

Smurfs

By Jillian

What are Smurfs?

Smurfs are little blue gnome-like creatures. They all wear white hats and are approximately three apples tall. Smurfs look alike and they are mostly males. They never take off their hats, so no one knows if they have hair or not and they are very short. Smurfs can walk but they usually skip.

They usually eat "smilax leaves" whose berries are called "smurfberries". They live in a forest in houses made of mushrooms but sometimes stone. Each Smurf is assigned a task in the village depending on their strength and needs of their village.

There are over one hundred Smurfs, who live in harmony with nature and are peaceful. The word "Smurf" is similar to a "Whatchamacallit" or "Schtroumpf". Smurf language is pretty simple to learn. You use the word "smurf" in a variety of meanings. The Smurfs replace verbs and nouns in sentences to make their conversations almost non-understandable. Some examples are "I'm going smurfing on the River Smurf today" or "I look Smurfiful" (I look beautiful).

What are their names?

There are many Smurf characters like Papa Smurf (he is the leader of the smurf village and he is the only one who wears red).

Clockwork, Wild Smurf, Poet Smurf, Tracker Smurf, Grouchy Smurf, Baker Smurf, Nat Smurfling, Baby Smurf, and Grandpa. A few of the girls are Smurfette, Sassette and Nanny Smurf but there are many more.



Did you know they had enemies? Two of them are Gargamel and Wartmongers. Gargamel is an evil wizard and Wartmongers are toad-like creatures that live in dirt and slime. Some of their friends are Feathers (a loyal bird who delivers messages and transports Smurfs), Johan (protects and helps the Smurfs) and Peewit (Johan's friend and plays instruments). Some other Smurfs are Dreamy Smurf, Farmer Smurf, Painter Smurf, Hefty Smurf (the strongest), Jokey Smurf and Smoogle (Nanny's pet). Every sport, musical activity and special occasion has been made into a Smurf character over the years.

Where were they shown?

The Smurfs were first shown as a cartoon in 1958, in a Belgium magazine called "Le Journal de Spirou". Their creator was Peirre Culliford, also known as Peyo (Pay-oh). Peyo was looking in the newspaper for a job. He found two: a dental assistant and an illustrator. When he got to the dentist office he was told he was 15 minutes too late. He met comic strip artists in Belgium. He then worked with some of the most talented artists and he made a new cartoon and new comic strips. The first film was called "The Smurfs and the Magic Flute".

He lived until 1992 and created a legend. They were most popular because they were a cartoon show on television and you can still watch the Smurfs on Boomerang (which is a special T.V. station you can buy). "The Smurf" show was often nominated for the Daytime Emmy Awards. All of the shows taught a different lesson to

teach kids, besides entertain them.

Because of their popularity people collected figures of them, videos, toys and all kinds of merchandise. You found Smurf images on anything from sheets to lunch boxes. Today you can go to a garage sale and if you're lucky you might find some old figurines, mugs or stuffed animals. There are collectors worldwide. Some Smurf products are very rare.

Toy companies are now manufacturing many new Smurf products. Sometimes people will make copies of Smurfs for money. They look very shiny and the paint is not smooth. They are counterfeit.

The Smurfs had many fans because of their lovable looks and positive stories and they were very unique.

And by the way, it is the smurfs *50th* anniversary!

