

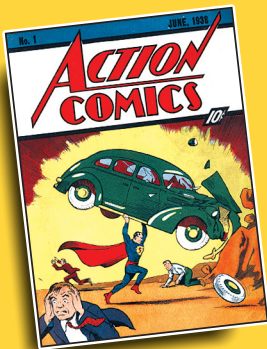



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Superman is 75


Superman, arguably the most famous of all the superheroes, was born of the Great Depression in Cleveland, Ohio, the comic book creation of two Glenville High School friends, writer *Jerry Siegel* and artist *Joe Shuster*

 **1933:** Prototype of *The Superman* shopped around by creators Siegel and Shuster, but publishers show little interest

 **Apr 18, 1938:** *DC Comics* publishes first Superman story in *Action Comics No. 1*



 **1939:** Superman gets his own comic, syndicated to newspapers

 **1940:** Radio serial *Adventures of Superman* debuts. It runs until 1951


 **1940:** Arch-enemy *Lex Luthor* created – sporting red hair before turning bald


 **1941:** *Fleischer Studios* make first animated short films

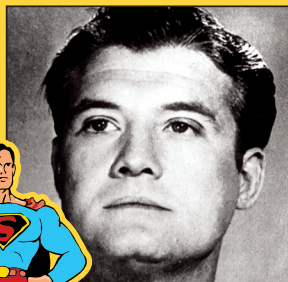



SUPERMAN

 **1943:** Radioactive mineral *Kryptonite* first introduced

 **1948:** *Kirk Alyn* stars in first film version of *Superman*


 **1952:** Radio serial transfers to television, starring *George Reeves*





 **1960s:** Comics flesh-out life details, such as how Superman draws his super powers from Sun, and existence of his Arctic *Fortress of Solitude*


Instantly recognisable title design dates from first issue of *Superman* comic, 1939





 **1979:** First of four big screen outings starring *Christopher Reeve*

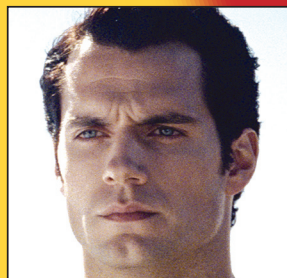
 **1986:** In *Whatever Happened to Man of Tomorrow*, writer *Alan Moore* ends golden era of Superman comics


 **1992:** Superman is controversially killed off – but is soon resurrected

 **1993:** *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* series debuts

 **2001:** *Smallville*, about a young Clark Kent, premieres

 **2006:** *Superman Returns* opens to lacklustre reviews



 **2013:** British actor *Henry Cavill* becomes first non-American to play Superman in *Man of Steel*

 Print
 Radio
 TV
 Movie

EVOLUTION OF SUPERMAN EMBLEM (selected examples)



1938 Action Comics #1	1939 Superman #1	1940 Superman #4	1941 Superman #9*	1952 Adventures of Superman	1997 "Electric Blue" Superman	2006 Superman Returns	2013 Man of Steel
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