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Why are there so many SPIDER-MEN?

Illustrations by Kia Johnson (follow her on Instagram @oozean)

BY LAUREN MURPHY
Of no Adults Allowed

One of the most recognizable superheroes of all time is Spider-Man. In August of 1962, Spider-Man appeared in his first comic, *Amazing Fantasy* #15. Since then, he has been featured in well over 2,000 comics and graphic novels. The friendly neighborhood superhero has also been featured in movies and cartoons.

In comic books, characters age at a slower rate. Even if it took seven years to write a series, the character may have only aged a couple of years.

Movies, on the other hand, use real people who age at a regular rate; because of this, when companies decide to do a reboot, or do a series over again with different plot lines, they need to recast.

Over the years there have been several actors who portrayed Spider-Man. In 2002, the first Spider-Man movie was released, directed by Sam Raimi. Peter Parker, Spider-Man's secret identity, was played by Tobey Maguire who was 26 when the movie came out. In the sequel, *Spider-Man 2*, Maguire was 28. He was 31 when the final movie, *Spider-Man 3*, came

out in 2007.

Later, Marc Webb directed a new Spider-Man series called, *The Amazing Spider-Man*, starring Andrew Garfield. His first movie came out in 2012 and was followed by, *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, in 2014. Garfield was 29 in the first movie and 31 in the second.

Peter Parker was in high school when the comics started, only about 15 years old. When Maguire and Garfield got too old to play Spider-Man, there needed to be another actor.

In 2016, Marvel released *Captain America: Civil War*,



which featured Tom Holland as Spider-Man, who was 20 years old at the time.

Holland starred in *Spider-Man: Homecoming* in 2017 at age 21 as Spider-Man. He also appeared in *Avengers: Infinity War* in 2018 and

Avengers: Endgame earlier this year. On July 2, earlier this week, Marvel released *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, where at age 23, Holland played Peter Parker once again.

In December of 2018, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* was released which had a variety of voice actors playing a variety of Spider-People. Shameik Moore played Miles Morales, the movie's main character. Peter B. Parker, Morales' mentor was played by Jake Johnson. Gwen Stacy's Spider-Gwen was played by Hailee Steinfeld. Other adaptations of Spider-Man found in the movie are, Spider-Ham (John Mulaney), Peni Parker (Kimiko Gleen), and Spider-Man Noir (Nicolas Cage).

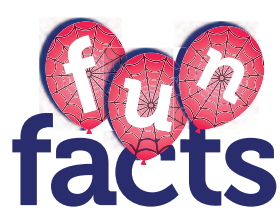


(From left to right) Miles Morales, Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield. TOP: Tom Holland.

- Stan Lee, Spider-Man's co-creator with artist Steve Ditko, wanted to base the character on a fly but decided on a spider instead.
- Spider-Man was the first teenage hero who wasn't a sidekick to an adult.
- Spider-Man has a hyphen in his name to avoid confusion with Superman.
- Peter Parker, Spider-Man's secret identity, grows up to be a journalist.
- Spider-Man's webs dissolve within an hour.
- Spider-Man's web is strong enough to hold Hulk.
- Former President Barack Obama's favorite superhero is Spider-Man. He even appeared in a Spider-Man comic.
- More than 1,000 people were employed for the film *The Amazing Spider-Man*.
- Spider-Man first leapt out of comics into

cartoons, then as a Japanese television show.

- Spider-Man's funny quips in battle were not only designed to distract his enemies but also to calm his nerves.
- Spider-Man has some of the most well known villains including, Green Goblin, Doctor Octopus and Venom.
- Gwen Stacy and Mary Jane, two of Peter's high school romances in the movies, didn't actually meet him until college in the comic books.
- Gwen Stacy was one of the few comic book characters who actually stayed dead ... at least until a new one appeared from an alternate universe and became a spider-powered superhero, too.
- To date, Tobey Maguire's standalone Spider-Man movies made the most money. But, if you take into account all the existing movies with Tom Holland as the web-slinger, Tom wins easily.



jokeBOX

What did Iron Man say to Spider-Man?

Quit bugging me.

