






NO STONES UNTURNED

It has come down to this, 18 films later. Awaiting the Avengers is Thanos himself, revealed in the first Avengers movie as the big baddie biding his time. He is in pursuit of the mythical Infinity Stones, six immensely powerful objects he needs to wipe out half the universe. Five have been revealed so far throughout the Marvel cinematic universe, with the last one still a mystery. The Straits Times gives you a rundown before the movie opens on April 25

COLLECT 'EM ALL

The six Infinity Stones Thanos needs to 'power up' the mass destruction weapon Infinity Gauntlet

 <p>SOUL STONE Little is known of this stone so far</p>	 <p>REALITY STONE Aether</p> <p>Powers Ability to convert matter into dark matter, altering reality and restoring body parts of its user. It revives the dead too.</p> <p>Last known locale Thor, God of Thunder, sent it for safekeeping with The Collector – keeper of the largest collection of interstellar relics in the galaxy.</p>	 <p>MIND STONE Sceptre</p> <p>Powers A mind-control stone that grants extraordinary abilities to people and bestows infinite knowledge on them.</p> <p>Last known locale Once contained within the Sceptre, it is now embedded in the forehead of Vision.</p>	 <p>SPACE STONE Tesseract</p> <p>Powers The source of infinite energy, the stone opens up interdimensional portals – warping the fabric of time.</p> <p>Last known locale Loki takes the Tesseract when Asgard is destroyed.</p>	 <p>POWER STONE Orb</p> <p>Powers Found within the Orb, the stone grants cosmic power to its user, giving the user great strength and durability, and the ability to 'project' energy.</p> <p>Last known locale The Orb is locked away at the headquarters of Nova Corp, an intergalactic military and police force.</p>
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TIME STONE
Eye of Agamotto

Powers
It can be used to reverse or speed up time and trap people in a time loop.

Last known locale
At the end of the Doctor Strange movie, the Eye was returned to the New York Sanctum Sanctorum.



THOR (2011)
Thanos enlisted Loki, Thor's adoptive brother, to help retrieve the Tesseract (Space Stone). To aid him, he gave him a sceptre that housed the Mind Stone.

WHO IS THANOS?

Thanos belongs to an extinct race of god-like beings from the planet Titan. Due to his severe deformities in the early years, he was ostracised and grew up as an outcast. He forged deals with Loki and Ronan the Accuser in their respective campaigns against Earth and Xandar – in exchange for the Infinity Stones. When the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy thwarted both invasions, Thanos decided to take matters into his own hands.



THOR: THE DARK WORLD (2013)
Back in 2,988 BC, Dark elf Malekith planned to use the Aether (Reality Stone) to plunge the world into darkness. Bor, father of Odin, stopped him. In 2013, Jane Foster unwittingly became the vessel for Aether. Thor defeated Malekith and contained the Aether.

'Before creation itself, there were six singularities, then the universe exploded into existence and the remnants of this system were forged into concentrated ingots... Infinity Stones.'

– 'The Collector' in Guardians Of The Galaxy on the birth of the Infinity Stones

Appearance of each stone

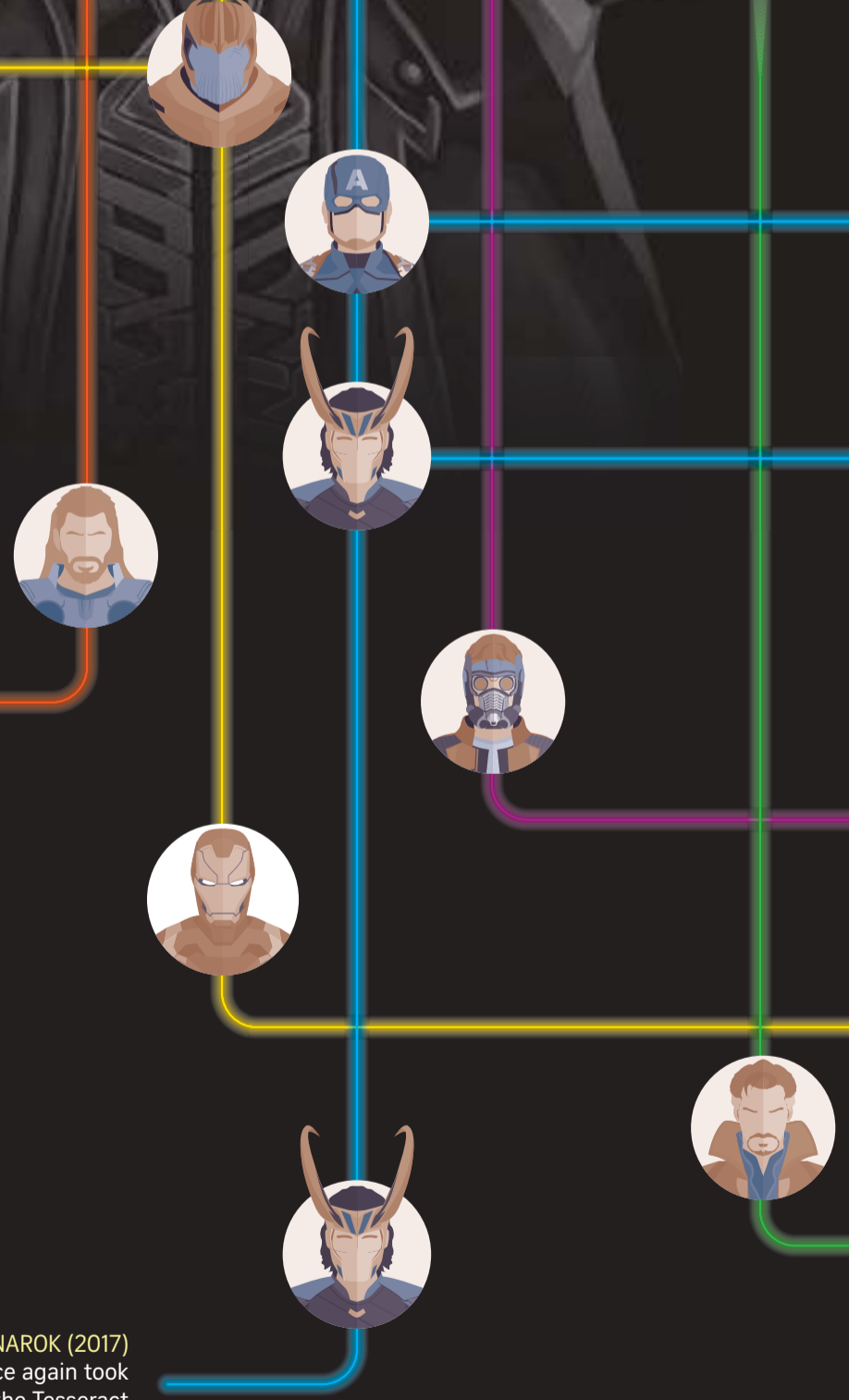
CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER (2011)
Red Skull used the Tesseract to make weapons against the Allies. The cube was lost in sea, later to be recovered by Howard Stark, Tony Stark's father.

THE AVENGERS (2012)
Loki used the cube to open up a portal – inviting an alien army to invade Midtown Manhattan. He lost and the Tesseract was returned to Asgard.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (2014)
Thanos' ally, Ronan the Accuser, planned to use the Orb (Power Stone) to destroy planet Xandar. Star-Lord stopped him and the Orb was handed over to Nova Corp.

AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (2015)
Tony Stark used the Mind Stone power to create an advanced artificial intelligence, Ultron, who later revolted. An undeterred Stark would use the Mind Stone to create Vision.

DOCTOR STRANGE (2016)
Stephen Strange used a pendant called 'The Eye of Agamotto' to defeat Kaecilius, an evil sorcerer and Dormammu, a cosmic entity.



THOR: RAGNAROK (2017)
Loki once again took possession of the Tesseract when Asgard was destroyed.

STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS: SIMON ANG, MIKE M DIZON, BILLY KER, CHNG CHOON HIONG & KELVIN CHAN

<p>THANOS' TURN</p> <p>It took a while for Marvel's ultimate villain Thanos to surface. The reason could be certain (un)timely deaths in the Marvel cinematic universe, thus removing any powerful opponents who would challenge the mad Titan.</p> 	<p>THE ANCIENT ONE</p> <p>For centuries, the 700-year-old Ancient One had protected Earth from mystical threats. Teacher to Dr Strange, she was later fatally wounded by her former student, Kaecilius, who had become corrupted.</p> 	<p>EGO</p> <p>The celestial being and the biological father of Star-Lord, Ego had wanted to rule the entire universe by wiping out billions of innocent lives via the Expansion event. Guardians of the Galaxy killed him before he could succeed.</p> 	<p>ODIN OF ASGARD</p> <p>In Thor: Ragnarok, Hela, the estranged daughter of Odin, returned to claim vengeance on her father. A weary Odin ended his life in front of Thor and Loki. With the All-Father gone, Thanos' rise was inevitable.</p> 
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