

Fantastic Four

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The Fantastic Four, often abbreviated as FF, is a superhero team appearing in American comic books published by Marvel Comics. The team debuted in *The Fantastic Four #1* (cover-dated November 1961), helping usher in a new level of realism in the medium. It was the first superhero team created by artist/co-plotter Jack Kirby and editor/co-scripter Stan Lee, and through this title the "Marvel method" style of production came into prominence.

The four characters traditionally associated with the Fantastic Four, who gained superpowers after exposure to cosmic rays during a scientific mission to outer space, are Mister Fantastic (Reed Richards), a scientific genius and the leader of the group, who can stretch his body into incredible lengths and shapes; the Invisible Woman (Susan "Sue" Storm-Richards), Reed's girlfriend and later wife, who can render herself invisible and project powerful invisible force fields and blasts; the Human Torch (Johnny Storm), Sue's younger brother, who can generate flames, surround himself with them and fly; and the monstrous Thing (Ben Grimm), their grumpy but benevolent friend, a former college football star, Reed's college roommate and a skilled pilot, who possesses tremendous superhuman strength, durability and endurance due to his stone-like flesh.

Since their 1961 introduction, the Fantastic Four has been portrayed as a somewhat dysfunctional, yet loving, family. Breaking convention with other comic archetypes, the members squabbled, held grudges both deep and petty, and eschewed anonymity or secret identities in favor of celebrity status. They are also well known for their recurring encounters with characters such as the villainous monarch Doctor Doom; the planet-devouring Galactus; the Kree Empire's ruthless and tyrannical enforcer Ronan the Accuser; the Negative Zone's ruler Annihilus; the subterranean villain Mole Man; the sea-dwelling prince Namor; the spacefaring Silver Surfer; the Skrull warrior Kl'rt; and the Molecule Man.

The Fantastic Four has been adapted into other media, including several video games, animated series, and live-action films.

The Fantastic Four: First Steps

The Fantastic Four: First Steps is a 2025 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team the Fantastic Four. Produced by Marvel Studios

The Fantastic Four: First Steps is a 2025 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team the Fantastic Four. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the 37th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and the second reboot of the Fantastic Four film series. The film was directed by Matt Shakman from a screenplay by Josh Friedman, Eric Pearson, and the team of Jeff Kaplan and Ian Springer. It features an ensemble cast including Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, and Joseph Quinn as the titular team, alongside Julia Garner, Sarah Niles, Mark Gatiss, Natasha Lyonne, Paul Walter Hauser, and Ralph Ineson. The film is set in the 1960s of a retro-futuristic world which the Fantastic Four must protect from the planet-devouring cosmic being Galactus (Ineson).

20th Century Fox began work on a new Fantastic Four film following the failure of *Fantastic Four* (2015). After the studio was acquired by Disney in March 2019, control of the franchise was transferred to Marvel Studios, and a new film was announced that July. Jon Watts was set to direct in December 2020, but stepped

down in April 2022. Shakman replaced him that September when Kaplan and Springer were working on the script. Casting began by early 2023, and Friedman joined in March to rewrite the script. The film is differentiated from previous Fantastic Four films by avoiding the team's origin story. Pearson joined to polish the script by mid-February 2024, when the main cast and the title *The Fantastic Four* were announced. The subtitle was added in July, when filming began. It took place until November 2024 at Pinewood Studios in England, and on location in England and Spain.

The Fantastic Four: First Steps premiered at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles on July 21, 2025, and was released in the United States on July 25, as the first film in Phase Six of the MCU. It received generally positive reviews from critics and has grossed \$492 million worldwide, making it the tenth-highest-grossing film of 2025 as well the highest-grossing Fantastic Four film. A sequel is in development.

Fantastic Four (2015 film)

Fantastic Four (stylized as *FANT4STIC*) is a 2015 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team and a reboot of the *Fantastic Four* film series

Fantastic Four (stylized as *FANT4STIC*) is a 2015 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team and a reboot of the *Fantastic Four* film series. Directed by Josh Trank and written by Trank, Jeremy Slater, and Simon Kinberg, it stars Miles Teller, Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara, Jamie Bell, Toby Kebbell, Reg E. Cathey, and Tim Blake Nelson. The film follows a group of intelligent teenagers who build a transdimensional portal, causing them to acquire superhuman abilities.

Development of the film began in August 2009. Trank was hired to direct in July 2012 and the principal characters were cast in January 2014. Principal photography began in May 2014 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and lasted for two months. Unsatisfied with Trank's original cut, Fox executives mandated reshoots, which took place in January 2015.

Fantastic Four premiered at Williamsburg Cinemas in New York City on August 4, 2015, and was released on August 7 in the United States. The film received negative reviews from critics and was a box-office failure, grossing \$168 million worldwide against a production budget of \$120 million, with an estimated loss of \$80–\$100 million for the studio. *Fantastic Four* received several Golden Raspberry Awards, including Worst Director and Worst Picture. Trank voiced his displeasure with the final film, which he attributed to the studio's interference.

A sequel scheduled for release in 2017 was canceled after the first film's failure. It was the last *Fantastic Four* film to be distributed by 20th Century Fox, which was acquired by Disney in 2019. Another reboot, *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*, was released on July 25, 2025, as the first film in Phase Six of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Fantastic Four in film

team Fantastic Four featured in Marvel Comics publication has appeared in five live-action films since its inception. The plots deal with four main characters

The superhero team *Fantastic Four* featured in Marvel Comics publication has appeared in five live-action films since its inception. The plots deal with four main characters, known formally as Reed Richards, Susan Storm, Ben Grimm and Johnny Storm, and how they adapt to the superpowers they attain.

Constantin Film bought the film rights for the characters in 1986. A low-budget film was produced in 1992 by New Horizon Studios owned by Roger Corman, though it has never been officially released. In 2004, after Constantin sub-licensed the film rights to 20th Century Fox, a second *Fantastic Four* film entered production. *Fantastic Four* was released in 2005 and the sequel *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* was released in 2007. Both films were not well received by critics, yet earned a combined US\$635 million worldwide at the

box office. Due to Fox's disappointment with the box-office returns of *Rise of the Silver Surfer*, a potential third film and a *Silver Surfer* spin-off film were canceled.

A reboot of the series, *Fantastic Four*, directed by Josh Trank, was released in 2015 and received largely negative reviews from both critics and audiences, and was a box-office bomb. Trank himself disowned the final product, claiming studio interference from Fox. A sequel was scheduled to be released in 2017, but was canceled.

In March 2019, Marvel Studios regained the film rights to the *Fantastic Four* and their associated characters, after the acquisition of 21st Century Fox by Disney. *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*, part of Phase Six of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), was released in 2025 and became the most positively reviewed film in the series.

After the acquisition, the Fox-produced *Fantastic Four* films were rebranded as "Marvel Legacy" films on Disney+ alongside other non-MCU Marvel films. They were then retitled "Fantastic Adventures" in July 2023, alongside two *Fantastic Four* animated series.

Fantastic Four (2005 film)

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Fantastic Four (sometimes stylized as *Fantastic 4*) is a 2005 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. It was directed by Tim Story and written by Mark Frost and Michael France. The film stars Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, Michael Chiklis, Julian McMahon, and Kerry Washington. The film follows the origins of the titular team as they learn to come to terms with their newfound abilities following their exposure to cosmic rays.

This was the second live-action *Fantastic Four* film to be filmed. A previous attempt, titled *The Fantastic Four*, was a B movie produced by Roger Corman that ultimately went unreleased. *Fantastic Four* was released in the United States on July 8, 2005. The film received generally negative reviews from critics (though Evans and Chiklis's performances were praised), but has gone through some re-evaluation over the years after its release. The film grossed \$333.5 million worldwide and was a box office success. A sequel, *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, was released in 2007. A reboot was released in 2015, while another, set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), was released in 2025. Evans, who would portray Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), later reprised his role as Johnny Storm / Human Torch in the MCU film *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024).

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer is a 2007 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team the *Fantastic Four*. The sequel to the 2005 film. The sequel to the 2005

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer is a 2007 superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team the *Fantastic Four*. The sequel to the 2005 film, it was directed by Tim Story, from a screenplay by Don Payne and Mark Frost. The film stars Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, and Michael Chiklis as the title characters, with Julian McMahon, Kerry Washington, Andre Braugher, Beau Garrett, Doug Jones and Laurence Fishburne in supporting roles. The plot follows the *Fantastic Four* (and Doctor Doom) as they confront the Silver Surfer to save Earth from Galactus.

The film was released in the United States on June 15, 2007 to generally mixed reviews and grossed \$301.9 million worldwide and was a box-office success, but earned less than its predecessor which grossed \$333.5 million worldwide. A third film was planned but ultimately cancelled. The series was rebooted in 2015 with the release of *Fantastic Four* to poor critical and commercial reception. Marvel Studios eventually reclaimed

the film rights of the characters, along with the X-Men and Deadpool, after the acquisition of 21st Century Fox by Disney. Evans, who would portray Captain America in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), reprised his role as Johnny Storm / Human Torch in the 2024 film *Deadpool & Wolverine*.

The Fantastic Four (unreleased film)

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The Fantastic Four is an unreleased superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team of the same name, created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. The film features the team's origin and first battle with Doctor Doom. Executive-produced by low-budget specialist Roger Corman and Constantin Film president Bernd Eichinger, it was made to allow Eichinger to keep the Fantastic Four film rights. It was not officially released, although pirated copies have circulated since 1994 as well as various clips being available online.

Fantastic Four (comic book)

Fantastic Four is the name of several comic book titles featuring the team the Fantastic Four (created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby) and published by Marvel

Fantastic Four is the name of several comic book titles featuring the team the Fantastic Four (created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby) and published by Marvel Comics, beginning with the original Fantastic Four comic book series which debuted in 1961.

As the first superhero team title produced by Marvel Comics, it formed a cornerstone of the company's 1960s rise from a small division of a publishing company to a pop culture conglomerate. The title would go on to showcase the talents of comics creators such as Roy Thomas, John Buscema, John Byrne, Steve Englehart, Walt Simonson, Tom DeFalco, Mark Waid, and Jonathan Hickman. The Fantastic Four is one of several Marvel titles originating in the Silver Age of Comic Books that was continuously published through 2015 before returning to monthly publication in 2018.

Mister Fantastic

Fantastic Four #11 Fantastic Four #291 Fantastic Four (vol. 4) #4 Fantastic Four #2 Fantastic Four #4 Fantastic Four #5 Fantastic Four #16 Fantastic Four

Mister Fantastic (Reed Richards) is a superhero appearing in American comic books published by Marvel Comics. He was created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. The character is a founding member and the leader of the Fantastic Four. Richards has a mastery of mechanical, aerospace and electrical engineering, chemistry, all levels of physics, and human and alien biology. BusinessWeek listed Mister Fantastic as one of the top ten most intelligent fictional characters in American comics. He is the inventor of the spacecraft that was bombarded by cosmic radiation on its maiden voyage, granting the Fantastic Four their powers. Richards gained the ability to stretch his body into any shape he desires.

Mister Fantastic acts as the leader and father figure of the Fantastic Four, and although his cosmic ray powers are primarily stretching abilities, his presence on the team is defined by his scientific acumen, as he is officially acknowledged as the smartest man in the Marvel Universe. This is particularly a point of tragedy in regards to his best friend, Ben Grimm, who he has constantly tried to turn back into his human form but who typically remains in a large, rocky form and is called the Thing. Richards is the husband of Susan Storm, father of Franklin Richards and Valeria Richards, and mentor to his brother-in-law, Johnny Storm.

The character was portrayed by actors Alex Hyde-White in the 1994 *The Fantastic Four* film, Ioan Gruffudd in the 2005 film *Fantastic Four* and its 2007 sequel *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, and Miles Teller in the 2015 film *Fantastic Four*. In the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise, John Krasinski portrayed a

variant of Richards in the 2022 film Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, and Pedro Pascal portrayed another version of him in the 2025 film The Fantastic Four: First Steps, and will reprise the role in the 2026 film Avengers: Doomsday and the 2027 film Avengers: Secret Wars.

List of Fantastic Four members

The Fantastic Four is a team of comic book superheroes published in American comic books by Marvel Comics. A number of characters have joined the team

The Fantastic Four is a team of comic book superheroes published in American comic books by Marvel Comics. A number of characters have joined the team but the composition of it mostly remains to be four.

Notation:

A slash (/) between names, indicates the character having multiple codenames in Fantastic Four (in chronological order).

Characters listed in bold are the current members of the teams.

In case of multiple codenames, the currently used name is bolded.

Characters listed are set in the Earth-616 continuity except when noted.

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