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The **X-Men** are a fictional team of [superheroes](/wiki/Superhero) appearing in [American comic books](/wiki/American_comic_book) published by [Marvel Comics](/wiki/Marvel_Comics). Created by writer [Stan Lee](/wiki/Stan_Lee) and artist/co-writer [Jack Kirby](/wiki/Jack_Kirby), the characters first appeared in [*The X-Men*](/wiki/Uncanny_X-Men) #1 (September 1963). They are among the most recognizable and successful intellectual properties of Marvel Comics, appearing in numerous books, television shows, [films](/wiki/X-Men_(film_series)), and [video games](/wiki/List_of_X-Men_video_games).

The X-Men are [mutants](/wiki/Mutant_(Marvel_Comics)), a subspecies of humans who are born with superhuman abilities. The X-Men fight for peace and equality between normal humans and mutants in a world where antimutant bigotry is fierce and widespread. They are led by Charles Xavier, also known as [Professor X](/wiki/Professor_X), a powerful mutant telepath who can control and read minds. Their archenemy is [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)), a powerful mutant with the ability to generate and control [magnetic fields](/wiki/Magnetic_fields). Professor X and Magneto have opposing views and philosophies regarding the relationship between mutants and humans. While Professor X works towards peace and understanding between mutants and humans, Magneto views humans as a threat and believes in taking an aggressive approach against them, though he has found himself working alongside the X-Men from time to time.

Professor X is the founder of Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters at a location commonly called the [X-Mansion](/wiki/X-Mansion), which recruits mutants from around the world. Located in [Westchester County, New York](/wiki/Westchester_County,_New_York), the X-Mansion is the home and training site of the X-Men. The founding five members of the X-Men who appear in [*The X-Men*](/wiki/Uncanny_X-Men) #1 (September 1963) are Angel ([Archangel](/wiki/Warren_Worthington_III)), [Beast](/wiki/Beast_(comics)), [Cyclops](/wiki/Cyclops_(comics)), [Iceman](/wiki/Iceman_(comics)), and Marvel Girl ([Jean Grey](/wiki/Jean_Grey)); [Professor X](/wiki/Professor_X) and [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)) also make their first appearances in [*The X-Men*](/wiki/Uncanny_X-Men) #1. Since then, dozens of mutants from various countries and diverse backgrounds have held membership as X-Men.

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

In 1963, with the success of [Spider-Man](/wiki/Spider-Man) in [*Amazing Fantasy*](/wiki/Amazing_Fantasy), as well as [the Hulk](/wiki/Hulk_(comics)), [Thor](/wiki/Thor_(Marvel_Comics)), [Iron Man](/wiki/Iron_Man), and [the Fantastic Four](/wiki/Fantastic_Four), co-creator [Stan Lee](/wiki/Stan_Lee) wanted to create another group of superheroes without coming up with new origins for how they got their powers. In 2004, Stan Lee recalled "I couldn't have everybody bitten by a radioactive spider or exposed to a gamma ray explosion. And I took the cowardly way out. I said to myself, 'Why don't I just say they're [mutants](/wiki/Mutant_(Marvel_Comics)). They were born that way.[Template:' "](/wiki/Template:'_%22)[[1]](#cite_note-1) In a 1987 interview, Jack Kirby said,

"The X-Men, I did the natural thing there. What would you do with mutants who were just plain boys and girls and certainly not dangerous? You school them. You develop their skills. So I gave them a teacher, Professor X. Of course, it was the natural thing to do, instead of disorienting or alienating people who were different from us, I made the X-Men part of the human race, which they were. Possibly, radiation, if it is beneficial, may create mutants that’ll save us instead of doing us harm. I felt that if we train the mutants our way, they’ll help us - and not only help us, but achieve a measure of growth in their own sense. And so, we could all live together."[[2]](#cite_note-2)

[thumb|left|*The X-Men* #1 (Sept. 1963) is the debut of the X-Men,](/wiki/File:Magnetodebut.png) [Professor X](/wiki/Professor_X), and [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)). Art by [Jack Kirby](/wiki/Jack_Kirby).

Lee devised the series title after Marvel publisher [Martin Goodman](/wiki/Martin_Goodman_(publisher)) turned down the initial name, "The Mutants," stating that readers would not know what a "mutant" was.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Within the [Marvel Universe](/wiki/Marvel_Universe), the X-Men are widely regarded to have been named after [Professor Xavier](/wiki/Professor_X) himself. Xavier however claims that the name "X-Men" was never chosen to be a self-tribute.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[Template:Failed verification](/wiki/Template:Failed_verification) The name is also linked to the "X-Gene," an unknown gene that causes the mutant evolution.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The original explanation for the name, as provided by Xavier in *The X-Men* #1 (1963), is that mutants "possess an extra power... one which ordinary humans do not!! That is why I call my students... X-Men, for EX-tra power!"[[5]](#cite_note-5)

### 1960s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Early *X-Men* issues introduced the original team composed of [Cyclops](/wiki/Cyclops_(comics)), [Marvel Girl](/wiki/Jean_Grey), [Beast](/wiki/Beast_(comics)), [Angel](/wiki/Warren_Worthington_III), and [Iceman](/wiki/Iceman_(comics)), along with their archenemy [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)) and his [Brotherhood of Evil Mutants](/wiki/Brotherhood_of_Mutants) featuring [Mastermind](/wiki/Mastermind_(Jason_Wyngarde)), [Quicksilver](/wiki/Quicksilver_(comics)), [Scarlet Witch](/wiki/Scarlet_Witch), and [Toad](/wiki/Toad_(comics)). The comic focused on a common human theme of good versus evil and later included storylines and themes about [prejudice](/wiki/Prejudice) and [racism](/wiki/Racism), all of which have persisted throughout the series in one form or another. The evil side in the fight was shown in human form and under some sympathetic beginnings via Magneto, a character who was later revealed to have survived Nazi concentration camps only to pursue a hatred for normal humanity. His key followers, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, were [Romani](/wiki/Romani_people). Only one new member of the X-Men was added, [Mimic](/wiki/Mimic_(comics))/Calvin Rankin,[[6]](#cite_note-6) but soon left due to his temporary loss of power.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The title lagged in sales behind Marvel's other comic franchises. In 1969, writer [Roy Thomas](/wiki/Roy_Thomas) and illustrator [Neal Adams](/wiki/Neal_Adams) rejuvenated the comic book and gave regular roles to two recently introduced characters: [Havok](/wiki/Havok_(comics))/Alex Summers (who had been introduced by Roy Thomas before Adams began work on the comic) and Lorna Dane, later called [Polaris](/wiki/Polaris_(comics)) (created by [Arnold Drake](/wiki/Arnold_Drake) and [Jim Steranko](/wiki/Jim_Steranko)). However, these later *X-Men* issues failed to attract sales and Marvel stopped producing new stories with issue #66, later reprinting a number of the older comics as issues #67–93.[[8]](#cite_note-8) By the early 1980s, *X-Men* was Marvel's top-selling comic title. Its sales were such that distributors and retailers began using an "X-Men index", rating each comic book publication by how many orders it garnered compared to that month's issue of *X-Men*.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The growing popularity of *Uncanny X-Men* and the rise of comic book specialty stores led to the introduction of a number of ongoing spin-off series nicknamed "X-Books." The first of these was [*The New Mutants*](/wiki/New_Mutants#New_Mutants_Vol._1), soon followed by [*Alpha Flight*](/wiki/Alpha_Flight), [*X-Factor*](/wiki/X-Factor_(comics)), [*Excalibur*](/wiki/Excalibur_(comics)), and a solo [*Wolverine*](/wiki/Wolverine_(comic_book)) title. When Claremont conceived a story arc, the [*Mutant Massacre*](/wiki/Mutant_Massacre), which was too long to run in the monthly *X-Men*, editor [Louise Simonson](/wiki/Louise_Simonson) decided to have it overlap into several X-Books. The story was a major financial success,[[13]](#cite_note-13) and when the later [*Fall of the Mutants*](/wiki/Fall_of_the_Mutants) was similarly successful, the marketing department declared that the X-Men lineup would hold such [crossovers](/wiki/Fictional_crossover) annually.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Throughout the decade, *Uncanny X-Men* was written solely by Chris Claremont, and illustrated for long runs by John Byrne, Dave Cockrum, [Paul Smith](/wiki/Paul_Smith_(comics)), [John Romita, Jr.](/wiki/John_Romita,_Jr.), and [Marc Silvestri](/wiki/Marc_Silvestri). Additions to the X-Men during this time were [Kitty Pryde](/wiki/Kitty_Pryde)/Shadowcat, [Dazzler](/wiki/Dazzler), [Forge](/wiki/Forge_(comics)), [Longshot](/wiki/Longshot), [Psylocke](/wiki/Psylocke), [Rogue](/wiki/Rogue_(comics)), [Rachel Summers](/wiki/Rachel_Summers)/Phoenix, and [Jubilee](/wiki/Jubilee_(comics)). In a controversial move, Professor X relocated to outer space to be with [Lilandra](/wiki/Lilandra), Majestrix of the [Shi'ar](/wiki/Shi'ar) Empire, in 1986. Magneto then joined the X-Men in Xavier's place and became the director of the New Mutants. This period also included the emergence of the [Hellfire Club](/wiki/Hellfire_Club_(comics)), the arrival of the mysterious [Madelyne Pryor](/wiki/Madelyne_Pryor), and the villains [Apocalypse](/wiki/Apocalypse_(comics)), [Mister Sinister](/wiki/Mister_Sinister), [Mojo](/wiki/Mojo_(comics)), and [Sabretooth](/wiki/Sabretooth_(comics)).

### 1990s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

In 1991, Marvel revised the entire lineup of X-Books, centered on the launch of a second X-Men series, simply titled [*X-Men*](/wiki/X-Men:_Legacy). With the return of Xavier and the [original X-Men](/wiki/X-Factor_(comics)) to the team, the roster was split into two strike forces: Cyclops' "Blue Team" (chronicled in *X-Men*) and Storm's "Gold Team" (in *Uncanny X-Men*).

Its first issues were written by longstanding X-Men writer [Chris Claremont](/wiki/Chris_Claremont) and drawn and co-plotted by [Jim Lee](/wiki/Jim_Lee). Retailers pre-ordered over 8.1 million copies of issue #1, generating and selling nearly $7 million (though retailers probably sold closer to 3 million copies[[15]](#cite_note-15) ), making it the best-selling comic book of all-time, according to [Guinness Book of World Records](/wiki/Guinness_Book_of_World_Records), which presented honors to Claremont at the 2010 [San Diego Comic-Con](/wiki/San_Diego_Comic-Con).[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) Another new X-book released at the time was [*X-Force*](/wiki/X-Force), featuring the characters from [*The New Mutants*](/wiki/New_Mutants#New_Mutants_Vol._1), led by [Cable](/wiki/Cable_(comics)); it was written by [Rob Liefeld](/wiki/Rob_Liefeld) and [Fabian Nicieza](/wiki/Fabian_Nicieza). Internal friction soon split the X-books' creative teams. In a controversial move, X-Men editor [Bob Harras](/wiki/Bob_Harras) sided with Lee (and *Uncanny X-Men* artist [Whilce Portacio](/wiki/Whilce_Portacio)) over Claremont in a dispute over plotting. Claremont left after only three issues of *X-Men*, ending his 16-year run as *X-Men* writer.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Marvel replaced Claremont briefly with [John Byrne](/wiki/John_Byrne_(comics)), who scripted both books for a few issues. Byrne was then replaced by Nicieza and [Scott Lobdell](/wiki/Scott_Lobdell), who would take over the majority of writing duties for the X-Men until Lee's own departure months later when he and several other popular artists (including former X-title artists Liefeld, Portacio, and [Marc Silvestri](/wiki/Marc_Silvestri)) would leave Marvel to form [Image Comics](/wiki/Image_Comics). Jim Lee's X-Men designs would be the basis for much of the [*X-Men*](/wiki/X-Men_(TV_series)) animated series and action figure line as well as several Capcom video games.

The 1990s saw an even greater number of X-books with numerous ongoing series and miniseries running concurrently. X-book crossovers continued to run annually, with "[The X-Tinction Agenda](/wiki/X-Men:_X-Tinction_Agenda)" in 1990, "[The Muir Island Saga](/wiki/Muir_Island_Saga)" in 1991, "[X-Cutioner's Song](/wiki/X-Cutioner's_Song)" in 1992, "[Fatal Attractions](/wiki/Fatal_Attractions_(comics))" in 1993, "[Phalanx Covenant](/wiki/Phalanx_Covenant)" in 1994, "Legion Quest"/"[Age of Apocalypse](/wiki/Age_of_Apocalypse)" in 1995, "[Onslaught](/wiki/Onslaught_(comics))" in 1996, and "[Operation: Zero Tolerance](/wiki/Operation:_Zero_Tolerance)" in 1997. Though the frequent crossovers were criticized by fans as well as editorial and creative staff for being artificially regular, disruptive to the direction of the individual series, and having far less lasting impact than promised, they continued to be financially successful.[[14]](#cite_note-14) There were many new popular additions to the X-Men in the 1990s, including [Gambit](/wiki/Gambit_(comics)), [Cable](/wiki/Cable_(comics)), and [Bishop](/wiki/Bishop_(comics)). Gambit became one of the most popular X-Men, rivaling even [Wolverine](/wiki/Wolverine_(character)) in size of fanbase after his debut in *Uncanny X-Men* #266 (Aug. 1990). Many of the later additions to the team came and went, such as [Joseph](/wiki/Joseph_(comics)), [Maggott](/wiki/Maggott), [Marrow](/wiki/Marrow_(comics)), [Cecilia Reyes](/wiki/Cecilia_Reyes), and a new [Thunderbird](/wiki/Neal_Shaara). Xavier's [New Mutants](/wiki/New_Mutants#New_Mutants_Vol._1) grew up and became [*X-Force*](/wiki/X-Force), and the next generation of students began with [*Generation X*](/wiki/Generation_X_(comics)), featuring Jubilee and other teenage mutants led and schooled by [Banshee](/wiki/Banshee_(comics)) and former villainess [Emma Frost](/wiki/Emma_Frost) at her Massachusetts Academy. In 1998, [*Excalibur*](/wiki/Excalibur_(comics)) and [*X-Factor*](/wiki/X-Factor_(comics)) ended and the latter was replaced with [*Mutant X*](/wiki/Mutant_X_(comics)), starring [Havok](/wiki/Havok_(comics)) stranded in a [parallel universe](/wiki/Parallel_universe_(fiction)). Marvel launched a number of solo series, including [*Deadpool*](/wiki/Deadpool), [*Cable*](/wiki/Cable_(comic_book)), [*Bishop*](/wiki/Bishop_(comics)), [*X-Man*](/wiki/Nate_Grey), and [*Gambit*](/wiki/Gambit_(comics)), but few of the series would survive the decade.

### 2000s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

In 2000, Claremont returned to Marvel and was put back on the primary X-Men titles during the [*Revolution*](/wiki/Revolution_(comics)) event. He was later removed from the two flagship titles in 2001 and created his spin-off series, [*X-Treme X-Men*](/wiki/X-Treme_X-Men). *X-Men* had its title changed to [*New X-Men*](/wiki/New_X-Men_(2001_series)) and writer [Grant Morrison](/wiki/Grant_Morrison) took over. The book is often referred to as the Morrison-era, due to the drastic changes he made, beginning with "[E Is For Extinction](/wiki/E_Is_For_Extinction)," where a new villain, [Cassandra Nova](/wiki/Cassandra_Nova), destroys [Genosha](/wiki/Genosha), killing sixteen million mutants. Morrison also brought reformed ex-villain [Emma Frost](/wiki/Emma_Frost) into the primary X-Men team, and opened the doors of the school by having Xavier "out" himself to the public about being a mutant. The bright spandex costumes that had become iconic over the previous decades were replaced by black leather street clothes reminiscent of the uniforms of the *X-Men* films. Morrison also introduced [Xorn](/wiki/Xorn), who would figure prominently in the climax of his run. [*Ultimate X-Men*](/wiki/Ultimate_X-Men) set in Marvel's revised imprint was also launched. While [Chuck Austen](/wiki/Chuck_Austen) began his controversial run on [*Uncanny X-Men*](/wiki/Uncanny_X-Men).

Several short-lived spin-offs and miniseries started featuring several X-Men in solo series, such as [Emma Frost](/wiki/Emma_Frost), [Gambit](/wiki/Gambit_(comics)), [Mystique](/wiki/Mystique_(comics)), [Nightcrawler](/wiki/Nightcrawler_(comics)), and [Rogue](/wiki/Rogue_(comics)). Another series, [*Exiles*](/wiki/Exiles_(Marvel_Comics))*,* started at the same time and concluded in December 2007 which led to *New Exiles* in January 2008 written by Claremont. [Cable](/wiki/Cable_(comics)) and [Deadpool's](/wiki/Deadpool_(comics)) books were merged into one book, [*Cable & Deadpool*](/wiki/Cable_&_Deadpool). Following Morrison's departure, a third core X-Men title, [*Astonishing X-Men*](/wiki/Astonishing_X-Men#Volume_three_(2004–present)) was launched which was written by [Joss Whedon](/wiki/Joss_Whedon). [*New X-Men: Academy X*](/wiki/New_X-Men) was also launched focusing on the lives of the new young mutants at the Institute. This period included the resurrections of [Colossus](/wiki/Colossus_(comics)) and [Psylocke](/wiki/Psylocke), a new death for [Jean Grey](/wiki/Jean_Grey), who later returned temporarily in the [*X-Men: Phoenix - Endsong*](/wiki/X-Men:_Phoenix_-_Endsong), as well as Emma Frost becoming the new headmistress of the Institute. The Institute formerly ran as a school, until the [depowering](/wiki/Decimation_(comics)) of 98% of the mutant population served as a safe haven to mutants who are still powered.

In 2007, the [*Messiah Complex*](/wiki/X-Men:_Messiah_Complex) crossover saw the destruction of the Xavier Institute and the disbanding of the X-Men. It spun the new volumes of [*X-Force*](/wiki/X-Force)*,* following the team led by Wolverine, and [*Cable*](/wiki/Cable_(comics))*,* following Cable's attempts at protecting [Hope Summers](/wiki/Hope_Summers_(comics)). *X-Men* was renamed into *X-Men: Legacy* which focused on Professor X, Rogue and Gambit. Under Cyclops' leadership, the X-Men later reformed in *Uncanny X-Men* #500, with their new base located in San Francisco.[[20]](#cite_note-20) *Uncanny X-Men* returned to its roots as the flagship title for the X-Franchise and served as the umbrella under which the various X-Books co-exist. In 2009, [*Messiah War*](/wiki/Messiah_War) written by [Craig Kyle](/wiki/Craig_Kyle) and [Chris Yost](/wiki/Chris_Yost) served as the second part in the trilogy that began with *Messiah Complex* was released. [*Utopia*](/wiki/Utopia_(comics)) written by Matt Fraction, was a crossover of [Dark Avengers](/wiki/Dark_Avengers) and Uncanny X-Men that served as a part of the [Dark Reign](/wiki/Dark_Reign_(comics)) storyline. A new [*New Mutants*](/wiki/New_Mutants) volume written by Zeb Wells, which featured the more prominent members of the original team reunited was launched. Magneto joined the X-Men during the [Nation X](/wiki/Nation_X) storyline to the dismay of other members of the X-Men, such as Beast, who left the team.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Magneto began to work with Namor to transform Utopia into a homeland for both mutants and Atlanteans.[[22]](#cite_note-22) After the conclusion of *Utopia*, [Rogue](/wiki/Rogue_(comics)) became the main character of *X-Men: Legacy*.

Notable additions to the X-Men have been Emma Frost, [Husk](/wiki/Husk_(comics)), [Northstar](/wiki/Northstar), [Armor](/wiki/Armor_(comics)), [Pixie](/wiki/Pixie_(X-Men)) and [Warpath](/wiki/Warpath_(comics)). While former villains such as [Juggernaut](/wiki/Juggernaut_(comics)), [Lady Mastermind](/wiki/Lady_Mastermind), [Mystique](/wiki/Mystique_(comics)), and [Sabretooth](/wiki/Sabretooth_(comics)) became members of the X-Men. Other notable story arcs of this decade are "[E Is For Extinction](/wiki/E_Is_For_Extinction)" (2001), "[Planet X](/wiki/Planet_X_(comics))," "[Here Comes Tomorrow](/wiki/Here_Comes_Tomorrow)," "[Gifted](/wiki/Gifted_(comics))" (2004), "[House of M](/wiki/House_of_M)" (2005), [*Deadly Genesis*](/wiki/X-Men:_Deadly_Genesis) (2005–2006), "[Endangered Species](/wiki/X-Men:_Endangered_Species)" (2007), "[Divided We Stand](/wiki/X-Men:_Divided_We_Stand)" (2008), "[Manifest Destiny](/wiki/X-Men:_Manifest_Destiny)" (2008–2009), [*X-Infernus*](/wiki/X-Infernus)*,* and "[Necrosha](/wiki/Necrosha)" (2009). The X-Men were also involved in the "[Secret Invasion](/wiki/Secret_Invasion)" storyline.

### 2010s[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

In 2010, "[Second Coming](/wiki/X-Men:_Second_Coming)" continued the plot threads on "Messiah Complex" and "House of M", while in 2012, "[Avengers vs. X-Men](/wiki/Avengers_vs._X-Men)" served as a closure to story lines such as "House of M" and "Decimation". It also ended with the death of Professor X and reappearance of new mutants.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) The aftermath of the "[X-Men: Schism](/wiki/X-Men:_Schism)" (2011) led to the fallout between [Wolverine](/wiki/Wolverine_(character)) and [Cyclops](/wiki/Cyclops_(comics)). Featured in a new series titled [*Wolverine and the X-Men*](/wiki/Wolverine_and_the_X-Men_(comics)), Wolverine rebuilt the original X-Mansion and named it as [Jean Grey School for Higher Learning](/wiki/X-Mansion).

In 2012, as part of the [Marvel NOW!](/wiki/Marvel_NOW!) relaunch, many of the X-Men titles were canceled and relaunched, including *X-Force*, *X-Factor*, *X-Men: Legacy*, [*X-Men*](/wiki/X-Men_(comic_book_series)), and *Uncanny X-Men*. The relaunched *Uncanny X-Men* features Cyclops, his team, and the new mutants, taking up residency in the [Weapon X](/wiki/Weapon_X) facility, which they have rebuilt into a school and named as the New Charles Xavier School for Mutants. New flagship titles such as [*Amazing X-Men*](/wiki/Amazing_X-Men), [*Uncanny Avengers*](/wiki/Uncanny_Avengers) and [*All-New X-Men*](/wiki/All-New_X-Men) were launched. *Uncanny Avengers* featured a team of Avengers and X-Men members while *All-New X-Men* featured the original five X-Men members being brought to the present day. In 2013, for the 50th anniversary of the X-Men franchise, "[Battle of the Atom](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Atom)" was published which involved members of both X-Men schools try to decide what to do about the time-displaced original X-Men.

In 2015, as part of "[All-New, All-Different Marvel](/wiki/All-New,_All-Different_Marvel)", three team books were launched; the second volume of *All-New X-Men*, the fourth volume of *Uncanny X-Men* and new [*Extraordinary X-Men*](/wiki/Extraordinary_X-Men).[[25]](#cite_note-25) Notable additions to the X-Men have been [X-23](/wiki/X-23), [Hope Summers](/wiki/Hope_Summers_(comics)) and [M](/wiki/M_(comics)). Other notable story arcs of this decade are "[Curse of the Mutants](/wiki/Curse_of_the_Mutants)" (2010-2011), "[Age of X](/wiki/Age_of_X)", "[Regenesis](/wiki/X-Men:_Regenesis)" (2011) and "[AXIS](/wiki/AXIS_(comics))" (2014), "[The Black Vortex](/wiki/The_Black_Vortex)" and "[Apocalypse Wars](/wiki/Apocalypse_Wars)" (2016).

## World of the X-Men[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The X-Men exist in the [Marvel Universe](/wiki/Marvel_Universe) along with other characters featured in Marvel Comics series. They often meet characters from other series, and the global nature of the mutant concept means the scale of stories can be highly varied. The X-Men's enemies range from mutant thieves to galactic threats.

Historically, the X-Men have been based in the [Xavier Institute](/wiki/X-Mansion), near Salem Center, in north-east [Westchester County, New York](/wiki/Westchester_County,_New_York), and are often portrayed as a family. The X-Mansion is often depicted with three floors and two underground levels. To the outside world, it acted as a higher learning institute until the 2000s, when Xavier was publicly exposed as a mutant at which point it became a known mutant [boarding school](/wiki/Boarding_school). Xavier funds a corporation aimed at reaching mutants worldwide, though it ceased to exist following the "[Decimation](/wiki/Decimation_(comics))." The X-Men benefit from advanced technology such as Xavier tracking down mutants with a device called [Cerebro](/wiki/Cerebro) which amplifies his powers; the X-Men train within the [Danger Room](/wiki/Danger_Room), first depicted as a room full of weapons and booby traps, now as generating holographic simulations; and the X-Men travel in their [Blackbird jet](/wiki/Blackbird_(comics)).

[thumb|right|The X-Men train in the](/wiki/File:Dangerroomxorigins.jpg) [Danger Room](/wiki/Danger_Room), as depicted in *X-Men Origins* #1 (Oct. 2008). Art by Mike Mayhew.

### Fictional places[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

The X-Men introduced several fictional locations which are regarded as important within the shared universe in which [Marvel Comics](/wiki/Marvel_Comics) characters exist:

* [Asteroid M](/wiki/Asteroid_M), an asteroid made by Magneto, a mutant utopia and training facility off of the Earth's surface.
* [Avalon](/wiki/Avalon_(Marvel_Comics))
* [Genosha](/wiki/Genosha), an island near Madagascar and a longtime [apartheid](/wiki/Crime_of_apartheid) regime against mutants. Given control by the U.N. to [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)) until the *E Is for Extinction* story.
* [Limbo](/wiki/Limbo_(Marvel_Comics))
* [Madripoor](/wiki/Madripoor), an island in [South East Asia](/wiki/South_East_Asia), near Singapore. Its location is shown to be in the southern portion of the [Strait of Malacca](/wiki/Strait_of_Malacca), south west of Singapore.
* [Mojoverse](/wiki/Mojo_(comics))
* [Murderworld](/wiki/Murderworld_(comics)), fictional twisted amusement park designed by the Marvel supervillain known as Arcade.
* [Muir Island](/wiki/Muir_Island), a remote island off the coast of [Scotland](/wiki/Scotland). This is primarily known in the X-Men universe as the home of [Moira MacTaggert's](/wiki/Moira_MacTaggert) laboratory.
* [Mutant Town](/wiki/Mutant_Town) (also known as District X), an area in [Alphabet City, Manhattan](/wiki/Alphabet_City,_Manhattan), populated largely by mutants and beset by poverty and crime.
* [Savage Land](/wiki/Savage_Land), a preserved location in [Antarctica](/wiki/Antarctica) which is home to a number of extinct species, most notably [dinosaurs](/wiki/Dinosaur).
* [Shi'ar throneworld Chandilar](/wiki/Shi'ar)
* [Utopia](/wiki/Asteroid_M#Fifth_version.2FUtopia), Cyclops had Asteroid M raised from the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the San Francisco as a response to the rise of antimutant sentiment to form a mutant nation.

## Other versions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

* [*Age of Apocalypse*](/wiki/Age_of_Apocalypse) – In a world where [Professor Xavier](/wiki/Professor_X) is killed before he can form the X-Men, [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)) leads the X-Men in a dystopian world ruled by [Apocalypse](/wiki/Apocalypse_(comics)). Created and reverted via time travel.
* [*Days of Future Past*](/wiki/Days_of_Future_Past) – [Sentinels](/wiki/Sentinel_(comics)) have either killed or placed into concentration camps almost all mutants. Prevented by the time-traveling Kate Pryde (the adult Kitty Pryde/Shadowcat).
* [*House of M*](/wiki/House_of_M) – Reality is altered by [Scarlet Witch](/wiki/Scarlet_Witch), with her father Magneto as the world's ruler. 2005's crossover event, it concludes with a reversion to the normal Marvel Universe, albeit with most mutants [depowered](/wiki/Decimation_(comics)).
* [*Marvel 1602*](/wiki/Marvel_1602) – Mutants are known as the "Witchbreed" in this alternate reality set during the time of [The Inquisition](/wiki/Inquisition). Carlos Javier creates a "school for the children of gentlefolk" to serve as a safe haven and training ground.
* [*Marvel 2099*](/wiki/Marvel_2099) – Set in a dystopian world with new characters looking to the original X-Men as history, becoming [X-Men 2099](/wiki/X-Men_2099) and [X-Nation 2099](/wiki/X-Nation_2099).
* [*Mutant X*](/wiki/Mutant_X_(comics)) – Set in a world where [Scott Summers](/wiki/Scott_Summers) was captured along with his parents by the Shi'ar and only Alex escaped, allowing him to be the eventual leader of this Universe's X-Men ("The Six"). The Mutant X universe reimagines [Mr. Fantastic](/wiki/Mister_Fantastic), [Nick Fury](/wiki/Nick_Fury), and Professor X as villains and [Doctor Doom](/wiki/Doctor_Doom) and Apocalypse as heroes.
* [*Ultimate X-Men*](/wiki/Ultimate_X-Men) – Set in the reimagined [Ultimate Marvel](/wiki/Ultimate_Marvel) universe.
* [*X-Men Forever*](/wiki/X-Men_Forever) – An alternate continuity diverging from *X-Men*, vol. 2 #3, continuing as though writer Chris Claremont had never left writing the series.[[26]](#cite_note-26)\* [*X-Men Noir*](/wiki/X-Men_Noir) – Set in the 1930s, with the X-Men as a mysterious criminal gang and the Brotherhood as a secret society of corrupt cops.
* [*X-Men: The End*](/wiki/X-Men:_The_End) – A possible ending to the X-Men's early 2005 status quo.

## Reflecting social issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

The conflict between mutants and normal humans is often compared to real-world conflicts experienced by minority groups in America such as African Americans, Jews, various religious (or "non-religious") groups, Communists, the [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT) community, etc.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) It has been remarked that attitudes towards mutants do not make sense in the context of the [Marvel Universe](/wiki/Marvel_Universe), since non-mutants with similar powers are rarely regarded with fear; *X-Men* editor [Ann Nocenti](/wiki/Ann_Nocenti) remarked that "I think that's literary, really - because there is no difference between [Colossus](/wiki/Colossus_(comics)) and [the Torch](/wiki/Human_Torch). If a guy comes into my office in flames, or a guy comes into my office and turns to steel, I'm going to have the same reaction. It doesn't really matter that I know their origins. [...] as a book, *The X-Men* has always represented something different - their powers arrive at puberty, making them analogous to the changes you go through at adolescence - whether they're special, or out of control, or setting you apart - the misfit identity theme."[[29]](#cite_note-29) Also on an individual level, a number of X-Men serve a [metaphorical](/wiki/Metaphor) function as their powers illustrate points about the nature of the outsider.

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* [**Racism**](/wiki/Racism)**:** Although this was not initially the case, [Professor X](/wiki/Professor_X) has come to be compared to [civil rights](/wiki/Civil_rights) leader [Martin Luther King, Jr.](/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.) and [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)) to the more militant [Malcolm X](/wiki/Malcolm_X).[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32) The X-Men’s purpose is sometimes referred to as achieving "Xavier’s dream," perhaps a reference to King’s historic "[I Have a Dream](/wiki/I_Have_a_Dream)" speech.[[33]](#cite_note-33) (Magneto, in the first film, quotes Malcolm X with the line "[By any means necessary](/wiki/By_any_means_necessary).") X-Men comic books have often portrayed mutants as victims of [mob violence](/wiki/Riot), evoking images of the [lynching](/wiki/Lynching) of African Americans in the age before the [American civil rights movement](/wiki/African-American_Civil_Rights_Movement_(1955–68)).[[34]](#cite_note-34) [Sentinels](/wiki/Sentinel_(comics)) and antimutant hate groups such as [Friends of Humanity](/wiki/Friends_of_Humanity), Humanity's Last Stand, the [Church of Humanity](/wiki/Church_of_Humanity_(comics)) and [Stryker's](/wiki/William_Stryker) [Purifiers](/wiki/Purifiers) are thought to often represent oppressive forces like the [Ku Klux Klan](/wiki/Ku_Klux_Klan) giving a form to denial of civil rights and amendments.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In the 1980s, the comic featured a plot involving the fictional island nation of [Genosha](/wiki/Genosha), where mutants are segregated and enslaved by an [apartheid](/wiki/Crime_of_apartheid) state. This is widely interpreted as a reference to the situation in [South Africa](/wiki/Apartheid_in_South_Africa) at the time.[[36]](#cite_note-36)\* [**Anti-Semitism**](/wiki/Antisemitism)**:** Explicitly referenced in recent decades is the comparison between antimutant sentiment and anti-Semitism. Magneto, a [Holocaust](/wiki/The_Holocaust) survivor, sees the situation of mutants as similar to those of Jews in [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany).[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[37]](#cite_note-37) At one point he even utters the words "never again" in a 1992 episode of the *X-Men* animated series. The mutant slave labor camps on the island of [Genosha](/wiki/Genosha), in which numbers were burned into mutant's foreheads, show much in common with [Nazi concentration camps](/wiki/Nazi_concentration_camps),[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) as do the internment camps of the classic "[Days of Future Past](/wiki/Days_of_Future_Past)" storyline.[[40]](#cite_note-40) In the third X-Men film, when asked by Callisto: "If you're so proud of being a mutant, then where's your mark?" Magneto shows his concentration camp tattoo, while mentioning that he will never let another needle touch his skin. In the prequel film [*X-Men: First Class*](/wiki/X-Men:_First_Class), a fourteen-year-old Magneto suffers [Nazi human experimentation](/wiki/Nazi_human_experimentation) during his time in the camps and witnesses his mother's death by gunshot.
* [**Diversity**](/wiki/Multiculturalism)**:** Characters within the X-Men mythos hail from a wide variety of nationalities. These characters also reflect religious, ethnic or sexual minorities. Examples include [Shadowcat](/wiki/Kitty_Pryde), [Sabra](/wiki/Sabra_(comics)) and [Magneto](/wiki/Magneto_(comics)) who are Jewish, [Dust](/wiki/Dust_(comics)) and [M](/wiki/M_(comics)) who are Muslim, [Nightcrawler](/wiki/Nightcrawler_(comics)) who is a devout Catholic, and [Neal Shaara/Thunderbird](/wiki/Neal_Shaara) who is [Hindu](/wiki/Hinduism). Jubilee is Chinese American, [Gambit](/wiki/Gambit_(comics)) is born to [Cajun](/wiki/Cajun) parents from [New Orleans, Louisiana](/wiki/New_Orleans,_Louisiana), and Warpath along with his deceased brother the first [Thunderbird](/wiki/Thunderbird_(comics)) are Apache Native Americans. [Storm](/wiki/Storm_(Marvel_Comics)) represents two aspects of the African diaspora as her father was African American and her mother was Kenyan. [Karma](/wiki/Karma_(comics)) was portrayed as a devout Catholic from Vietnam, who regularly attended Mass and confession when she was introduced as a founding member of the New Mutants.[[41]](#cite_note-41) This team also included [Wolfsbane](/wiki/Wolfsbane_(comics)) (a devout Scots Presbyterian), [Danielle Moonstar](/wiki/Danielle_Moonstar) (a Cheyenne Native American) and [Cannonball](/wiki/Cannonball_(comics)), and was later joined by [Magma](/wiki/Magma_(comics)) (a devout Greco-Roman classical religionist). Different nationalities included [Wolverine](/wiki/Wolverine_(character)), [Aurora](/wiki/Aurora_(comics)), [Northstar](/wiki/Northstar), [Deadpool](/wiki/Deadpool) and [Transonic](/wiki/Transonic_(comics)) as [Canadians](/wiki/Canadians); [Colossus](/wiki/Colossus_(comics)) and [Magik](/wiki/Magik_(comics)) from [Russia](/wiki/Russia); [Banshee](/wiki/Banshee_(comics)) and [Siryn](/wiki/Siryn) from [Ireland](/wiki/Ireland); Dust from [Afghanistan](/wiki/Afghanistan); Psylocke, Wolfsbane and [Chamber](/wiki/Chamber_(comics)) from the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom); [Armor](/wiki/Armor_(comics)), [Surge](/wiki/Surge_(comics)) and [Zero](/wiki/Zero_(Marvel_Comics)) from [Japan](/wiki/Japan); Sunspot from [Brazil](/wiki/Brazil); M from [Monaco](/wiki/Monaco); Nightcrawler from [Germany](/wiki/Germany); Sabra from [Israel](/wiki/Israel); [Omega Sentinel](/wiki/Karima_Shapandar), Neal Shaara, [Kavita Rao](/wiki/Kavita_Rao) and [Indra](/wiki/Indra_(comics)) from [India](/wiki/India); [Velocidad](/wiki/Velocidad_(comics)) from [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico); [Oya](/wiki/Oya_(comics)) from [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria); [Primal](/wiki/Primal_(comics)) from [Ukraine](/wiki/Ukraine); etc.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43)\* [**LGBT themes**](/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_the_United_States)**:** Some commentators have noted the similarities between the struggles of mutants and the [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT_social_movements) community, noting the onset of special powers around [puberty](/wiki/Puberty) and the parallels between being [closeted](/wiki/Closeted) and the mutants' concealment of their powers.[[44]](#cite_note-44) In the comics series, gay and [bisexual](/wiki/Bisexuality) characters include [Anole](/wiki/Anole_(comics)), [Bling!](/wiki/Bling_(comics)), [Destiny](/wiki/Destiny_(Irene_Adler)), [Karma](/wiki/Karma_(comics)), [Mystique](/wiki/Mystique_(comics)), [Psylocke](/wiki/Psylocke), [Courier](/wiki/Courier_(comics)), [Northstar](/wiki/Northstar) (whose marriage was depicted in the comics in 2012), [Graymalkin](/wiki/Graymalkin_(comics)), [Rictor](/wiki/Rictor), [Shatterstar](/wiki/Shatterstar) and the [Ultimate version](/wiki/Ultimate_Colossus) of Colossus. In the film [*X2*](/wiki/X2_(film)), [Iceman's](/wiki/Iceman_(comics)) mother asks him, "Have you ever tried not being a mutant?" after revealing that he is a mutant; the comics version of the character was then revealed to be gay in 2015. [Transgender](/wiki/Transgender) issues also come up with shapechangers like Mystique, [Copycat](/wiki/Copycat_(Marvel_Comics)), and [Courier](/wiki/Courier_(comics)) who can change gender at will. It has been said that the comic books and the X-Men animated series delved into the AIDS epidemic with a long-running plot line about the [Legacy Virus](/wiki/Legacy_Virus), a seemingly incurable disease thought at first to attack only mutants (similar to the AIDS virus which at first was spread through the gay community).[[45]](#cite_note-45)In the film [*X-Men: First Class*](/wiki/X-Men:_First_Class)*,* [Hank McCoy](/wiki/Beast_(comics)) is asked by his CIA boss why he never disclosed his mutant identity, the response was [*"you didn't ask, I didn't tell"*](/wiki/Don't_ask,_don't_tell)*.*
* [**Red Scare**](/wiki/Red_Scare)**:** Occasionally, undercurrents of the "Red Scare" are present. [Senator Robert Kelly's](/wiki/Robert_Kelly_(comics)) proposal of a [Mutant Registration Act](/wiki/Registration_acts_(comics)#Mutant_Registration_Act) is similar to the efforts of [United States Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress) to try to ban Communism in the United States.[[39]](#cite_note-39) In the 2000 [*X-Men*](/wiki/X-Men_(film)) film, Kelly exclaims, "We must know who these mutants are and what they can do," even brandishing a "list" of known mutants (a reference to Senator [Joseph McCarthy's](/wiki/Joseph_McCarthy) list of [Communist Party USA](/wiki/Communist_Party_USA) members who were working in the government).[[46]](#cite_note-46)\* [**Religion**](/wiki/Religion)**:** Religion is an integral part of several X-Men storylines. It is presented as both a positive and negative force, sometimes in the same story. The comics explore [religious fundamentalism](/wiki/Religious_fundamentalism) through the person of [William Stryker](/wiki/William_Stryker) and his Purifiers, an antimutant group that emerged in the 1982 graphic novel [*God Loves, Man Kills*](/wiki/X-Men:_God_Loves,_Man_Kills)*.* The Purifiers believe that mutants are not human beings but children of the devil, and have attempted to exterminate them several times, most recently in the "Childhood's End" storyline. By contrast, religion is also central to the lives of several X-Men, such as [Nightcrawler](/wiki/Nightcrawler_(comics)), a devout Catholic, and [Dust](/wiki/Dust_(comics)), a devout Sunni Muslim who wears an Islamic [niqāb](/wiki/Niqāb).[[42]](#cite_note-42)\* [**Subculture**](/wiki/Subculture)**:** In some cases, the mutants of the X-Men universe sought to create a subculture of the typical mutant society portrayed. The [Morlocks](/wiki/Morlocks_(comics)), though mutants like those attending Xavier's school, hide away from society within the tunnels of New York. These Morlock tunnels serve as the backdrop for several X-Men stories, most notably [*The Mutant Massacre*](/wiki/Mutant_Massacre) crossover. This band of mutants illustrates another dimension to the comic, that of a group that further needs to isolate itself because society won't accept it.[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48) In [Grant Morrison](/wiki/Grant_Morrison)’s stories of the early 2000s, mutants are portrayed as a distinct subculture with "mutant bands," mutant use of code-names as their primary form of self-identity (rather than their given birth names), and a popular mutant fashion designer who created outfits tailored to mutant [physiology](/wiki/Physiology). The series [*District X*](/wiki/District_X#District_X_(comic)) takes place in an area of New York City called "Mutant Town."[[36]](#cite_note-36) These instances can also serve as analogies for the way that minority groups establish subcultures and neighborhoods of their own that distinguish them from the broader general culture. Director [Bryan Singer](/wiki/Bryan_Singer) has remarked that the X-Men franchise has served as a metaphor for acceptance of all people for their special and unique gifts. The mutant condition that is often kept secret from the world can be analogous to feelings of difference and fear usually developed in everyone during adolescence.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

## Cultural impact[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

The insecurity and anxieties in Marvel's early 1960s comic books such as *The Fantastic Four,* *The Amazing Spider-Man,* *The Incredible Hulk,* and *X-Men* ushered in a new type of superhero, very different from the certain and all-powerful superheroes before them, and changed the public's perception of superheroes.[[49]](#cite_note-49)

## In other media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) Note: Contains a chapter on the X-Men, with special emphasis on Jewish characters Magneto and Shadowcat.
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote) [Template:Marvelwiki](/wiki/Template:Marvelwiki)

* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Comicbookdb](/wiki/Template:Comicbookdb)
* [Template:Gcdb](/wiki/Template:Gcdb)
* [X-Men](http://www.marveldirectory.com/groupsandteams/xmen.htm) at the Marvel Directory
* [X-Men](http://www.uncannyxmen.net/) at UncannyXmen.net

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