would not be lifted until 1968.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Instead, Namor was given numerous guest-appearances – including in [*Daredevil*](/wiki/Daredevil_(Marvel_Comics)) #7 (April 1965), a rare superhero story drawn by comics great [Wally Wood](/wiki/Wally_Wood) – and a starring feature in the split-title comic [*Tales to Astonish*](/wiki/Tales_to_Astonish) (beginning issue #70, Aug. 1965).[[19]](#cite_note-19) By now, during a period fans and historians call the [Silver Age of Comic Books](/wiki/Silver_Age_of_Comic_Books), he is more authoritative, arrogant and solemn than the impetuous youthful character of the 1940s and mid-1950s, speaking in neo-[Shakespearean](/wiki/William_Shakespeare) dialogue rather than the more [colloquial](/wiki/Colloquialism) speech of his youth, often shouting his battle cry, "Imperius Rex!".

He was spun off into his own title, the 1968–74 series *Sub-Mariner*.<ref name=gcd1968>[*Sub-Mariner*](http://www.comics.org/series/1874/) at the Grand Comics Database</ref> The super-villain [Tiger Shark](/wiki/Tiger_Shark_(Marvel_Comics)) was introduced in issue #5 by writer [Roy Thomas](/wiki/Roy_Thomas) and artist [John Buscema](/wiki/John_Buscema)[[20]](#cite_note-20) and the super-hero [Stingray](/wiki/Stingray_(comics)) in issue #19 by Thomas and Bill Everett.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Some of the later issues of this *Sub-Mariner* series are notable for having been written and drawn by the character's creator, Bill Everett, shortly before his death; as well, they reintroduced a now-older Namora, and introduced her daughter, [Namorita Prentiss](/wiki/Namorita). By now more of a reluctant superhero "the Sub-Mariner was perfect for the Marvel Age of angst-ridden protagonists. Noble yet misunderstood, powerful yet thwarted ... [he was] portrayed as a regal monarch – a king without a country."[[22]](#cite_note-22) The final issue, #72 (Sept. 1974), was written by [Steve Skeates](/wiki/Steve_Skeates) and featured an unofficial [intercompany crossover](/wiki/Intercompany_crossover) with the last issue of [DC Comics'](/wiki/DC_Comics) [*Aquaman*](/wiki/Aquaman) series.[[23]](#cite_note-23) A five- to six-page backup feature, "Tales of Atlantis", chronicling the undersea kingdom from its ancient origins, appeared in issues #62–66 (June–Oct. 1973), written by Gerber, with penciling by [Howard Chaykin](/wiki/Howard_Chaykin) and later [Jim Mooney](/wiki/Jim_Mooney).[[24]](#cite_note-24) After the cancellation of *Sub-Mariner*, Namor co-starred with Doctor Doom in the [*Super-Villain Team-Up*](/wiki/Super-Villain_Team-Up) series.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The series suffered from mediocre sales due to its lack of a stable creative team,[[3]](#cite_note-3) and following issue #13 Namor was dropped from the co-star spot.

Following a four-issue [miniseries](/wiki/Miniseries) a decade later, *Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner* (Sept.-Dec. 1984), by co-writer [J. M. DeMatteis](/wiki/J._M._DeMatteis), penciler/co-writer [Bob Budiansky](/wiki/Bob_Budiansky), and inker Danny Bulanadi, the 12-issue [maxiseries](/wiki/Maxiseries) *The Saga of the Sub-Mariner* (Nov. 1988 – Oct. 1989) provided a retrospective of Namor's past adventures while tying up loose plot threads and resolving contradictions that had accumulated over the character's decades of published history.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Namor again received an ongoing series in 1990. *Namor, the Sub-Mariner*, which ran 62 issues (April 1990 – May 1995), was initially written and penciled by [John Byrne](/wiki/John_Byrne_(comics)) who took over the inking as well from issues #4–21.[[26]](#cite_note-26) From #26–38, the series' penciler and eventual penciler-inker was then-newcomer [Jae Lee](/wiki/Jae_Lee), with [Bob Harras](/wiki/Bob_Harras) scripting from #33–40. Thereafter came a variety of artists and writers. This series followed Namor as CEO of Oracle, Inc., a corporation devoted to reducing pollution, particularly in the oceans, and provided the stage for the return of the 1970s [martial artist](/wiki/Martial_arts) superhero [Iron Fist](/wiki/Iron_Fist_(comics)), who had been presumed dead.

The 12-issue miniseries *Namor* (June 2003 – May 2004), credited to co-writers [Bill Jemas](/wiki/Bill_Jemas) (then Marvel's president) and [Andi Watson](/wiki/Andi_Watson), and penciled initially by [Salvador Larroca](/wiki/Salvador_Larroca) and later by [Pat Olliffe](/wiki/Pat_Olliffe) and others, explored Namor's youth, charting his teenage romance with a young American girl in the early 20th century. A six-issue miniseries, *Sub-Mariner* vol. 2 (Aug. 2007 – Jan. 2008), by co-writers Matt Cherniss and Peter Johnson and, primarily, artist Phil Briones, introduced Namor's heretofore undisclosed son, Kamar.

Namor was featured in his own ongoing series, *Namor: The First Mutant*, in 2011.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The series was cancelled after less than a year into its publication.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Never fundamentally either a hero or a villain, Namor has protected his kingdom and sought vengeance on the surface world only when he feels his realm is threatened. Although he has served alongside, or even as a member of, superhero teams – most notably the [Defenders](/wiki/Defenders_(comics)),[[29]](#cite_note-29) a "non-team" in which he was allied with [Doctor Strange](/wiki/Doctor_Strange), the Hulk, and the [Silver Surfer](/wiki/Silver_Surfer); the [Avengers](/wiki/Avengers_(comics)); and both the World War II and modern-day versions of the Invaders – Namor remains an outsider.

Marvel revived the series [*The Defenders*](/wiki/Defenders_(comics)), with Namor on the team, in December 2011.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The series was cancelled after 12 issues.

He became one of main characters, along with the other Illuminati members, in the third volume of [*New Avengers*](/wiki/The_New_Avengers_(comics)) beginning in 2013.

## Fictional character biography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

As related in [*Marvel Comics*](/wiki/Marvel_Mystery_Comics) #1 ([cover-dated](/wiki/Cover-date) Oct. 1939) and subsequent, expanded retellings of his [origin story](/wiki/Origin_story), Namor was born in the capital city of the initially unnamed Atlantean empire, then located off the [Antarctic](/wiki/Antarctic) coast. His mother was Emperor Thakorr's daughter, Fen, and his father an American sea captain, Leonard McKenzie, of the icebreaker *Oracle*; they had fallen in love and married aboard ship while she was, unbeknownst to him, spying on the human intruders. When Fen did not return, Atlantean warriors attacked the *Oracle*, evidently killing McKenzie, and returned Fen to her kingdom. The pink-skinned [mutant](/wiki/Mutant_(comics)) Namor was subsequently born among the blue-skinned Atlanteans. He became the Prince of Atlantis, and a warrior for his people against the "surface-dwellers". He became friends with New York City police woman Betty Dean in [*Marvel Mystery Comics*](/wiki/Marvel_Mystery_Comics) #3 (Jan. 1940), and when World War II broke out, he began fighting the [Axis powers](/wiki/Axis_powers). In [flashback](/wiki/Flashback_(narrative)) stories beginning in the 1970s, he was [retconned](/wiki/Retconned) as a member of the [Allied](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) superhero team the [Invaders](/wiki/Invaders_(comics)), consisting originally of himself; [Captain America](/wiki/Captain_America) and his sidekick [Bucky](/wiki/Bucky); and the [original Human Torch](/wiki/Human_Torch_(android)) and his sidekick [Toro](/wiki/Toro_(comics)).

Namor was injured after the war, and in [*Fantastic Four*](/wiki/Fantastic_Four) #4 was shown living in the flophouse [Bowery](/wiki/Bowery) district of [Manhattan](/wiki/Manhattan) as an [amnesiac](/wiki/Amnesia) derelict. Regaining his memory in this story, he became enraged upon learning that the original site of Atlantis had been destroyed by nuclear testing, its inhabitants evacuated. Namor vowed revenge on humanity, but after several attacks thwarted by superheroes, including in *Fantastic Four* #6, 9, and 14 (Sept. and Dec. 1962, May 1963), [*Strange Tales*](/wiki/Strange_Tales) #107 (April 1963), he found his people and launched an unsuccessful invasion of New York City in *Fantastic Four Annual* #1 (1963).<ref name=gcd-character>[Sub-Mariner (character)](http://www.comics.org/character/name/sub-mariner/sort/chrono/) at the [Grand Comics Database](/wiki/Grand_Comics_Database)</ref> [thumb|left|*Sub-Mariner* #67 (Nov. 1973), introducing the short-lived mid-1970s costume. Cover art by](/wiki/Image:Sub-Mariner67.jpg) [John Romita](/wiki/John_Romita_Sr.) and [Mike Esposito](/wiki/Mike_Esposito_(comics)).

Namor Mackenzie returned to Atlantis to marry his royal cousin, [Lady Dorma](/wiki/Lady_Dorma). In *Sub-Mariner* #37 (May 1971), the evil princess [Llyra](/wiki/Llyra) of [Lemuria](/wiki/Lemuria_(continent)), another undersea culture, kidnapped and replaced Dorma at the wedding, hoping to usurp Namor's kingdom. Though Namor's marriage to Dorma was still official, she died as a result of Llyra's machinations.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Namor quickly went through another trauma in issues #43–44 (Nov.-Dec. 1971) when he finally met his father, long thought dead, only to lose him when McKenzie gave his life in battle against the [supervillain](/wiki/Supervillain) [Tiger Shark](/wiki/Tiger_Shark_(Marvel_Comics)).

Namor allied with the "non-team" the [Defenders](/wiki/Defenders_(comics)) initially in [*Marvel Feature*](/wiki/Marvel_Feature) #1–3, Dec. 1971 – June 1972, then in the series *The Defenders*. After being deposed from his throne, Namor joined the superhero team the [Avengers](/wiki/Avengers_(comics)).[[32]](#cite_note-32) He was briefly married to [Marrina](/wiki/Marrina_Smallwood),[[33]](#cite_note-33) an aquatic alien and a member of the Canadian super-team [Alpha Flight](/wiki/Alpha_Flight). She was later presumed killed,[[34]](#cite_note-34) but she was later revealed to be in a coma,[[35]](#cite_note-35) of which Namor is unaware.

Father-daughter [oceanographers](/wiki/Oceanography) [Caleb](/wiki/Caleb_Alexander_(comics)) and [Carrie Alexander](/wiki/Carrie_Alexander), theorizing that Namor's propensity toward rage was due to his half-human half-Atlantean blood chemistry, equipped Namor with a monitor to warn when Namor had to seek either air or water. This allowed Namor to control his metabolism. In his 1990–1995 series *Namor, the Sub-Mariner*, he collected sunken treasures to finance his secret purchase of a corporation he renamed Oracle Inc., which he turned to conservation and environmental purposes. Later, Namor lost his ankle-wings during a battle with the animated garbage-monster Sluj,[[36]](#cite_note-36) but they were later restored.[Template:Issue](/wiki/Template:Issue) While continuing his business endeavors, Namor traveled to the dimension of [K'un-L'un](/wiki/K'un-L'un), where he found and brought back the superhero [Iron Fist](/wiki/Iron_Fist_(comics)), who had been presumed dead for many months. He reunited with his mother, Fen, who died defending her son from an attack.[Template:Issue](/wiki/Template:Issue) Namor once again ruled Atlantis, and Oracle began sponsoring the charitable super-group [Heroes for Hire](/wiki/Heroes_for_Hire).[[37]](#cite_note-37) In the [one-shot](/wiki/One-shot_(comics)) *New Avengers: Illuminati* (May 2006), Namor is revealed to have been a member for several years of the clandestine policy group the [Illuminati](/wiki/Illuminati_(comics)), with [Mister Fantastic](/wiki/Mister_Fantastic), [Iron Man](/wiki/Iron_Man), [Doctor Strange](/wiki/Doctor_Strange), [Professor X](/wiki/Professor_X), and [Black Bolt](/wiki/Black_Bolt). In the series *Sub-Mariner* vol. 2, #1–6 (Aug. 2007 – Jan. 2008), he discovers his long-lost son Kamar, who attempts to usurp the throne of Atlantis but is killed by the supervillain [Nitro](/wiki/Nitro_(comics)).

During the [*Fear Itself*](/wiki/Fear_Itself_(comics)) storyline, Namor enlists the aid of [Lyra](/wiki/She-Hulk_(Lyra)), [Loa](/wiki/Loa_(comics)), [Silver Surfer](/wiki/Silver_Surfer), and [Doctor Strange](/wiki/Doctor_Strange) after he is ousted from his kingdom by [Attuma](/wiki/Attuma), who was transformed into Nerkodd: Breaker of Oceans. They later get attacked by the [Undying Ones](/wiki/Undying_Ones), demons who break through Earth's dimension as a result of the global panic weakening the barriers between the dimensions and who make a deal with Nerkodd to help them take over Earth.[[38]](#cite_note-38) When the X-Men relocated to [Utopia](/wiki/Utopia_(comics)) off the coast of San Francisco, Namor decided to assist them due to his sympathy with their status as outsiders. As a result, he sided with the X-Men during the subsequent [war with the Avengers](/wiki/Avengers_vs._X-Men) over the coming of the [Phoenix Force](/wiki/Phoenix_Force_(comics)) to Earth, eventually becoming one of the 'Phoenix Five' when the Phoenix Force was fractured between himself, Cyclops, [Emma Frost](/wiki/Emma_Frost), [Colossus](/wiki/Colossus_(comics)) and [Magik](/wiki/Magik_(comics)).[[39]](#cite_note-39) Captain America attempted to arrange a meeting of the Illuminati to talk with Namor, but the rest of the group left before Namor arrived, and Namor refused to stand down when Rogers tried to appeal to him.[[40]](#cite_note-40) He was eventually defeated by a mass attack from the Avengers when he attacked [Wakanda](/wiki/Wakanda_(comics)), becoming the first of the Phoenix Five to fall.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Having recovered his senses after his time as one of the Phoenix Five, Namor rejoins the Illuminati when Black Panther calls for their aid – [Beast](/wiki/Beast_(comics)) replacing the deceased Professor X – in dealing with an incursion event as an alternate universe threatens to collide with their own.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Although they were forced to destroy the other Earth to protect their own, the Illuminati resolved to continue protecting their Earth from such events, only for Namor to act against the other members when he detonated an anti-matter device to destroy another Earth when the others could not bring themselves to do it.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Believing that the Illuminati's morality was holding them back, Namor assembled a new Cabal to deal with the incursions,[[44]](#cite_note-44) but despite the team achieving legitimacy as Earth's protectors, Namor grew weary of the wholesale slaughter they carried out in the name of preserving their universe. Although he collaborated with the Illuminati in a plan to destroy the Cabal by trapping them on the next Earth to be destroyed, the Black Panther and Black Bolt left him behind to die with the Cabal, disgusted at his earlier actions.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Unbeknownst to the Avengers, that world had a second simultaneous Incursion happen, allowing Namor and the Cabal to escape to the third Earth, in the [Ultimate Universe](/wiki/Ultimate_Universe).[[46]](#cite_note-46) Eight months after the events of the 2015 [*Secret Wars*](/wiki/Secret_Wars_(2015_comic_book)) companywide crossover, the members of the new [Squadron Supreme](/wiki/Squadron_Supreme) evacuated and destroyed Atlantis after deeming it to be a threat to world peace. [Hyperion](/wiki/Hyperion_(comics)) decapitated Namor in retaliation for the worlds destroyed by the Cabal, killing him, then also killed Attuma and other Atlantean soldiers present.[[47]](#cite_note-47)

## Powers and abilities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Because of his unusual genetic heritage, Namor is unique among both ordinary humans and Atlanteans; he is sometimes referred to as "Marvel's first mutant", because, while the majority of his observed superhuman powers come from the fact that he's a hybrid of human and Atlantean DNA, his ability to fly can't be explained by either side (Atlanteans are an offshoot of "baseline" humanity); though, in terms of in-continuity chronology, there were many mutants in existence before Namor. Namor possesses a fully amphibious physiology suited for extreme undersea pressures, superhuman strength, speed, agility, durability, flight, and longevity. Namor has the ability to survive underwater for indefinite periods, and specially developed vision which gives him the ability to see clearly in the murky depths of the ocean.

Bill Everett, in his first Sub-Mariner story, described the character as "an ultra-man of the deep [who] lives on land and in the sea, flies in the air, [and] has the strength of a thousand [surface] men". No other powers were mentioned. When the series was revived in 1954, Namor lost his ankle wings and with them the power of flight; they, and his full strength, were restored in *Sub-Mariner* #38 (Feb. 1955), in which Everett additionally wrote a [flashback](/wiki/Flashback_(narrative)) story, "Wings on His Feet", detailing their appearance on Namor at age 14. This story was twice reprinted during the [Silver Age of Comic Books](/wiki/Silver_Age_of_Comic_Books), in [*Marvel Super-Heroes*](/wiki/Marvel_Super-Heroes_(comics)) #17 (Nov. 1968), and in the book *Comix* by [Les Daniels](/wiki/Les_Daniels).

Namor possesses wings on his ankles to which he attributes his power of flight. On occasions when they have been lost or badly damaged, he has experienced a loss of flying ability. He could not fly as a child, and the power only manifested when the wings developed in adolescence.

Namor has the ability to swim at superhuman speeds, even by Atlantean standards.

Namor has greater longevity than a normal human being. He is well over 90 years old as he was born in 1920 in the Marvel timeline, but has the appearance of a male in his prime. His identity as a pre-World War II superhero is well-established, making him less subject to the [sliding timescale](/wiki/Floating_timeline) of the Marvel universe.

During Namor's original fight with the Human Torch in *Marvel Mystery Comics* #8 (June 1940, and the first fight between superheroes to appear in any media), Namor was able to forcibly expel water from his body to extinguish fires, although it proved useless against the Torch.[[48]](#cite_note-48)