MARVEL

AVENGERS
INFINITY WAR



ROAD TO INFINITY WAR
The events that lead to Infinity War

COSMIC GUIDE
What are the Infinity Stones and why are they so important?

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE



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MARVEL AVENGERS INFINITY WAR

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE

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PLANTING THE SEEDS TO INFINITY WAR

The Infinity War has been brewing for a long time. Join us as we see just how Marvel Studios has planted these seeds over the last decade within eighteen different movies, all leading up to this cataclysmic event...





Top
Nick Fury

Bottom
Loki

Right
Thanos

When Nick Fury appeared in the post-credits scene of 2008's *Iron Man*, it was a signifier that the world of comic-book movies had changed. Gone was the concept of mere sequels or prequels – this was the establishment of the "cinematic universe," an ongoing set of movies with interlinked continuity that would resemble the living, breathing worlds of their paper-and-ink source material in a way that movies never had before.

But back in 2008, the ongoing storyline that *Iron Man* kicked off seemed to be little more than "various Super Heroes come together to form the Avengers." Yet while that did end up being the ultimate goal of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's first phase, the long-term story that was put into place has ended up being much, much bigger than that – and the seeds have been planted much earlier than we might have expected.

It was in 2010's *Captain America: The First Avenger* – itself one of the films that was still just building up to *The Avengers* – that the plot thread of the Infinity Stones first began. At the time, however, this wasn't known to viewers – and it is not even a matter of record whether it was really Marvel Studios' intent all along to have the "Tesseract" turn out to be one of the stones, or something that was decided later as the movies progressed. Indeed, when first introduced, the object far more obviously resembled the Cosmic Cube, an object traditionally of huge significance to both Captain America and Avengers lore.

Whether Cosmic Cube or Infinity Stone, however, the Tesseract did provide *The Avengers* with the excuse to bring Thanos into the proceedings – with the film's post-credits sequence introducing the spacefaring villain famed for ties both to the Cube and the stones. *The Avengers* had also, while making use of the Tesseract as a primary plot device, added another powerful object: Loki's scepter, which may have just seemed like an unrelated piece of technology, but would also later factor in to the ongoing plot.

With Thanos introduced, the stage was set for Marvel's "Phase Two" to begin planting the famed Infinity Stones front and center. The first time the phrase was used was actually in *Thor: The Dark World* – where not only was that movie's "Aether" confirmed to be one of the six, but the Tesseract also. At this point, the quest for the stones was not an active plotline for any of the movies' major protagonists – they would soon have other matters to be concerned with – but a cleverly planted undercurrent for fans to follow. Seldom in cinematic history has such a mammoth undertaking been planned with such precision.

Guardians of the Galaxy showed just how useful this ongoing plot strand could be – with its storyline and characters never directly interacting with Earth or any of the Avengers, the link was instead provided by Thanos himself, a lurking background presence with direct family ties to two of the film's main characters, Gamora and Nebula. And while not actually known to be such for a good portion of the film, the fact that its MacGuffin of the "orb" turned out to be nothing less than the third Infinity Stone ultimately ended up resolving the plot in its third act.

Back on Earth, meanwhile, the Avengers were dealing with the events of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, which would lead directly into *Captain America: Civil War*. But even this plot had a direct tie to the Stones – with Tony Stark and Bruce Banner creating Ultron out of Loki's scepter, and the revelation that said scepter, given to him by Thanos, in fact held yet another Infinity Stone. So, even before the phrase had been used, two of the stones had appeared in that first *Avengers* movie. In the meantime, this fourth Stone would also be used to create the Avenger known as the Vision.

In 2016, *Doctor Strange* revealed the whereabouts of the next Infinity Stone. The fifth stone was revealed as the mystic Eye of Agamotto. In the comics, this is a mystical item worn by Stephen Strange – but revealing its history as an Infinity Stone meant that there was no magic-based explanation required for its presence.

All of this has, of course, been leading to *Avengers: Infinity War* in 2018 – a full decade and eighteen cinematic installments after the original *Iron Man* film. *Infinity War* promises to bring together just about every major character from those eighteen movies to date, including having the Guardians interact with Avengers characters for the first time. If Iron Man had begun with the story of Tony Stark battling an intergalactic warlord for control of six powerful stones, with the help of a talking raccoon and a sorcerer, it might have seemed a bit outlandish – but the beauty of the unfolding Marvel Cinematic Universe is that it has worked its way toward that goal without ever feeling forced or unnatural.

Because these plot strands have all been planted from such an early stage, working side by side with the individual movies' own stories rather than overpowering them, we're now at a point where *Avengers: Infinity War* feels like the natural culmination of everything we've seen so far. Of course, that still leaves open the question of what could possibly follow it – but given the MCU's track record, it wouldn't be surprising if those seeds have already been planted too...



YOUR GUIDE TO THE INFINITY STONES

So, just what exactly are the Infinity Stones - and why are they so important?

Thanos is coming to the fore in *Avengers: Infinity War*, as he has grown tired of the failure of others in securing the Infinity Stones and has now taken matters into his own hands as he scours the galaxy in search of them.

But what are the Infinity Stones? Why does Thanos want them so much? And why do the assembled heroes of the Marvel Cinematic Universe want to stop him from getting his hands on them?

Taneleer Tivan, the Collector, explained the mystery of the stones best, in *Guardians of the Galaxy* when he said, "before Creation itself, there were six singularities. Then the universe exploded into existence and the remnants of these systems were forged into concentrated ingots... Infinity Stones."

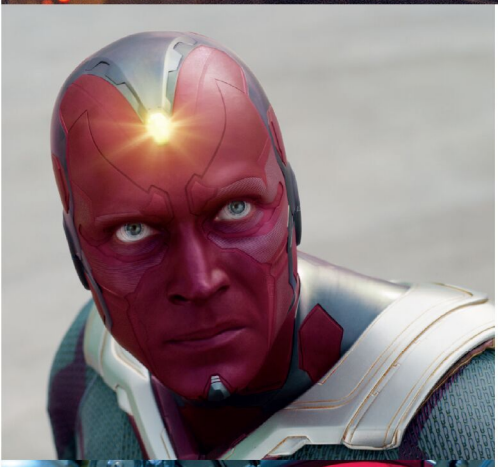
Tivan went on to warn us that "these stones, it seems, can only be brandished by beings of extraordinary strength. These carriers can use the stones to mow down entire civilizations, like wheat in a field."

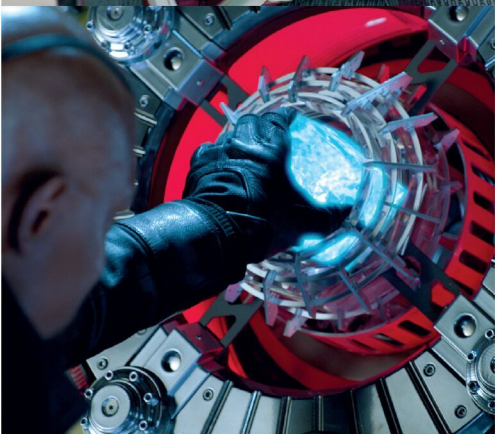
Apparently, once, for a moment, a long time ago, a group of beings were able to share the energy among



> "BEFORE CREATION ITSELF, THERE WERE SIX SINGULARITIES. THEN THE UNIVERSE EXPLODED INTO EXISTENCE AND THE REMNANTS OF THESE SYSTEMS WERE FORGED INTO CONCENTRATED INGOTS... INFINITY STONES"
> The Collector, *Guardians of the Galaxy*







themselves, but even they were quickly destroyed by it.

The Infinity Stones are said to have been created by the Cosmic Entities, Death, Entropy, Infinity and Eternity, These primordial beings are older than creation itself, and incredibly powerful.

But what can these stones do? Well, together they can do just about anything. The Space Stone gives its holder the ability to master all forms of space, traversing the universe in the blink of an eye. The Mind Stone allows the user to control the minds of any living being. The Reality Stone will grant you power over reality itself. The Power Stone contains enough energy to snuff out an entire planet in the blink of an eye. The Reality Stone will allow the user control of what is or is not real and the Time Stone gives you mastery over time itself. That just leaves us with the Soul Stone, the most mysterious of them all, in that nobody, not even the Collector, is fully sure of what it is really capable of doing.

One thing we can be certain of is that none of the stones should be touched in their raw state, hence the creation of devices to hold them, such as the Tesseract, the Orb, the Eye of Agamotto and the Scepter of Loki.

If Thanos does indeed possess the strength to wield all six Infinity Stones then he truly would be invincible and nothing would be able to stop him.

Now, settle down and get ready for an in-depth look at each and every one of these wonderful artifacts and see what each stone is capable of.

Top to bottom: **Doctor Strange, with the Eye of Agamotto, a relic containing the Time Stone.**

The Vision holds the Mind Stone in his forehead.

The Tesseract, the containment cube for the Space Stone.



THE SPACE STONE



Contained within a cube-like structure known as the Tesseract, the Space Stone grants the user instant unimpeded access to anywhere in the universe.



Above:
Johann Schmidt, the Red Skull, aimed to harness the power of the Space Stone.

TIMELESS DANGER

The Space Stone first came to the attention of the Marvel Cinematic Universe in *Captain America: The First Avenger*. Contained in the form of a cube-like structure known as the Tesseract of Odin, Johann Schmidt aka the Red Skull, stole it from its hiding place in an ancient church in Tønsberg in Norway.

The Red Skull was Nazi Germany's first Super-Soldier. The Super-Soldier Serum that gave Steve Rogers his power as Captain America had been developed by Abraham Erskine, and Johann Schmidt injected himself with it before it had been perfected. It gave him strength, speed and agility but it also had a terrible effect upon his skin, giving him a red cadaverous face, which he would hide behind a mask of his normal features.

As head of Hydra (the scientific research branch of the Nazis in WWII, which would go on to become an organization bent on world domination), the Red Skull decided to use the Tesseract to power an advanced super bomber that he planned to use against the United States.

The Red Skull was to find out the hard way what happens to lesser mortals when they attempt to touch one of these stones without the benefit of protective covering. Upon touching the stone, he was transported into a portal across space, never to be seen again. After the Skull's defeat, the Tesseract was recovered from the bottom of the ocean and was to remain in S.H.I.E.L.D. custody until 2012. S.H.I.E.L.D., the Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division, a US extra-governmental military counter-terrorism and intelligence agency, was formed after WWII to protect the United States and then later the world from any kind of threat.

MISCHIEF IN THE AIR

After seventy years of inactivity, the Tesseract became the subject of a terrible deal between Loki, brother to Thor, and Thanos, the mad Titan. Loki agreed to retrieve the Tesseract for Thanos, in exchange for the use of Thanos's army of Chitauri, who would help him conquer Earth.









Thanos, a ruthless cosmic warlord, does not suffer disappointment lightly, and Loki was warned that if he failed to retrieve the Tesseract for Thanos, he would pay a terrible price.

INVASION

Not long after stealing the Tesseract, Loki succeeded in using it to open a portal in space, and soon the Chitauri invaders were pouring through. Things looked bleak for the world, but the Avengers assembled for the first time and managed to beat them back and get control of the Tesseract. Loki suffered a severe beating at the hands of the Hulk for his problems and was then taken to Asgard by Thor.

Considered too dangerous to remain on Earth, Thor took the Tesseract with him back to Asgard and placed it in the safe keeping of his friend and fellow Asgardian, Heimdall.

Top to bottom:
The Chitauri invasion led to the formation of the Avengers.

Leviathan—this intergalactic beast is a living Chitauri warship.

Thor and Captain America defend New York City from the Chitauri.

Odin, the ruler of Asgard and father of Thor.

PREVIOUS WIELDERS OF THE SPACE STONE

Cosmic Entities
Odin (bottom left)
Church Keeper
Red Skull
Howard Stark
S.H.I.E.L.D.
Loki
Heimdall

POSTSCRIPT

During the events of *Thor: Ragnarok*, it was implied that Loki had managed to get his hands on the Tesseract once again. He may wield the stone, but with Thanos getting closer by the day, will he be able to enjoy it for long?





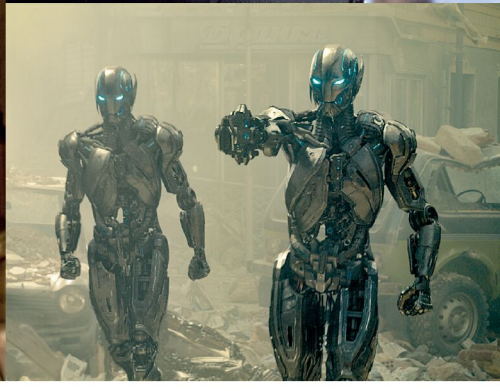
THE MIND STONE

The Mind Stone grants the user the ability to control the minds of other sentient beings. But that barely scratches the surface of its capabilities – for this Infinity Stone can also be used as a weapon and as a creative force, the likes of which Earth has never seen before...









Above:
Loki wields the Mind Stone within his scepter.

Above right:
Hawkeye fell under the spell of the Mind Stone.

Above, bottom:
An army of Ultron sentries seek to wipe out humanity.

MIND OVER MATTER

The Mind Stone was first introduced into the Marvel Cinematic Universe in *The Avengers* back in 2012. Thanos, unaware of what it actually was, granted use of the stone to Loki to help him in his proposed conquest of Earth.

When it first appeared it was contained in the form of a scepter, and it allowed Loki to fire energy blasts from its tip and also granted him the ability to communicate mentally with the being known as the Other, the servant of Thanos.

Loki's scepter also managed to subtly affect the minds of the Avengers, making them bicker and turn against each other. When the tip of the scepter is placed against a victim's heart, a blue energy is transferred into their body, turning their eyes a translucent blue color as they fall completely under the mental control of the stone. Loki did this to Hawkeye, and it was only after receiving a blow to the head that the bow-slinging Avenger was able to reassert control of his own mind and free himself from Loki's influence.

CONNECTIONS

Following Loki's defeat at the hands of his fellow Asgardian, Thor, Black Widow handed the scepter into the care of S.H.I.E.L.D. Nicholas Cooper, one of the researchers tasked with studying the scepter was the first to draw a connection between it and the Tesseract; however, his studies were cut short when the scepter was stolen by agents of Hydra. The artifact was then taken to a Hydra research facility in Sokovia, where Wolfgang von Strucker, a leader of the group, soon ordered that it be used in experiments on humans. Large numbers of volunteers were taken from among the Sokovian populace, but all of them died during the experiments, except for the twins Wanda and Pietro Maximoff, who gained extraordinary powers as a result.

ULTRON

The Avengers recaptured the scepter after raiding the research facility in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. Thor wanted to take the scepter to Asgard for safekeeping, but Tony Stark asked his friend for permission to study it first. Stark believed that the stone contained an artificial intelligence that could make his dream of a global peacekeeping initiative known as Ultron become a reality. Ultron, however, believed that mankind was the greatest threat to world peace, and set about his mission to destroy humanity. He stole the scepter and allied himself with Pietro and Wanda Maximoff. They were to turn against him when they learned of his genocidal intentions.

He used the power of the Mind Stone to force







geneticist Helen Cho to help him build a perfect body encased in the rare metal vibranium. He then broke the Mind Stone out of the scepter in order to power the perfect body.

VISION

The Mind Stone was embedded into the forehead of this perfect body, which allied itself with the Avengers against Ultron. This new AI was to become known as the Vision and was to prove an invaluable ally in the battle to come against Ultron's army of Ultron Sentries. The stone in his forehead allows him to fire energy blasts and to alter his density, becoming incredibly heavy or to become wraithlike and phase through walls at will. The stone remains a mystery to the Vision but he hopes to one day understand it so that it won't be able to control him but, on the contrary, that he will be able to exert control over it.

REMOTE CONTROL

During *Captain America: Civil War*, the Vision was guarding Wanda Maximoff at the New Avengers Facility. Captain America wanted to free Wanda, and he sent Hawkeye to break her out of the facility. When Vision tried to stop the archer, Wanda used her powers to exert control over the Mind Stone and forced him to release them before slamming him down deep into the ground, giving her time to escape and join Captain America.

PREVIOUS WIELDERS OF THE MIND STONE

- Cosmic Entities
- Thanos
- Loki
- S.H.I.E.L.D.
- Hydra
- Avengers
- Ultron
- Vision

Above left:
Wanda and Pietro Maximoff were given super human powers by the Mind Stone.

Above bottom:
Ultron used the Mind Stone to create the Vision.

Above:
Ultron the homicidal AI.

REALIZATION

During the events of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, Thor had a vision which revealed that the scepter did in fact contain the Mind Stone, one of six Infinity Stones. It was his intention to take the stone back to Asgard, but after the Vision proved himself worthy, when he was able to lift Thor's hammer, he decided to allow the stone to remain with the android, who would act as its appointed guardian. Will the Vision be able to retain it when Thanos comes searching for it?





THE REALITY STONE

Introduced into the Marvel Cinematic Universe in *Thor: The Dark World*, the Reality Stone, or the Aether, as it is known, is a force of catastrophic power, capable of transforming the entire universe as it converts matter into dark matter.









LET THERE BE DARKNESS

The Reality Stone is unique, even by the standards of the Infinity Stones, in that it is not really a stone, but is in fact, a red, viscous liquid. There are, however, several theories that state that at one time, long ago, it was actually a stone, just like the others.

The first recorded use of the Reality Stone was as a weapon of the Dark Elves, thousands of years ago. It was wielded in the form of the Aether by Malekith, ruler of the Dark Elves, who wanted to transform the universe back into a place of eternal night.

The Asgardians under the rule of Bor, grandfather to Odin, realizing that Malekith's plan to plunge the universe into perpetual darkness would bring death to countless life-forms, set out to thwart Malekith's plans. After a fierce battle with heavy losses on both sides, the Dark Elves retreated in disarray and it was believed that Malekith had perished. Sadly, he was merely hibernating.

INFESTATION

Bor had the Aether hidden away and nothing more was heard of it, until 2013 when astrophysicist Jane Foster, the girlfriend of Thor, entered a portal between dimensions and found herself in the same location as the Aether. When she let curiosity get the better of her and made contact with it, the Infinity Stone became active and infested her body, using it as a host.

Upon her return to Earth she displayed unusual energy projections when touched, and Thor took her to Asgard, where his father, Odin, recognized it as the work of the Aether. Malekith also sensed its presence and awoke from hibernation eager to attack Asgard. He almost captured Jane, but Thor's mother, Frigga, sacrificed herself to stop him, and his forces fled empty-handed.

THE CONVERGENCE

Contact with the Aether was making Jane sick and unless it could be removed from her body she would soon die. Thor, Jane and Loki traveled to Svartalfheim, the realm of the Dark Elves, where they confronted Malekith. He drew the Aether out of Jane and into himself before heading to Earth to bring endless night to the universe.

This was the time of a cosmic event known as the Convergence, which happens once every five thousand years. During the Convergence, the realms of reality become aligned and the boundaries between each dimension become exceedingly thin. These were perfect conditions for Malekith to attempt to alter reality and bring about his longed-for age of darkness. Thor battled him as he unleashed the power of the Aether, and Malekith died during the battle.

SAFE HANDS

Because Asgard was already home to the Tesseract, the Asgardians believed the Aether should be kept safe in another location, and they



entrusted it to Taneleer Tivan, otherwise known as the Collector. They did not realise that he secretly had plans to collect all of the Infinity Stones for himself and was already close to getting his hands on the Power Stone.

PREVIOUS WIELDERS OF THE REALITY STONE

Cosmic Entities
Malekith
Bor
Jane Foster
Malekith
Asgard
The Collector

DEADLY POWER

The Aether seeks out a host body and will draw strength from its life force, eventually killing the host. Lesser beings will sicken and die if exposed to it for long. But Malekith was a strong host, so it enhanced his strength, giving him the power to fight Thor on an equal basis. Dark Elves such as Malekith have a special connection to the Aether, which allowed him to survive much longer than most lesser beings.



Far left:
Jane Foster was infested with the Aether.

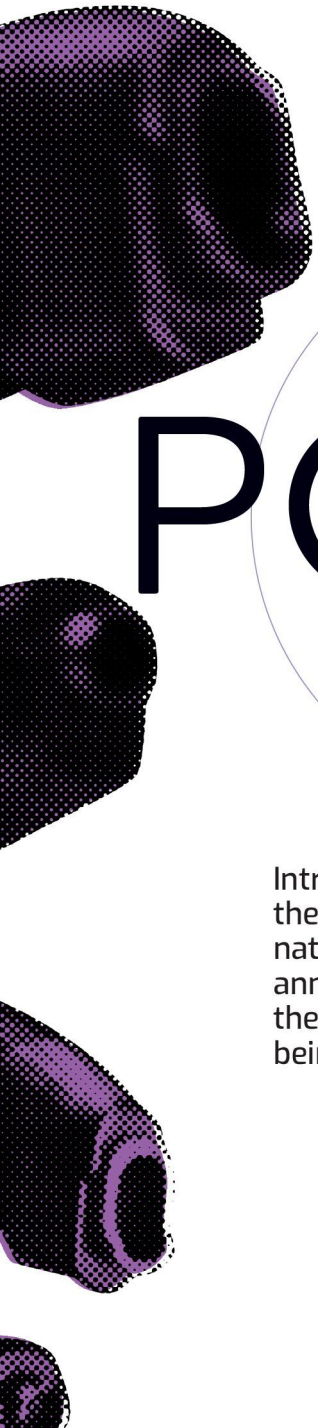
Center top:
Odin, ruler of Asgard.

Center bottom:
The Aether is unleashed into the atmosphere.

Above:
The Dark Elves seek eternal night.

Below:
Malekith.





THE POWER STONE

Introduced in 2014's *Guardians of the Galaxy*, the Power Stone represents the destructive nature of the universe and is capable of annihilating entire planets. It is little wonder then that some of the most dangerous beings in the galaxy have hunted for it.











Above:
Ronan the Accuser.

Center row, top to bottom:
Star-Lord comes face-to-face with the Orb.

The Cosmic Beings attempt to use the Power Stone.

The battle for Xandar.

The Guardians of the Galaxy harness the energy of the Power Stone.

HARNESSING UNLIMITED POWER

Eson the Searcher, a ruthless Celestial, used the Power Stone to destroy an entire planet. His reasons for doing this have never been known, yet it stands as a reminder that power does most certainly corrupt. Since those early days, the Power Stone has also been used by a group of nine Cosmic Beings, who hoped that by linking themselves together they would be able to harness its energy. Tragically, they were mistaken – and the resulting burst of power completely overwhelmed them and led to their almost instantaneous deaths.

After the Cosmic Beings' disastrous attempt to use it ended in failure, the Power Stone was safely contained in a protective orb and sealed within a tomb on the oceanic planet of Morag. This tomb was submerged deep beneath Morag's watery surface for eons but, over the years, the ocean receded, laying bare the temple vault's secret treasure – and eventually, this treasure was sought out and discovered by none other than the cosmic adventurer, Peter Quill, a.k.a. Star-Lord.

Star-Lord was blissfully unaware that Thanos had also become aware of the Power Stone's location and had charged its retrieval to the Kree warlord, Ronan the Accuser. Ronan sent his minion, Korath the Pursuer, to Morag, but he failed to prevent Star-Lord from escaping with the treasure. Needless to say, this did not go down well with the galaxy's most nefarious overlord.



THE POWER UNLEASHED

The danger of the Power Stone was revealed when Star-Lord tried to sell it to Taneleer Tivan, a.k.a. the Collector. With the Orb's casing open, his assistant dared to touch the stone itself, causing an explosion that nearly destroyed them all. Ronan pounced to take the Orb for himself, defying Thanos and placing the Power Stone on his Cosmi-Rod, giving him incredible power.

Ronan then decided to attack the planet Xandar. His own species, the Kree, had a long history of enmity towards the Xandarians, and Ronan had been furious when the two empires had signed a peace treaty. He decided to use the Power Stone to destroy his enemies and the Nova Corps who protected the planet.

He was confronted by the Guardians of the Galaxy, and although he was more powerful than any of them, he became distracted by Star-Lord's dancing, which gave Drax the opportunity to destroy his Cosmi-Rod. As the Power Stone became dislodged, Star-Lord grasped it before Ronan could react.

IN THE HANDS OF FATE

Star-Lord was able to survive the Stone's energy thanks to his team of Guardians, who joined hands with him to distribute the power of the Stone. Quill's half-celestial lineage also played a part in his survival as the Stone's energy was directed at Ronan, killing him instantly.

After the battle, the Power Stone was handed over to the Nova Corps for safekeeping in their headquarters on Xandar.

PREVIOUS WIELDERS OF THE POWER STONE

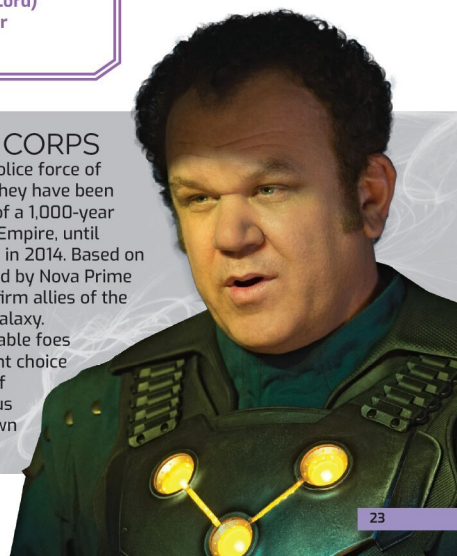
- Cosmic Entities
- Eson the Searcher
- Cosmic Beings
- Peter Quill (Star-Lord)
- Ronan the Accuser
- Nova Corps

Above:
Ronan and Star-Lord race to grab the Power Stone.

Below:
Rhomann Dey of the Nova Corps.

THE NOVA CORPS

The military and police force of the Nova Empire, they have been on the front lines of a 1,000-year war with the Kree Empire, until peace finally came in 2014. Based on Xandar, they are led by Nova Prime and they are now firm allies of the Guardians of the Galaxy. They make formidable foes and are an excellent choice for guarding one of the most dangerous devices in the known universe.







THE TIME STONE

Granting its wielder the ability to control the flow of time on a small or an epic scale, the Time Stone has the power to alter both the past and the future...







Top left:
The ancient Book of Cagliostro, which reveals the secrets of the Eye of Agamotto.

Bottom:
Lost in another dimension.

Right:
Doctor Strange utilizes the Eye of Agamotto.

THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO

Created by Agamotto, the first Sorceror Supreme, the Eye acts as a container for the Time Stone, allowing the user to unleash its power without suffering any terrible consequences. Created in the shape of an eye, the relic can be used only by someone adept at the mystic arts. The Eye itself must be opened before the stone can be used, and to do this, the user must first know the correct spells and gestures required to make it work.

The Eye of Agamotto was housed in Kamar-Taj in Kathmandu, Nepal, the home of The Ancient One and training center for the Masters of the Mystic Arts. It was here that it was found by Doctor Stephen Strange in the movie *Doctor Strange*.

ALTERNATE TIMELINES

Doctor Strange first tested the Eye's power on an apple, reversing and forwarding time on the fruit. He then used it on the Book of Cagliostro, a mystic book that revealed the presence of the Dark Dimension and its powerful overlord, Dormammu. But Doctor Strange stopped using the Eye when Wong and Karl Mordo warned him that he was creating different alternate timelines, something which could potentially destroy the natural order of things. However, Strange was to use the relic once more before too long, as his order, and Earth itself came under attack from Kaecilius, a former student of The Ancient One, who now sought to bring the Dread Dormammu, Lord of the Dark Dimension, to Earth in exchange for real power.

TURN BACK TIME

Strange used the Eye of Agamotto to turn back time after the Hong Kong Sanctum of the Masters of the Mystic Arts was destroyed by Kaecilius and his Zealots. He brought his friend Wong back to life, along with others who had died in the attack, but before he could restore the Sanctum, he was stopped by Kaecilius. Kaecilius told Strange that he could not stop Dormammu entering our world and that the gateway to the Dark Dimension would soon be open.

Strange used the Eye to freeze time and then headed straight into the Dark Dimension, creating a time loop while he tried to negotiate with Dormammu, who simply ignored his offer of peace and destroyed him with ease.

Before Dormammu could return his thoughts to the conquest of Earth, Strange reappeared and repeated his offer. Dormammu was confused and demanded to know what was happening. Strange explained that he had trapped them both in a time loop without end and that events would repeat until Dormammu agreed to listen to him.

AN ETERNITY OF PAIN

In his rage, Dormammu killed Strange again and again and again. He promised Strange an eternity of pain and anguish as he attempted to get his adversary to break the loop in time. Strange replied that it was a price worth paying, if it would protect the lives of everyone on Earth.



The Dark Dimension is a realm where time does not exist. This left Dormammu powerless to stop Strange, or to break the loop. In the end, exhausted, Dormammu relented and asked Strange what it was that he wanted.

In exchange for breaking the time loop, Doctor Strange made Dormammu swear never to return to Earth and to take the Zealots with him. Dormammu had no option but to accept these terms and surrender. The Time Stone had saved Earth from the horrors of the Dark Dimension. Doctor Strange then returned to Hong Kong, moments before his departure. Kaecilius was surprised and then horrified, when he learned that his foe had entered into a bargain with Dormammu. He barely had time to react before Dormammu turned Kaecilius and his Zealots into Mindless Ones and took them with him to the Dark Dimension.

DANGEROUS

Having used the Time Stone to restore Hong Kong to its natural state from before the attack, Strange decided he was not ready to wear the Eye of Agamotto and he returned it to Kamar-Taj. It was then that Wong revealed to him that the Eye was in fact an Infinity Stone and that overusing such a relic was incredibly dangerous. Whether the Eye is permanently in Kamar-Taj these days is unknown, for Doctor Strange appeared to be wearing the relic when he encountered Thor and Loki in *Thor: Ragnarok*.

PREVIOUS WIELDERS OF THE TIME STONE

Cosmic Entities
Agamotto
Cagliostro
Sorcerors Supreme - The Eye of Agamotto is passed down to each successive Sorceror Supreme. Therefore, the previous owner of the Eye was The Ancient One.

Above:
Doctor Strange puts his mystic training into practice.

Below:
The Eye of Agamotto.

OPEN THE EYE

Agamotto established the Sanctums and the Eye of Agamotto, which was created to contain the energy of the Time Stone, was named after him.





THE SOUL STONE AND INFINITY GAUNTLET

The most mysterious of all the Infinity Stones; its present location and past history remains unknown. One thing alone is clear: Thanos is searching for it to complete his quest and become the most powerful being in the galaxy. In order to fully utilize the power of the stones, Thanos will need his most prized possession, the Infinity Gauntlet...







INFINITE POWER

Capable of channeling the full power of the Infinity Stones, the Infinity Gauntlet is one of the most dangerous artifacts in the universe. Join us as we pool our knowledge and find out all there is to know about this glove of doom.

This left-handed gauntlet grants the wearer infinite power over reality, if it is fully charged with all six Infinity Stones. Thanos is unaccustomed to not getting what he wants immediately, and so, after being let down by Ronan the Accuser and Loki, he decided that if you want a job done properly, then you should really do it yourself. He has retrieved the precious Infinity Gauntlet from his vault in preparation for tracking down the stones.

Of course, we all know by now that to safely use the Infiinity Stones, they need to be housed in some form of device, such as the Tesseract or the Eye of Agamotto. The beauty of the gauntlet is that it allows the wearer to hold and use all of the stones with one hand, rather than leaving the wielder laden down with scepters, relics, cubes and everything else.







Top left to right:
Loki wielded the Mind Stone in his scepter.

Ronan the Accuser stole the Power Stone.

Hela dismissed the Asgardian right-handed Infinity Gauntlet as a fake.

Bottom center:
Thanos aims to fill each socket on his Infinity Gauntlet with Infinity Stones.

THE PATH TO INFINITY WAR

It's time for a look back over all the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies, to check out the major events and players in the build-up to *Avengers: Infinity War*...

WARNING!
For fans who haven't caught up with past Marvel Studios movies, this section does contain spoilers!



IRON MAN *(2008)*

Billionaire weapons industrialist and genius inventor, Tony Stark, is kidnapped and forced to build a devastating weapon. Instead, using his intelligence and ingenuity, Tony builds a high-tech suit of armor and escapes captivity. When he uncovers a nefarious plot with global implications, he dons his powerful armor and vows to protect the world as Iron Man.

- **First appearances of Iron Man/Tony Stark, Pepper Potts, Happy Hogan, Jim Rhodes, Nick Fury, Agent Coulson, JARVIS**
- **First post-credits scene**
- **First mention of S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Avengers**



THE INCREDIBLE HULK *(2008)*

Scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Incredible Hulk.

- **First appearances of The Hulk/Bruce Banner, General Ross**
- **First cameo by another hero (Iron Man)**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Poisoned bottle drinker**



IRON MAN 2 *(2010)*

With the world now aware that he is Iron Man, billionaire inventor Tony Stark faces pressure from all sides to share his technology with the military. He is reluctant to divulge the secrets of his armor, fearing the information will fall into the wrong hands. Tony is forced to forge new alliances as he confronts a powerful new enemy.

- **First appearances of Black Widow/Natasha Romanoff, Howard Stark**
- **Thor's hammer revealed in post-credits scene**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Larry King look-alike**



THOR *(2011)*

After his reckless actions reignite an ancient war, Thor is stripped of his powers and cast down to Earth from Asgard, to live among humans as a punishment. Thor learns what it takes to be a true hero when Asgard's most dangerous villain sends dark forces to invade Earth.

- **First appearances of Thor, Loki, Hawkeye/Clint Barton, Jane Foster, Odin, Selvig, Heimdall**
- **First appearance of Tesseract / Space Stone (out of view) in post-credits scene**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Truck driver**

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER *(2011)*

Marvel's *Captain America: The First Avenger* focuses on the early days of the Marvel Universe when Steve Rogers volunteers to participate in an experimental program that turns him into the Super Soldier known as Captain America.

- **First appearances of Captain America/ Steve Rogers, Agent Peggy Carter, Bucky Barnes, Arnim Zola**
- **First appearance of Hydra**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Military general**





THE AVENGERS *(2012)*

When an unexpected enemy emerges that threatens global safety and security, Nick Fury, Director of the international peacekeeping agency, S.H.I.E.L.D., finds himself in need of a team to pull the world back from the brink of disaster. Spanning the globe, a daring recruitment effort begins.

- **First appearances of Thanos, Maria Hill**
- **First appearance of Loki's Scepter/Mind Stone**
- **First mid-credits scene**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Man playing chess**



Stan Lee cameo: Hugh Hefner lookalike

IRON MAN 3 *(2013)*

When Tony Stark finds his personal world destroyed , he embarks on a harrowing quest to find those responsible. With his back against the wall, Stark fights his way back and discovers the answer to the question that has secretly haunted him: does the man make the suit or does the suit make the man?

- **Jim Rhodes becomes Iron Patriot (temporarily)**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Beauty pageant judge**





THOR: THE DARK WORLD *(2013)*

When an ancient race led by the vengeful Malekith returns to plunge the universe back into darkness, Thor must embark on his most perilous and personal journey yet, one that will force him to sacrifice everything to save us all.

- **First appearance of the Aether / Reality Stone**
- **First appearance of The Collector/Tanaleer Tivan in mid-credits scene**
- **First use of phrase "Infinity Stones"**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Mental patient**



CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER *(2014)*

Joining forces with the Black Widow, Captain America struggles to expose an ever widening conspiracy that threatens to put the world at risk. Enlisting the help of a new ally, the Falcon, they soon find themselves up against an unexpected and formidable enemy -- the Winter Soldier.

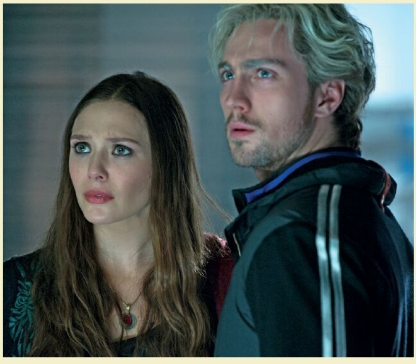
- **First appearances of Falcon/Sam Wilson, Agent 13/Sharon Carter**
- **First appearances of Quicksilver/Pietro Maximoff and Scarlet Witch/Wanda Maximoff in mid-credits scene**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Security guard**

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY *(2014)*

When Peter Quill finds himself the object of an unrelenting bounty hunt after stealing a mysterious orb, he is forced into an uneasy alliance with a quartet of disparate misfits. When the true power of the Orb is revealed he has to rally the team for a last, desperate stand, with the galaxy's fate in the balance.

- **First appearances of Star-Lord/Peter Quill, Gamora, Rocket, Drax, Groot, Nebula, Yondu**
- **First appearance of the Orb/Power Stone**
- **First explanation of the Infinity Stones' history**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Ladies' man on Xandar**





AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON *(2015)*

When Tony Stark tries to jumpstart a dormant peacekeeping program, things go awry and Earth's Mightiest Heroes are put to the ultimate test as the fate of the planet hangs in the balance. As the villainous Ultron emerges, the Avengers have to stop him from enacting his terrible plans.

- **First appearances of the Vision, Ulysses Klaue**
- **Death of Quicksilver**
- **First appearance of the Infinity Gauntlet in mid-credits scene**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Military veteran**



ANT-MAN *(2015)*

Armed with the astonishing ability to shrink in size, master thief Scott Lang must embrace his inner hero and help his mentor, Doctor Hank Pym, protect the secret behind his Ant-Man suit from a new generation of towering threats and pull off a heist that will save the world.

- **First appearances of Ant-Man II/Scott Lang, Hope van Dyne, Ant-Man I/Hank Pym**
- **Cameo appearances by Falcon, Howard Stark and Peggy Carter**
- **Scene from *Captain America: Civil War* featuring Captain America, Winter Soldier and Falcon shown post-credits**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Bartender**

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR *(2016)*

After an incident involving the Avengers results in collateral damage, political pressure mounts to install a system of accountability. The plans fracture the Avengers into two camps, one led by Steve Rogers, who believes the team must be free from government interference, and the other led by Tony Stark.

- **First appearances of Black Panther/ T'Challa, Peter Parker/Spider-Man, Helmut Zemo, Everett Ross, Ayo**
- **Death of Peggy Carter**
- **Stan Lee cameo: FedEx driver**



DOCTOR STRANGE *(2016)*

Neurosurgeon, Stephen Strange is robbed of the use of his hands in a horrific car accident. When traditional medicine fails him, he travels to Kamar-Taj where he learns that this is not just a center for healing, but also the frontline of a battle against unseen forces bent on destroying our reality. Before long, Strange is called upon to defend the world as the most powerful sorcerer in existence.

- **First appearances of Doctor Strange, The Ancient One, Karl Mordo, Wong**
- **Scene from *Thor: Ragnarok* featuring Thor and Loki meeting Doctor Strange shown mid-credits**
- **First appearance of Eye of Agamotto/ Time Stone**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Bus passenger**





GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 *(2017)*

The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family together as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage. Old foes become new allies as the Marvel Cinematic Universe continues to expand.

- **First appearances of Mantis, Ayesha, Stakar**
- **Death of Yondu**
- **Ayesha reveals Adam in mid-credits scene**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Watcher Informant**



THOR: RAGNAROK *(2017)*

Thor is imprisoned at the other end of the universe and finds himself in a race against time to get back to Asgard and stop Ragnarok – the destruction of his homeworld and Asgardian civilization, at the hands of a new threat, the ruthless Hela. But first he must survive a deadly gladiatorial contest that pits him against his fellow Avenger, the Hulk.

- **First appearances of Hela, Grandmaster, Valkyrie**
- **Death of Odin**
- **Stan Lee cameo: Hairdresser**

WAR IS COMING...

We all know that Thanos is about to wage war across the galaxy in his search for the Infinity Stones, but here are just a few other things we can look forward to seeing in *Avengers: Infinity War*...



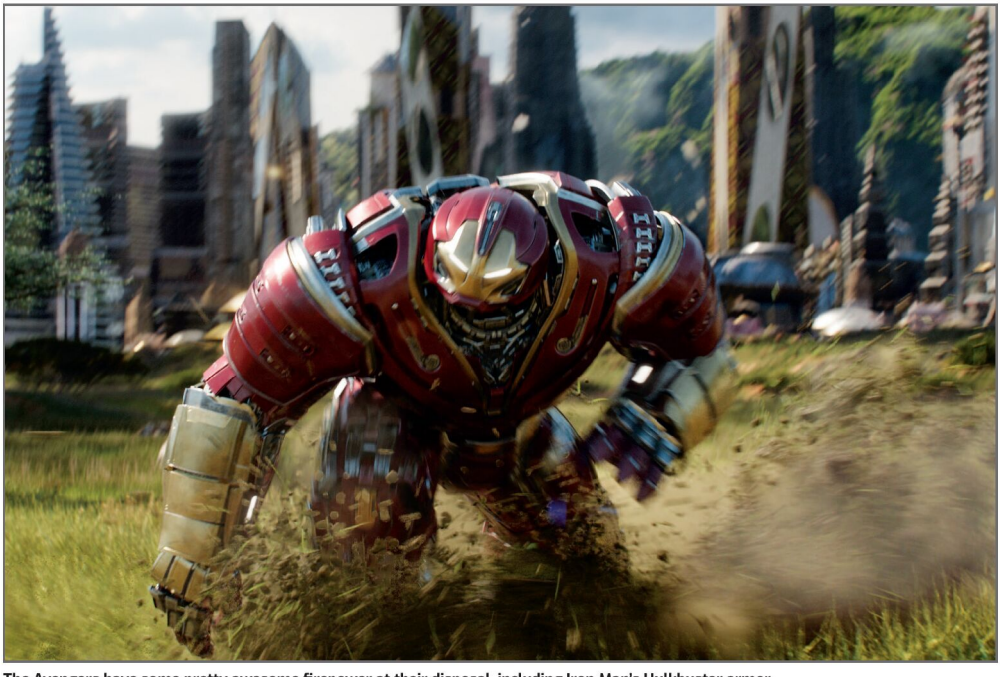
The Avengers won't be alone, they'll be joined by the Guardians of the Galaxy...



... and everybody's favorite wall-crawler, Spider-Man.



Doctor Strange and Wong will find themselves firmly in the firing line too...



The Avengers have some pretty awesome firepower at their disposal, including Iron Man's Hulkbuster armor.



We'll also be seeing a more human side to the Vision, the synthezoid Avenger...



...and taking a trip with Falcon to Wakanda to fight off an alien invasion.



A battle-weary Cap just doesn't know how to quit.



Covering all forms of energy manipulation, Stark and Strange are more than a match for anyone.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

The Directors behind *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and *Captain America: Civil War* are back at the helm for Marvel's biggest movie yet. It's time to settle down in front of the directors' chairs and get a glimpse of what is coming up in *Avengers: Infinity War*...



What did you enjoy most about making Infinity War?

Anthony Russo: Josh Brolin and Thanos. Discovering the strength of that character and how formidable and effective he is against the Avengers, in a way that no other villain has ever been. Watching him shred through them in a way that we've never experienced before was fresh and surprising. Joe and I always go for writing yourself into a corner, and he's that kind of villain who puts you into a corner because you're not sure how to get out of the places that character traps you in. That was surprising, seeing what he does to the alchemy of the narrative and the cast.

So what did Josh Brolin bring to the role of Thanos?

Joe Russo: He's an incredible actor. We've had an amazing experience working with Josh. He's brought great dimensionality to the character, intensity, wit, sociopathy. Sometimes we film these scenes and I'm not sure how the audience is going to take it because the character is so intense and some of his actions are so despicable. I mean, they are hard to film, so I imagine they are gonna be hard to watch. But that was the mission with the character. We had to make him as villainous as we could and present the greatest challenge to the heroes that we could.





Top:
Joe Russo calls the shots on set.

Left:
Final preparations underway before shooting commences on the set of Avengers: Infinity Wars.

Can you tell us a little about the epic nature of *Infinity War*?
Joe Russo: Well, if the first ten years of Marvel films were a book, then this is the final chapters of that book. So this and *Avengers 4* brings to a head and closes everything that took place in the first three phases of Marvel. And it also starts a new beginning for phase four.

The emotional stakes in this film are dramatic. The universe is at stake. This is really the greatest test these characters will ever face. And they can barely face it together, that's how significant a test this is. That's how powerful Thanos is. That's how angry he is. And they are all trying to hold it together and work together. They have one chance to try and beat him and... well, we'll see if they can pull it off, or not.



Tell us a little about working with such a huge cast.
Anthony Russo: As fans of the comics and as fans of the movies, just seeing the interaction between all the different franchises, pulling characters together, seeing their chemistry play out, seeing the way they respond to each other, seeing these great actors. Seeing some of the biggest movie



stars in the world interacting from their different franchises is very exciting and lots of fun to shoot.

Joe Russo: We say it's like *The Towering Inferno* meets *The Poseidon Adventure*. The amount of movie stars in this film is unbelievable. I don't know if there are any other movies being made anywhere else at the moment, because it seems that everybody in the business is working their way through this film at some point. And what's so exciting about it is the scope and scale. It's a new form of storytelling and it hasn't been tried before. It's hard to find a template that you can point to that has this many characters. That's what excites us both so much. It's new territory. It's new ground. And it's been built upon ten years of emotional investment from the audience.

All the characters have a different look in this film. Can you tell us about that?
Anthony Russo: Yeah, well, even on top of time passing, a lot has happened to these characters in between the movies. Cap, Natasha, Falcon and Wanda have been living off the grid, so to speak. They've been on the run from the US government and some other governments in the world, so they've been living like guerilla warriors.





Far left:
Chris Evans as Captain America has been living off the grid.

Left:
Behind the scenes as Josh Brolin's Thanos overpowers Chris Hemsworth's Thor and speaks with Tom Hiddleston as Loki.

Below left:
Benedict Wong as Wong, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Mark Ruffalo as Bruce Banner and Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark.

GODS AND GUARDIANS

The long awaited meeting of the Guardians and the Avengers is at hand, so let's catch up with two of the leading lights from both teams, Chris Hemsworth, the man behind Thor, and Chris Pratt, the actor responsible for Peter Quill, the always awesome Star-Lord...



How do Star-Lord and Thor interact in *Infinity War*?
Chris Pratt: There's definitely conflict. Star-Lord, or Peter Quill, is very insecure around Thor. For many reasons, but having something to do with his handsomeness and supercool buffness and how my whole crew kind of gravitates toward him as their new leader possibly. So, it hurts my feelings, and I, out of insecurity, I have to try and one-up him in everything.

What does Thor think of Star-Lord?
Chris Hemsworth: He doesn't think a whole lot of him because of the way Star-Lord immediately reacts to Thor's intimacy.

Chris Pratt: I don't think Thor even notices Quill's there. Which is hard for Quill.

Chris Hemsworth: Yeah, he's like a little buzzing fly. A little distracting. But then he starts to irritate Thor a little bit. But he just kind of brushes him off and carries on doing his thing, because he assumes that Rocket is in charge. That Rocket is the leader.

What does Thor think of Rocket?
Chris Hemsworth: At first Rocket doesn't really care to any great degree, but as soon as Thor gives him a compliment and assumes he's the





Above:
Star-Lord may have a new music player, but will he have to dance to Thor's tune?

Top right:
The hair might have gone, but Thor still wields the power of gods.

only one with a brain and assumes he's the captain, then Rocket starts thinking to himself, 'oh, hang on, this could be cool.'

Chris Pratt: And there's been this ongoing thing with the character of Rocket through all the movies, that if anyone calls him a raccoon or a squirrel or,,, I think I call him a trash panda... he doesn't like to be called anything, because he feels he's unique and he's not a raccoon. And it gets him really mad when anyone calls him a little animal, cause he feels like he's a little person. So, when Thor says 'the rabbit is right' and Rocket doesn't seem to care, it's a little conflicting. I think that deep down, there's a certain bro crush he may have on Thor.

Chris Hemsworth: He's busy thinking to himself, 'he called me a rabbit, but he also said I'm right. And then he said I'm clever.'

Chris Pratt: Now he thinks I'm captain.

Chris Hemsworth: He thinks I'm the captain? Ah, he can call me whatever he wants.

How much fun is it, bringing these characters together?

Chris Pratt: I've heard a lot of great things about the entire cast of the Avengers. I had gotten to know some of them before but we had never really got to know each other. So I was really thrilled and excited when I read that our stuff was going to be together in the movie.



If you had a fight, who would win?
Chris Pratt: Thor's a god. He would crush Star-Lord. Hopefully, though, I could trick him somehow. I could get lucky and Rocket would save the day or something. But really I think there would probably be no contest.

Chris Hemsworth: I don't know, Thor's a little vulnerable at this point, though. He's limping around the ship. And he's lost his hammer and he's a little shaken up.

Chris Pratt: Anyway, it's a trick question. We'd never fight, 'cause we're best friends.

Chris Hemsworth: That's right. Best friends. They don't fight.

What are you looking forward to in this movie?
Chris Hemsworth: It's pretty cool. I feel like a fan. This idea is just so awesome. It's like there's, what, 76 Super Heroes in it or something? It's insane. So, for me, it's a real treat. I feel like a fan boy with all of this experience and this shoot. I just want to see the movie when it's put together, 'cause I've only read my bit. I was only given my handful of pages. So, I don't even know what the film's about, really.

Chris Pratt: It's true. I know during press interviews for Guardians I would keep getting questions like 'are they ever gonna meet up?' I know there's this real hunger for the audience to see this happen. And I share that. I really do. I'm really looking forward to delivering that. I think people are going to be really excited. And it's likely to be the biggest spectacle film of all time, really. It's going to be epic.

Would Star-Lord welcome Thor into the Guardians?
Chris Pratt: It's a tough question. I would definitely welcome it because as an actor it's really fun to have conflict to play. But would Quill welcome him? I think maybe not.

Chris Hemsworth: Yeah, I mean do they get along or... what is it that rubs them up the wrong way? I think they kind of got off on the wrong foot.

Chris Pratt: Which is really the foundation for every great friendship I have in my real life. Like the first time you meet someone you kinda hate them, but then after some time passes, you're like best friends. So, I think it's a good sign that the characters got off on the wrong foot really.

Chris Hemsworth: Yeah, but us on the other hand ...in real life...

Chris Pratt: Yeah, it's a bad sign that we like each other immediately, 'cause soon we're gonna freaking hate each other.

Chris Hemsworth: We're just destined to hate each other.

SEASON OF THE WITCH

Elizabeth Olsen gives us the lowdown on the evolution of Wanda Maximoff and clues us in on what surprises we can expect from the Scarlet Witch in *Avengers: Infinity War*...



This page: **Wanda and Vision have been meeting in secret.**

Opposite page: **The Scarlet Witch's powers have yet to peak.**

Can you tell us how your character has evolved?

When we started back in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, her movements were a lot smaller. Then as she grew more powerful we created more spell-like, larger movements. Then as she became an Avenger, she started training with Natasha, the Black Widow, and she's started incorporating her fighting style. She's now great at hand-to-hand combat, but with Wanda's powers as opposed to a shield or a hammer or a super-strong fist.

So what new things will we see with Wanda Maximoff?

It's really in her fighting skills. You will see a lot of moves that are reflective of Natasha, the Black Widow. Before she would just kind of help out from a distance. It wasn't something that was really close. So now she can fight the way all the other characters have been fighting.



LIFE, DEATH AND SACRIFICE

Chadwick Boseman tells us why T'Challa, the Black Panther, opens up the borders of Wakanda and prepares to fight alongside the Avengers...

Is it true that Wakanda is a driving force through the plot of this movie?
Yeah. I think what's great is that we were able to establish a culture in *Black Panther* and build on *Civil War*. We established this whole world. So what was beautiful about it is that there was only two weeks between shooting *Panther* and then going into *Infinity War*. And it wasn't just me that still had that energy. It was Danai Gurira, Letitia Wright, and the stunt people who knew what we had done and had that same feeling. They knew the movements and what we had established. And we were able to bring that culture into this movie.

Can you tell us about T'Challa's relationship with Captain America?
I think there's a similarity in them and that they ultimately want good for others, and they're willing to fight for it. So there is a camaraderie there. I think Cap opens a door in T'Challa's heart. It opens a place where he can trust outsiders who don't come from Wakanda. What has been great about the way the character has been handled and the way Wakanda has been handled is that T'Challa's not necessarily trying to fit into the Avengers. It's in the fact that the Avengers are coming into his world. So this space has opened up because Wakanda exists and because he's made it known that it exists that the Avengers can come into it. So he's not like a sidekick. He's not just another cog in the wheel. We get to see what Wakanda can bring to the Avengers.

How does T'Challa feel about Thanos?
T'Challa knows that if we don't fight, the whole world is in danger. This is that big a threat. It's not a time where we can close our borders and say we're safe, because the whole world is gonna be affected by Thanos and his crew. We all cease to exist if he wins.

What will audiences connect to in *Avengers: Infinity War*?
I think people will enjoy seeing how the worlds clash. It's epic and it's classical. I feel like all these characters are mythological in lots of ways. I think people are definitely going to enjoy all of that. They are going to love it.

Top right: **T'Challa strikes a pose.**

Bottom left: **Captain America consults with T'Challa in *Avengers: Infinity War***

Bottom right: **The king listens to the council of Okoye, head of Wakanda's armed forces.**







BANNER REBORN

Mark Ruffalo tells us about the evolution of Bruce Banner and his emerald alter ego, the Hulk...

Where do we find Bruce Banner in this movie?
Banner is no longer linked to the Hulk through anger. I feel like Banner's reborn. He's like a 13-year-old kid. He's more able to express himself. I'm excited by the idea of reinventing Banner and reinventing Hulk.

How is Banner's relationship with Tony Stark?
They'll always be bros. They pick up where they left off. Banner in this film is like *Chicken Little*. He has seen the amount of destruction that is coming toward them and they don't quite understand what he knows. He's trying to convince everybody and I don't think they understand. He gets frustrated with Tony in a way that he's never been. Although there is this kind of antagonistic quality between the two of them as well. But now Bruce is much more reactionary than anything we've seen before, but there's still that connection between them that will never go away.

What do you think makes the Marvel brand so successful?
There's such a built-in audience that taps into several generations of comic book fans. And I also think we're hard-wired for mythology. We want to see gods and monsters working out the problems of humanity. So it's really able to transcend all kinds of cultural divides. And it doesn't get old. When you look at *Guardians of the Galaxy* against *Avengers* against *Civil War* against *Thor: Ragnarok*, they're each completely their own separate things, but what's so beautiful about these movies and this movie in particular, is that you're bringing the mish-mash of all these different worlds together, colliding them into one story. And that's exciting.



This page:
Science and magic – Strange, Stark and Banner make a formidable force, combined.

Opposite page:
Banner has evolved since his first outing as an Avenger.



TRYING TO FIX THE UNIVERSE

Join us as we speak to Josh Brolin about breathing life into the deadliest threat the universe has ever faced...

Thanos is probably the biggest character in the universe. What did you want to inject into the character?

Complexities or something like that. But that's the thing. I'm doing two things at once. I'm getting used to a certain style of acting that I don't know. I spoke with Mark Ruffalo about it and he told me that when he did the first movie, it was really uncomfortable and embarrassing. He told me about walking around with these dots and this thing on his head. He's supposed to be that tall, but he's only this tall. And everybody's looking up there, and it's totally and completely unfamiliar. But then he saw the movie when it came out and from then on he was willing to do anything, wear a diaper, a thong, it didn't matter. He said it was so cool. So that's what got me ultimately. But it was strange getting used to it. Not being able to remember lines because of being so distracted. And it's not that I'm an easily distractible guy, but everything was brand-new. Everything was newborn. So when I started to get into it, I think that there was a natural vulnerability that I felt.

I think we found some colors. The Russo brothers are great at it. Thanos sees this universal big picture, and as you start to follow his logic, the logic makes sense. It's like what is he doing it for? Is he doing this to save the other half? Is that justifiable? Thanos reminds me of Brando in *Apocalypse Now.* That's the closest character I can think of, *Kurtz.*



This page:
Motion capture and CGI come together to create Thanos.

Opposite page top:
The Power of Thanos grows with every gem he acquires.

Opposite page bottom:
Brolin comes to grips with the CGI side of acting.







Above:
A head for heights – Tom Hiddleston gets used to the scale of Thanos.

Can you give us a brief overview of Thanos in *Infinity War*?
The Infinity Stones is what he's going for. He's going for all power. He's kind of under the auspices of trying to fix the universe. He's trying to balance the cosmos. And by doing that he's having to destroy a lot of things. And of course, there's something else that's feeding him and doing this, and that's what's fun, trying to figure out what it is, because you go back and forth with kind of understanding his conviction and what he's trying to do and what might be motivating it. You know it's so personal, and then it's outside personal. Then it becomes personal again. That, for us, is what's been fun about the character.

Talk about his relationship with Gamora.
There's a lot of contention there. A lot of strife. But also a lot of love because he did raise her. He treats her like his most precious, prized daughter, even though she's not practically his daughter.

The way he views love is interesting.
Yes, you keep getting reminded that he's human, that he does have a heart and that he's empathetic and that you can be empathetic toward him. Then, suddenly you realize that he's the worst villain who ever existed, because he's willing to go to any lengths in order to accomplish his vision.

What has been your favorite thing about making these films?
It's gonna sound so lame, but every time I come back here it always feels like I'm coming home. It's a family. And everybody's idea is valid. Everybody is listened to. It's a great crew. I have a good time wherever I go. But I'm kind of behind that. I'm a little curmudgeonly, you know? And I've been doing this for a long time. So... it's not always good. This one is really good. It's the right collective, man. This feels just like a theatre troupe got together.


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