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## Those damned yanks the Simpsons.

The Simpson have made a massive impact on popular culture. Everywhere you go, you find Simpsons stuff for sale. In 2000 The Simpsons received their own star on the Hollywood walk of fame.

It was created in 1987, as a 30- second cartoon. In 1990 The Simpsons appeared as a half- hour weekly series. "The Simpsons isn't just an ordinary cartoon for kids", says its creator, Matt Groening.

## Who are the Simpsons?

**Homer:** He is the father of the family and he loves television, donuts and his sofa. He's not always very supportive and understanding, but he's got a heart of gold. Homer Simpson was abandoned by his hippy mother and raised by his father.

Marge: Marge is the mother, and the family's support system. She goes a little crazy from time to time but she's soon happy again. Marge is a tough lady and an ex-police officer as well.

**Bart:** He's ten and the oldest of the Simpson children. Bart's a troublemaker who likes photographing himself naked.

**Lisa:** She's the most intelligent of the Simpson family although she's only eight years old. She dreams of going to college and becoming the President of the United States. She likes reading and playing the saxophone.

Maggie: Baby Maggie hasn't said one word in the history of the programme. However, at the age of one, she did shoot the evil Mr. Burns for trying to steal her lollipop (Mr. Burns is the owner of the nuclear power plant where Homer works).

People who defend The Simpsons say that the show has an affirmative side. Paul Cantor (University of Virginia) says that the show promotes traditional family values, such as devotion, love and respect.

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