

Great illustrators

■ Jack Kirby (1917-1994)

He is considered one of the most prolific and influential American creators of comics. He entered the early comics industry in the 1930s, and in 1940 he and writer-editor Joe Simon created the superhero character *Captain America* for Timely Comics, predecessor of Marvel Comics.



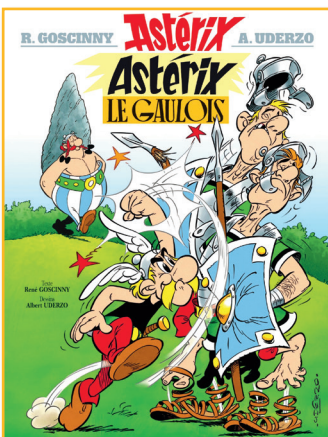
■ Stan Lee (1922-2018)

American comic book writer, editor, publisher, and producer, he worked as primary creative leader for two decades for Marvel Comics **fostering** its expansion from a small division of a publishing house to a multimedia corporation that dominated the comics industry. At Marvel, in collaboration with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, he created popular fictional characters, such as the superheroes *Spider-Man*, *the X-Men*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *the Hulk*, *Black Widow*, *the Fantastic Four*, *Black Panther*, *Daredevil*, *Doctor Strange*, *Scarlet Witch*, and *Ant-Man*.



■ Charles Monroe Schultz (1922-2000)

American cartoonist, he was the creator of the comic strip *Peanuts* whose main characters are *Charlie Brown* and *Snoopy*. He is widely considered as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time. *Peanuts* comic strips were published in over 2,600 newspapers worldwide and translated into over 25 languages.

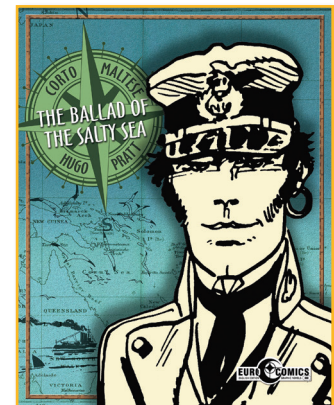


■ Alberto Aleandro Uderzo (1927-2020)


French comic book artist, he is best known for his collaboration with René Goscinny as the co-creator and illustrator of the *Asterix* series.

■ Hugo Eugenio Prat (1927-1995)



Known as Hugo Pratt, he was an Italian comic book creator. He was a master in combining convincing storytelling with extensive historical research in his most famous work *Corto Maltese* (1967).



to foster: *promuovere*
 gypsy: *zingara*
 hunt: *caccia*
 path: *percorso*
 to span: *estendersi*

- 1  Complete the chart with the name of the illustrator or the character. Some names of illustrators may be repeated.

Illustrator	Character
1.	Snoopy
2. Alberto Uderzo
3.	Iron Man
4. Hugo Pratt
5. Stan Lee	S..... M.....
6.	Captain America
7.	Charlie Brown
8. Stan Lee	T.....
9.	Doctor Strange
10.	The Hulk

- 2   Read the text and decide if the sentences are true or false. Correct the false ones.


Corto Maltese, a Sailor and Adventurer

Corto Maltese was born in Malta, on July 10th, 1887, the son of a **gypsy** and a sailor. From his mother he inherits his Mediterranean features and passion, from his father a desire to travel, and from both a love of mystery and the talent of seeing under the surface of things. As a young man, his immersion in the life of the ports of Malta brings him face to face with an infinite diversity of men and values, but Corto is always ready to fight to affirm the principles of liberty and independence. Corto takes his place among the great travellers of history, who know that body and spirit are renewed through risk and adventure. A journey may begin with the **hunt** for some treasure, for a magic ring, or an attempt to decode an ancient map. In the meantime, he never loses his innate appreciation for true friendship or genuine respect for the people who come across his **path**. The tales of his adventures take us to distant places such as the Caribbean, Ethiopia, Ireland, Patagonia, New Guinea, and Polynesia, and **span** approximately the first thirty years of the 20th century. Corto's relations with women are based on mutual respect. The women in these tales are not just complex characters – they are also clever guides to the unknown.

Adapted from: <https://www.cong-pratt.com/en/corto-maltese/>



- | | |
|--|---|
| | T F |
| 1. Corto Maltese was born at the end of the 19 th century. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Corto inherits physical and psychological features from both his parents. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. When he was young, he spent his days in the countryside. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. He does not have the opportunity to meet a lot of different men. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The principles of liberty and independence are at the basis of his life philosophy. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Corto is not a traveller. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Risk and adventure can renovate body and spirit. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Corto's journeys always start without a precise purpose. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. His adventures take place in distant places in the second half of the 20 th century. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Corto has a positive and respectful attitude towards women. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 3  **GROUP WORK** Choose one of the great illustrators named, and surf the net for information. Prepare a presentation to share in the classroom with your teacher and your schoolmates. Follow the guidelines.

- A short biography of the illustrator
- Some information about his career
- Characters that made him famous
- Choose one character in particular and describe him