

THOR, THE SUPERHERO

Height: 6'6" **Weight:** 640 lbs
Hair: Blond **Eyes:** Blue

ORIGIN

Thor is the son of Odin, the ruler of the extra-dimensional realm of Asgard, and the Elder Goddess Gaea, the personification of Mother Nature. Raised in Asgard, the goddess Frigga served as Thor's mother, and Thor grew up with Loki as his step-brother. His father Odin had Mjolnir, a mystical hammer enchanted by magic and made of Uru, forged for Thor but decreed it would be given to him only after he'd proven himself worthy of the right to possess and wield it by becoming a noble and honorable warrior of the highest order. Odin enchanted the weapon so it could only be lifted by someone, including but not limited to Thor whom proved worthy by meeting these requirements.

After years of training and accepting different quests to prove he was worthy of wielding the hammer, Thor still could not lift Mjolnir. However, he was only able to raise it after hearing about the kidnapping of Sif. Thor ignored the direct commands of his father and went into Odin's treasure room to retrieve the hammer. He found himself able to lift it with ease because he desired to save his friend instead of searching for personal glory.

Thor spent several centuries adventuring, undertaking many quests, fighting battles, facing many foes and performing countless heroic deeds before eventually becoming Asgard's greatest warrior and protector. Thor's first love was the goddess Sif. Their relationship started when both were kids and it's had several ups and downs; sometimes seeming to end forever only to be renewed time after time. Though the final chapter of their love story has yet to be written, Thor and Sif seem fated to eventually be together. Several centuries ago, when he was still a relatively young God, Thor journeyed to the Midgard (Earth) for the first time and promoted his worship among the Vikings. Most knew him as Thor, but some called him Donner (Thunder) as they came to worship him and the other Asgardians. Thor encouraged the Vikings to find victory and glory in their battles. On one notable occasion Thor's Viking worshippers/followers killed the people of a Christian monastery. When Thor eventually became aware of this, he ended his activities on Midgard which in turn lead to the worship of the Asgardian gods eventually dying out.

CREATION

Thor was created by writer Stan Lee and artist Jack Kirby, and is based on the "thunder god" of Norse Mythology .

"How do you make someone stronger than the strongest person? It finally came to me: Don't make him human — make him a god. I decided readers were already pretty familiar with the Greek and Roman gods. It might be fun to delve into the old Norse legends... Besides, I pictured Norse gods looking like Vikings of old, with the flowing beards, horned helmets, and battle clubs. ...Journey into Mystery needed a shot in the arm, so I picked Thor"

-Stan Lee describing his reasoning for creating Thor after he created Hulk.



CHARACTER EVOLUTION

Leading a warrior's life in Asgard as he fought Frost Giants and other enemies of the realm, Thor eventually became arrogant and selfish. To teach his headstrong son humility, Odin decided to create a human/mortal persona for Thor, Dr. Donald Blake a handicapped American, and removed all his powers and memories. As Blake, Thor was able to learn to be humble and to take care of the people around him. Blake became a successful physician and was later known to be a great surgeon. While on vacation in Norway, Blake discovered what appeared to be an ordinary walking stick during an alien invasion. When Blake struck a boulder with the stick, it was transformed into his hammer Mjolnir while he became Thor once again. At first Thor



had no memory about his Asgardian life. He would regain more and more knowledge of his past as months passed. Odin then later on revealed to him that Donald Blake was just his false identity and he told him what his reason was for doing it. Thor maintained his identity as Donald Blake on earth and continued to practice medicine. Thor could revert back and forth between Dr. Blake and Thor by striking the stick/hammer against the ground.

POWERS & ABILITIES

As the mystical progeny of Odin, the former sky-father of Asgard, and Gaea, the Elder Goddess, Thor possesses the characteristic physiology of all Asgardians, but to a much greater degree. He possesses muscle and bone significantly denser than humans, giving him almost unlimited superhuman strength, resistance to diseases, superior endurance, and superhuman durability. He is extremely long-lived (though not completely immune to aging). Thor is the finest physical specimen and strongest of all the Asgardians.

Thor also has the Belt of Strength, which doubles his strength whenever he wears it. However, Thor rarely uses it because when he is finished using the belt and removes it, he is weakened for some time. Thor can also augment his strength by entering an emotional state called "warrior's madness" which multiplies his strength by a factor of ten. Thor has commented many times that he typically holds back against opponents as a matter of restraint, only using his true strength when there is no other option.

Thor is the god of thunder and the storm, and has the innate ability to control the elements of the storm (he only uses Mjolnir as a focal point for his power). He can call upon lightning from the sky, from his hammer, or from his body.

It is a common misconception that Thor is able to fly. He is simply able to throw Mjolnir while holding on to the handle and mimic flight. Thor has been able to fly in the past though, when he possessed the power of rune magic. Thor has traveled at 3x the speed of light before, an astounding feat.

With his mystical hammer Mjolnir, Thor can control weather elements such as lightning. His godly energies can be focused into blasts through Mjolnir that have devastating results; this blast is known as the God Blast, which is one of the most powerful of Thor's offensive capabilities. He can also absorb other energies using Mjolnir. It obeys his commands and will return to him after being thrown. Thor can create portals into other dimensions by spinning Mjolnir in circles. At one point, Thor could time travel by spinning his hammer in similar fashion.

QUESTIONS

- How is the comic book superhero Thor different than the original Norse god? Explain.
- Do you think Thor makes a good superhero? Explain.
- Judging from what you have read here about the superhero Thor, would you enjoy the movie currently being made about this character? Explain.
- Who is another god or goddess (from any mythology) that would make a good superhero? Explain.