

Level Up Your Hero: Designing a New Super Mario Character!

It's-a Me, Learning Time! (Introduction - 10 minutes)

Hey there, Super Star! We all love playing Super Mario games, right? But have you ever thought about what makes characters like Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach, or even Bowser so memorable? Today, we're going on an adventure to explore the heroes (and villains!) of the Mushroom Kingdom and then design our VERY OWN Super Mario character!

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It:

- Explore what makes Super Mario characters special.
- Invent a brand-new character to join the Super Mario crew!

Power-Up 1: Character Investigation! (Analyze Existing Characters - 20 minutes)

Let's become Super Mario detectives! Think about some famous characters. For each one, consider:

- **Looks:** What do they wear? What colors are they known for? Any special features (Mario's mustache, Yoshi's tongue)?
- **Personality:** Are they brave, shy, grumpy, helpful? How do they act?
- **Abilities:** What can they do? (Jump high, breathe fire, throw hammers, float). How do these abilities help them (or cause trouble) in the games?
- **Role:** Are they a hero, a villain, a sidekick, a helper?

Your Task: Choose 2-3 of your favorite Super Mario characters. On a piece of paper, jot down notes about their looks, personality, abilities, and role. You can draw little sketches too!

Example - Mario:

- *Looks: Red cap and shirt, blue overalls, brown hair, mustache.*
- *Personality: Brave, determined, friendly, heroic.*
- *Abilities: Excellent jumper, uses power-ups (Super Mushroom, Fire Flower, Super Star).*
- *Role: Main hero, rescuer of Princess Peach.*

Power-Up 2: Brainstorm Bonanza! (Generating Ideas - 15 minutes)

Now that we're experts on existing characters, it's time to dream up a NEW one! Let's get those creative Goombas... I mean, gears... turning!

Think about:

- **What kind of character is missing?** Is there an animal, a type of friendly monster, or a new kind of human character you'd like to see?
- **What cool new power-up or ability could they have?** Maybe they can shrink, or talk to

plants, or use musical powers?

- **Would they be a hero, a villain, a helper, or something else entirely?**
- **What's their name?** Try to make it catchy and fit the Super Mario style!

Jot down any ideas that pop into your head. Don't worry about making them perfect yet – this is all about brainstorming!

Power-Up 3: Create-a-Character Workshop! (Design Your Character - 30-45 minutes)

Alright, superstar designer! It's time to bring your character to life! Grab your art supplies.

Your Character Profile Sheet should include:

1. **Character Name:** _____
2. **Drawing:** Draw your character! Show off their outfit, colors, and any special features.
3. **Species/Type:** (e.g., Human, Toad, Koopa, new species?) _____
4. **Appearance Description:** Describe their looks in a few sentences. What are their key features?
5. **Personality:** What are they like? (e.g., curious, brave, mischievous, calm)
6. **Special Abilities/Powers:** List at least two unique things your character can do. How do these powers work? (e.g., "Can create temporary bouncy platforms," "Can sing a song to make enemies drowsy.")
7. **Backstory (a short one!):** Where do they come from? How did they get their powers? Why are they in the Mushroom Kingdom?
8. **Role in a Super Mario Game:** How would they help Mario? Would they be a new friend, a rival, or maybe even a boss that later becomes an ally? How would their abilities affect gameplay?

Take your time and have fun with it! Make your character as unique and interesting as possible.

Course Clear! Show and Tell! (Sharing and Reflection - 10-15 minutes)

Woo-hoo! You've designed an awesome new character! Now's your chance to share your creation.

- Tell me all about your character: their name, abilities, and backstory.
- Explain your design choices – why did you give them those colors, powers, or that personality?
- How do you think your character would change a Super Mario game if they were in it?

Bonus Challenge (Optional): Think about a special level that would be perfect for your new character to star in! What would it look like? What challenges would be there that use their unique abilities?

Great job today, game designer! You've shown incredible creativity. Maybe one day we'll see your character jumping alongside Mario!