

Bruce Wayne: Family History

A family trip to the movies ended in tragedy for young Bruce Wayne. Walking home, Bruce, his father, Thomas, and mother, Martha, accidentally walked into Gotham City's notorious "Crime Alley" and were attacked by a mugger. Not content merely to rob the wealthy family, the thief – whose identity was "never determined" – also shot Dr. Thomas and Martha Wayne dead before fleeing into the darkness. As he sat beside his parent's bodies, Bruce swore to avenge them. After the police arrived, Bruce was comforted by Alfred Pennyworth, who decided to help raise Bruce.

When he was 14, Bruce began a journey that took him to every continent as he tried to learn all the skills he would need to keep his vow. He studied criminology, forensics, and criminal psychology, and learned from martial artists, mastering every fighting style. In time, Bruce turned himself into a living weapon so he could wage war on crime and injustice. On his return to Gotham, Bruce stalked street thugs, but he was beaten by the very people he intended to protect, and he barely survived his first night out. As he sat bleeding back at his father's huge house, Wayne Manor, Bruce knew that he had to first strike fear in the hearts of his enemies. Just then, a bat crashed through the study window, giving Bruce the inspiration he needed.

Batman Begins □

Bruce established a secret headquarters in the caves beneath his mansion. There, he became Batman, a Dark Knight to protect Gotham and its citizens from crime and evil. Alfred Pennyworth remained his confidant, taking care of his injuries and offering sage advice – whether requested or not!

Batman became an urban legend, a cautionary tale that sent shivers through the city's underworld. This "Caped Crusader"

found a friend in Captain James Gordon, a Gotham cop who didn't approve of Batman's methods, but appreciated the results of his nightly crime fighting. As his enemies increased, help arrived in the form of another young boy left parentless by brutal crime, who would become his sidekick Robin.

Batman does not have superpowers, but his uniform is bulletproof and fire resistant. He also wears a utility belt with an arsenal of crime-fighting gear and weapons. Batman uses a variety of detective gadgets, including tiny micro-computers and crime scene analysis kits; and he maintains a fleet of high-tech and high-powered vehicles, including the Bat-mobile, Bat-cycle, Bat-boat, Bat-plane and Bat-copter. In his Batcave headquarters, there are training facilities, forensics laboratories, computer databases, and maintenance bays for all Bat-vehicles.
