



## SUPER 2: Nintendo Through the Ages



PART I: Tutorial Level

## The Old Days

1. Nintendo was founded, and is still headquartered, in what former capital city north of Osaka?
2. For most of its history, Nintendo was not a video game company! When founded in 1889, it originally produced decks of *hanafuda* playing cards, which had been only recently legalized. These were supposedly most popular with what Japanese group, who take their name from the worthless 8-9-3 hand in a *hanafuda* game called Oicho-Kabu?
3. After the decline of its playing card business after World War II, Nintendo tried a wide variety of other lines. These included instant rice and a taxi service, but probably not (despite a persistent urban legend) what kind of distinctively Japanese institution, characterized by windowless architecture and themed rooms?
4. Nintendo finally moved into the video game space through an arrangement with an American electronics company to make peripherals for the first video game console. Name either that company (which was soon after purchased by Phillips) or the console (which shares its name with a Mario game).
5. Currently, some analysts describe Nintendo as the richest company in Japan, based on their large volume of cash on hand. Most other metrics place them somewhere in the top ten. By measures like market capitalization, annual revenue, and employee count, what other company is the largest in Japan? Like Nintendo (and unlike many other large Japanese companies), it is primarily a single-industry business.

## Nintendo Hardware & Accessories

6. Beginning in 2014, Nintendo began selling the accessories of the kind shown below, which are known as what?



7. If you purchased this accessory, it was almost certainly with the intent that it be regularly used alongside what Nintendo software?



8. This is what a Switch 2 camera looks like ... if you're boring! The accessory retailer HORI offers a similarly shaped and functional, officially-licensed camera in the shape of what longstanding, common Nintendo enemy?



9. Although a number of games were compatible with this accessory, we suspect the vast majority of its global use came from being the primary player controller in what game, whose ~30M sales are largely attributable to console bundles?



10. If you used this accessory while playing a game like *Star Fox 64*, what would it add what to your gaming experience?

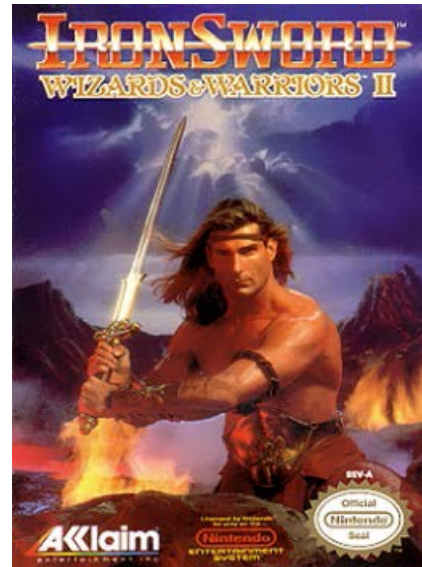


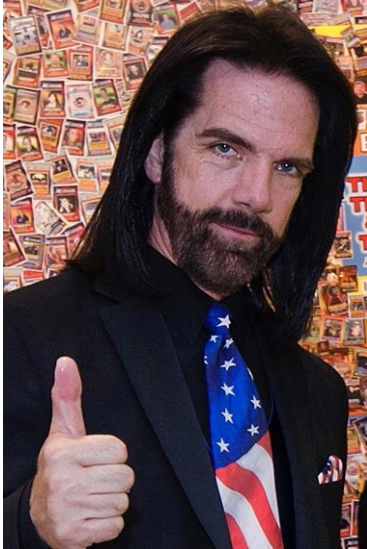


## Nintendo Personalities

11. Why do we love this guy so much?



12. Who is this guy, who heralded Nintendo's ascent when Acclaim contracted him for this cover?



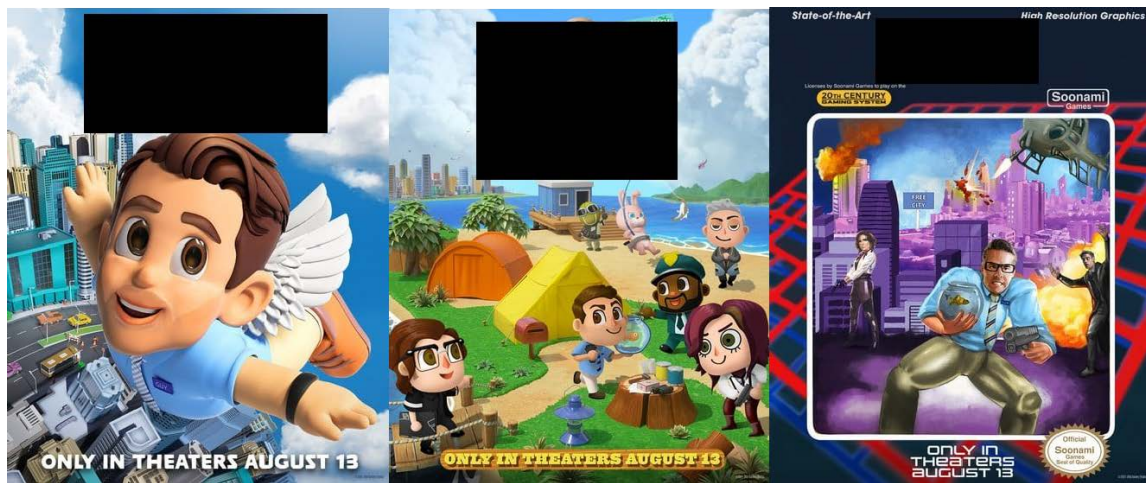
<p>13. With what Nintendo-published game is this man controversially associated?</p> 	<p>14. Name either this man or the series with which he is most associated.</p> 	<p>15. What is this woman likely to tell you about?</p> 
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## Nintendo on TV and at the Movies

16. In *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023), what route constitutes the shortcut between the Kong kingdom and the Mushroom kingdom?
17. In *Super Mario Galaxy*, what signature item does Mario present to Princess Peach at her birthday party?
18. In *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023), Bowser is defeated by the conventional Mario means: acquiring a Power Star, swinging him by the tail, etc. How is King Koopa defeated in *Super Mario Bros.* (1993)?
19. Last year, Nintendo revealed the identities of the principal actors in its 2027 *Legend of Zelda* movie, possibly to quiet the many fans (including the cynical artist imagining a scene from the film below) who were convinced that what power couple would be cast as Zelda and Link?



20. After *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, what is the highest-grossing movie to feature an officially-licensed appearance by Bowser? In it, Bowser, the protagonist, and a variety of non-Nintendo video game characters are members of a group called Bad-Anon.
21. After *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, what is the highest-grossing (albeit underperforming) movie to feature an officially-licensed appearance by Donkey Kong? He is defeated during the climax, at which point he and all the other extraterrestrial villains dissolve into blocky waves of light.
22. No Nintendo characters appeared in the movie itself, but what film's poster variants below clearly parody Nintendo game covers?



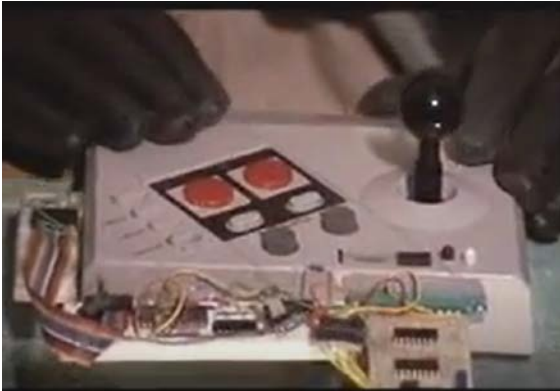
23. The star of the above movie has also starred in a \$400-million-grossing movie as a Nintendo character. Which one?
24. In 2025, Nintendo Pictures released its first two Pixar-style independent short films. The first shows some suspicious goings-on in a toddler's playroom. The second reveals that these happenings are being caused by what otherwise-invisible creatures?
25. The two primary representatives of Team Rocket in the American dub of the *Pokémon* TV series are jointly named after what bank robber?
26. Did you know there are roughly two dozen spinoff movies of the *Pokémon* animated series? Well, we haven't seen them all, but the one with the best soundtrack is clearly *Pokémon the Movie 2000*. Name either the 2012 Republican presidential candidate who frequently quoted the opening credits theme "The Power of One" on the campaign trail, or the guessably-named closing credits song performed by Weird Al Yankovic.

27. In the 1980s Nintendo mash-up cartoon series *Captain N*, a young boy becomes trapped in Video Land and must fight alongside heroes like Simon Belmont and Kid Icarus to defeat Mother Brain. Mother Brain was voiced by Levi Stubbs of the Four Tops, who probably got the role due to having recently voiced another intergalactic villain with a feminine name in what movie?

## Nintendo(s) on TV and at the Movies

Name the movies or TV shows below in which someone is using Nintendo hardware.

28



29



30



31



32



33



34



35





PART II: Main Game

# Super Smash Brothers

*Super Smash Brothers Ultimate* (Switch) contains a Who's Who of prominent characters from both Nintendo and third-party franchises, totaling 89 altogether. From the clue about the fighter's official name, provide it. For reference, see [this link](#) for a mural including every playable character in the game.

36. Which fighter's name is also a noun defined by Merriam-Webster's as "a slight knowledge or vague notion"?
37. Which fighter's name is shared with a fast-food chain with over 3,000 locations in the US?
38. Which fighter's name is also the surname of the recently-departed president of Nintendo of America?
39. Which fighter's name is shared with a formerly industry-leading text-to-video GenAI application that was suddenly discontinued in 2026?
40. Which fighter's name is shared with the surname of an actress who, since 1999, has won three Emmys for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama and one for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy?
41. Which fighter's name is also the first name of both co-founders of the second-largest company in the world (by market capitalization)?
42. What fighter's name is also the nickname of a retired All-Pro cornerback with a history of nightclub-related arrests?
43. Which **two** fighters, when their names are combined, yield the top-billed performer in the highest-grossing film in the history of the US box office?

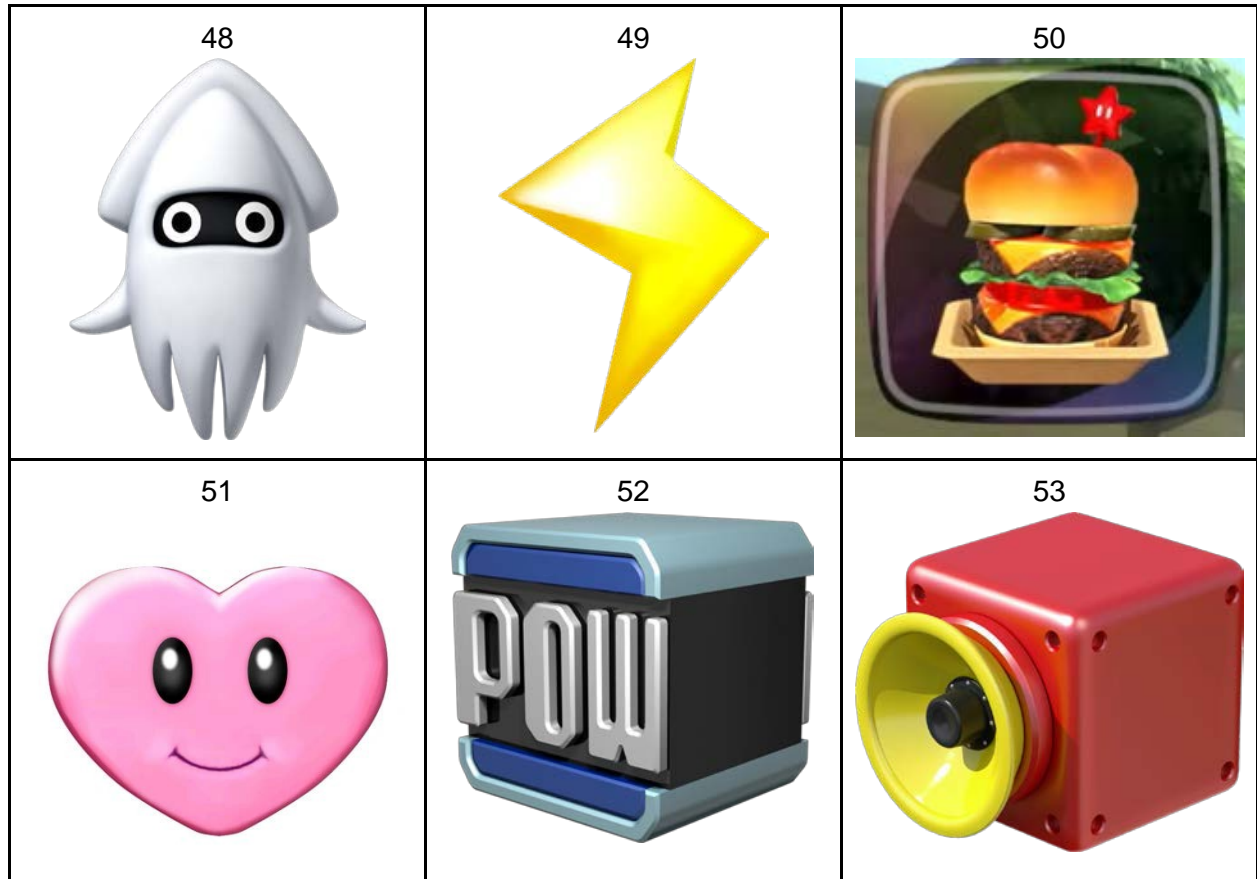
One fun recurring mechanic in the *Smash* series is that Kirby is able to swallow and copy other fighters. Given the hat/mask Kirby is wearing, tell us whom he just swallowed.



47. In a few sentences, explain to us the character you believe is either the best or worst main in *Smash*. You will be graded on both accuracy and the creative nuttiness of your position.

# Mario Kart

Given a picture of a power-up from *Mario Kart*, explain the effect it has on the race.



*Mario Kart Tour*, originally made for mobile and later incorporated into *Mario Kart 8*, features races set in a number of major world cities. Name the cities where the tracks below take place.

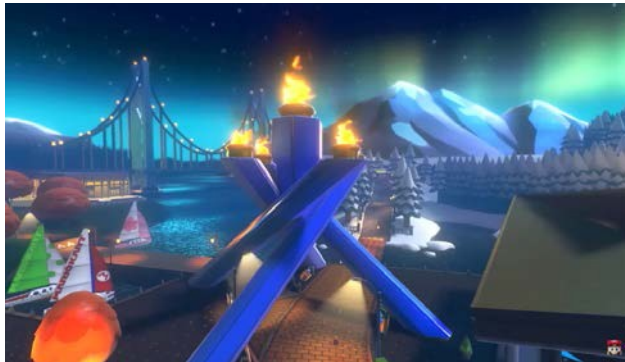
54



55










56



57. Mario isn't the only character to have gotten a spin-off racing series! Out of the 89 characters in the *Smash* montage link from the previous section, at least three have received their own Nintendo racing game(s). Name as many as you can.

# Pokémon

Although the core Pokémon types have changed over their nine generations, the fifteen types **normal**, **fighting**, **fire**, **water**, **poison**, **bug**, **flying**, **ground**, **rock**, **ghost**, **dragon**, **grass**, **electric**, **ice**, and **psychic** have appeared in all of them. Provide the type(s) for each Pokémon pictured below. Each type will apply to exactly **ONE** Pokémon.

58 	59 	60 	61 
62 	63 	64 	65 
	66 	67 	

# Animal Crossing

Across the *Animal Crossing* series, villagers are all categorized into one of eight core personality types: **normal**, **lazy**, **peppy**, **jock**, **cranky**, **snooty**, **smug**, and **sisterly**. For the eight pictures below, identify which personality type is applied to that villager. Each type will apply to **ONE** villager.



Redd wants to sell you some art! (Don't worry, with your Cousin's Discount, he's going to lower the price from 4,980 bells aaaaaalllll the way down to...4,980 bells! What a steal!) Tell us, are the following works sold by Redd real or forgeries?

76



"Robust Statue"

77



"Famous Painting"

78



"Quaint Painting"

79



"Wistful Painting"

80



“Valiant Statue”

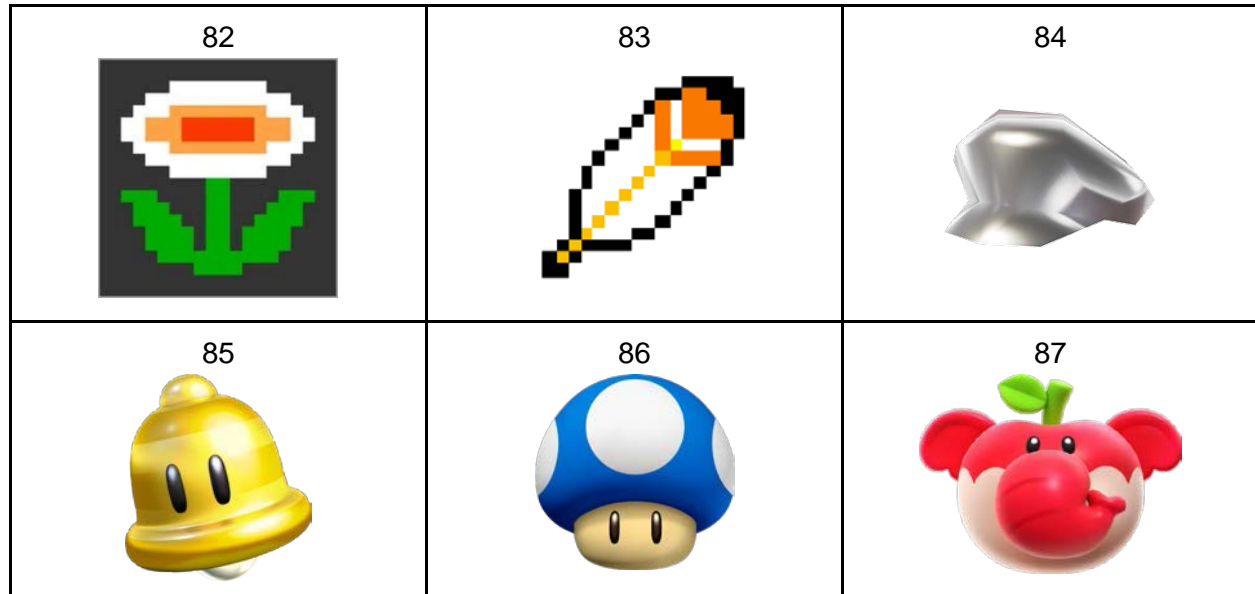
81



“Proper Painting”

# Mario

Mario has always been about power-ups. Tell us what effect each of these power-ups have on Mario and his pals.



88. While this *can* function as a power-up of a sort for Mario, who enjoys eating it more?



89. Which longtime Mario side character has been since the 1980s more or less canonically a trans female? In an off-brand Japan-only crossover game, she is imprisoned for using the women's bathroom, and the player must fetch her vibrator to prove her gender to the authorities.

90. Of the five sports originally included with *Wii Sports*, three are the subjects of officially-licensed video game series in which they are played by Mario and his friends. A fourth is a common *Mario Party* mini-game. What is the fifth sport, in which Mario is apparently not allowed to engage (although it seems he is allowed to officiate)?

91. Mario has appeared in six crossover games with Sonic the Hedgehog. These hold in common that they are all set at various iterations of what real event?

92. Among many notable inventions, who created the F.L.U.U.D. and the Poltergust?

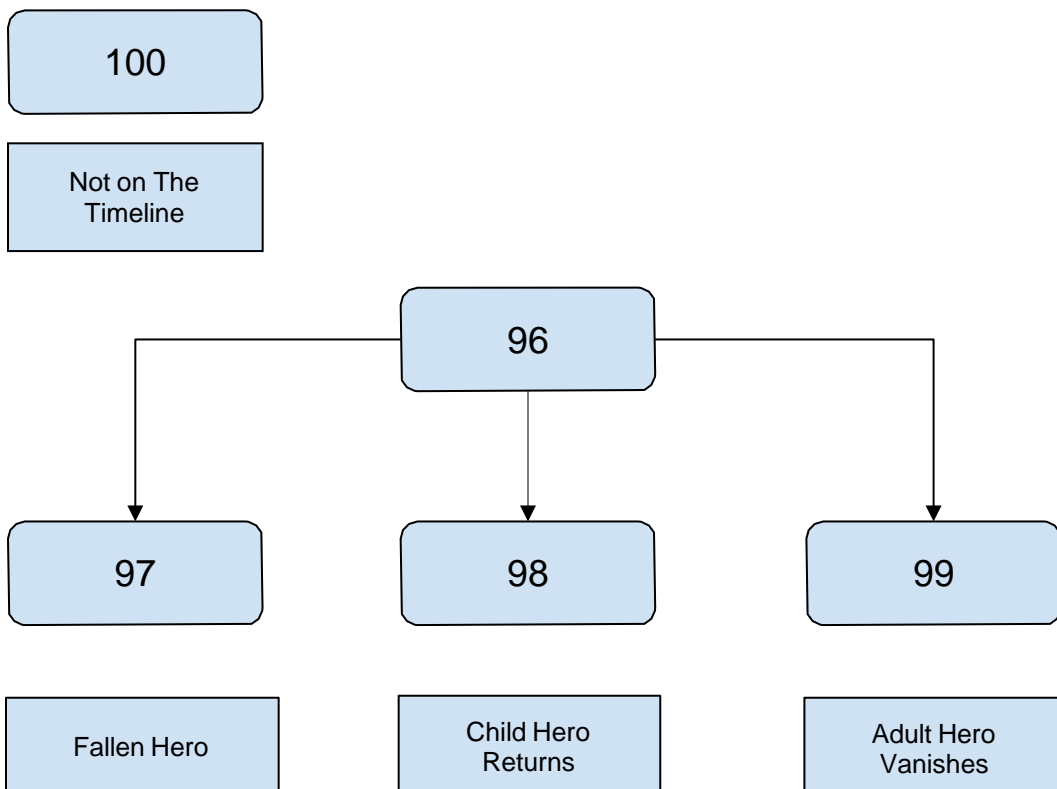
# Zelda

Provide the names for each component of the Triforce.



The Zelda series has an infamously convoluted timeline. Place the Zelda games from the bank into the appropriate empty spots in this (highly reduced) timeline.

A Link to the Past	The Wind Waker	Ocarina of Time
	Twilight Princess	Tears of the Kingdom



Zelda is notorious for nutty side characters. Explain to us the respective deals of these weirdos.



## JRPGs

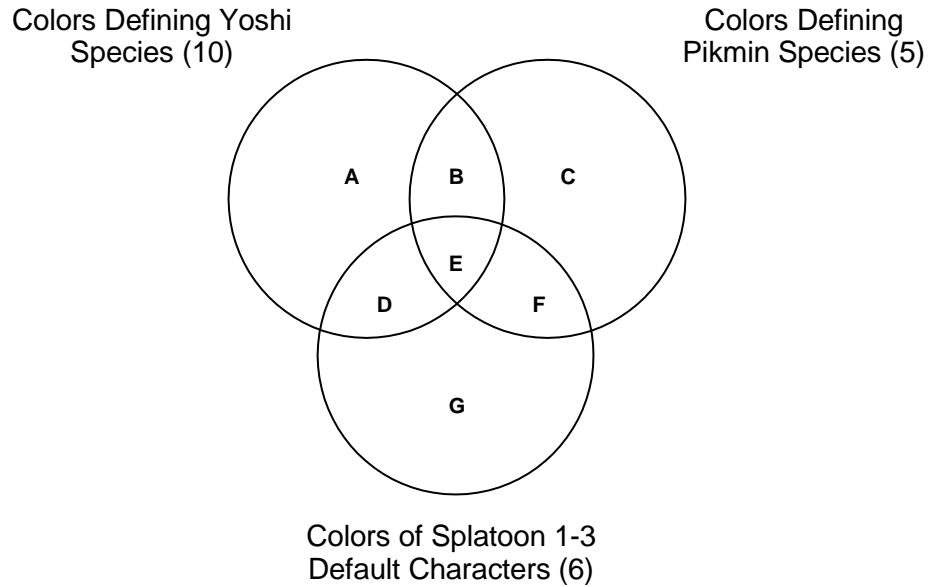
Everybody loves a good, old-fashioned turn-based JRPG, where the forces of modern technology are marshalled to generate text bubble descriptions of what surely must have been exciting combat. Identify the JRPG series incorporated into this battle system collage.



- 104. The underlying movement grid
- 105. The turn order display (top left)
- 106. The heroes' party (black box on the right)
- 107. The enemy (orange creature on the left)
- 108. Weapon meter (top left)
- 109. Star Meter (top right)
- 110. Health/Attack dashboard (bottom left)
- 111. Technique screen (bottom right)
- 112. Pink text box (center top)
- 113. White text box (center bottom)

## Colorful Creatures

Consider the following Venn diagram:



For each of the following colors, provide the letter A-G indicating where the color falls in the diagram. Not all choices are used, and choices may be used more than once.

- 114. Red
- 115. Yellow
- 116. Orange
- 117. Purple
- 118. Black

# Spacecraft

Name the Nintendo character who pilots the craft below.

<p>119</p> 	<p>120</p> 
<p>121</p> 	<p>122</p> 

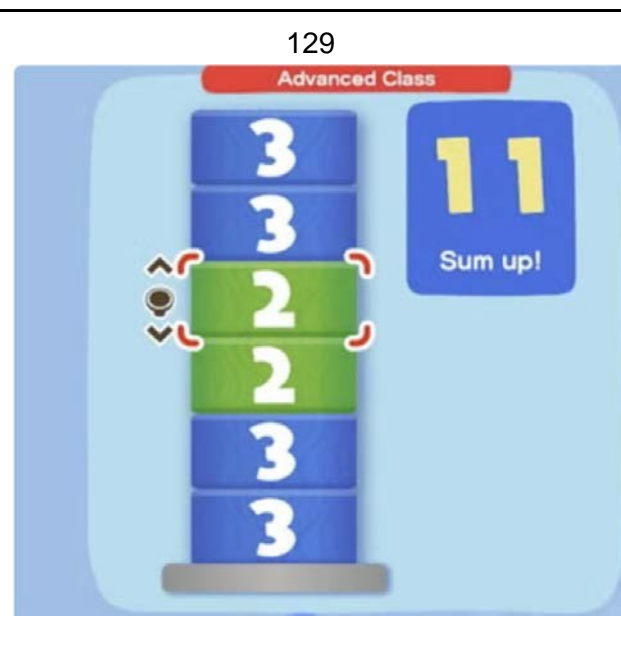
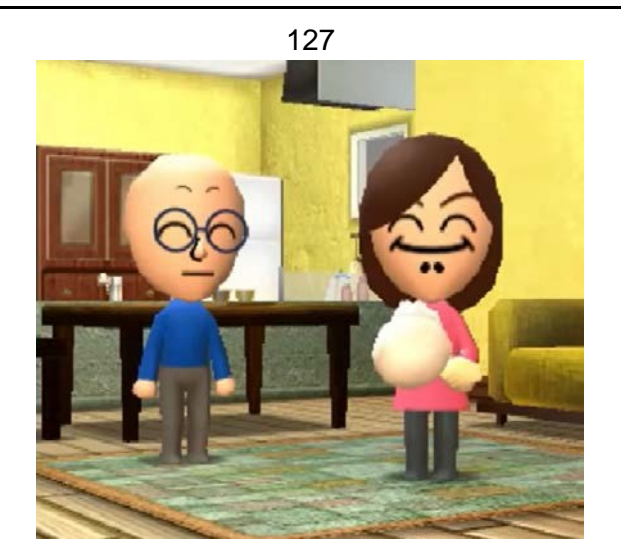
# Kongs in Love

123-125. From the Kong bank below, identify the three official Kong couples.

Candy Kong	Diddy Kong	Funky Kong	Swanky Kong
Chunky Kong	Dixie Kong	Kiddy Kong	Tiny Kong
Cranky Kong	Donkey Kong	Lanky Kong	Wrinkly Kong

# Filthy Casuals

Based on the pictures below, what specific action is needed next in these casual games?





PART III: I Hear Boss Music

130-151. Consider [the attached audio](#) of clips from Nintendo soundtracks. For each of the audio clips, you may provide as much information about the track as you'd like, but you will receive credit only for the **highest-value piece of correct information you provide**.

Name of the track—2 points \*

Name of the game in which it first appeared—1.5 points

Name of the series in which it appears—1 point

Name of the console on which it first appeared \*\*—0.5 point

\* Must include game title if the track has a generic name like “Title Screen”

\*\* “Arcade cabinet” is a possible answer

For example, if you heard a clip of “Hateno Village” from *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* (Switch) and answered “Zora’s Domain”—*The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* (N64), you would receive 1 point for the correct series, even though the rest of the information provided was not correct. If you just wrote “Hateno Village,” you would receive the maximum 2 points.

152-153. When might you hear these two (separate) musical snippets?

*repeat ad lib.*

Composer  
Arran,

Piano  
*mp*

154. What is the highest-charting single in the history of the Billboard charts to name-check Mario & Luigi?



PART IV: DLC

## Take Your Best Guess

In the grid below, we have listed four major games from Nintendo's history. (Technically, in one case we're cheating and using two games). For each of these, we want you to tell us:

1. The size of the game files (just the base game, no DLC), rounded to the nearest MB
2. The current world-record speed run time (Any%), rounded to the nearest minute
3. The numerical requirement for a specific in-game special achievement

We have provided an answer bank with the correct numbers. Take your best guesses!

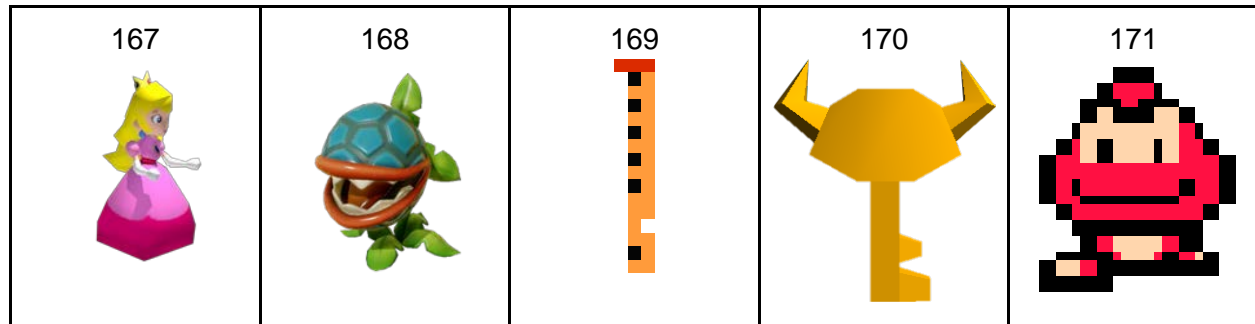
### Answer Bank

0	1	3	5
23	40	103	120
150	180	900	13,400

Game	File Size (MB)	Record Time (min)	Special Achievement
<i>Super Mario Bros.</i> (1985)	155	156	157 <i>(SM64): Power stars for Yoshi to appear on the castle</i>
<i>Super Metroid</i> (1994)	158	159	160 <i>Max completion time (minutes) to see Samus's abs</i>
<i>Pokémon: Red/Blue</i> (1998)	161	162	163 <i>Pokémon added to Pokédex to receive Prof. Oak's Diploma</i>
<i>The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild</i> (2017)	164	165	166 <i>Korok seeds to receive Hestu's Gift (a golden poop)</i>

## Mario or Zelda?

The ties between Nintendo's two flagship series are deep. In fact, a number of recurring elements in each series have clear functional and visual parallels between them, sometimes based on simple and blatant copying. Tell us whether the following images come from a game in the *Mario* series or the *Zelda* series. Be careful—some of these are trick questions!



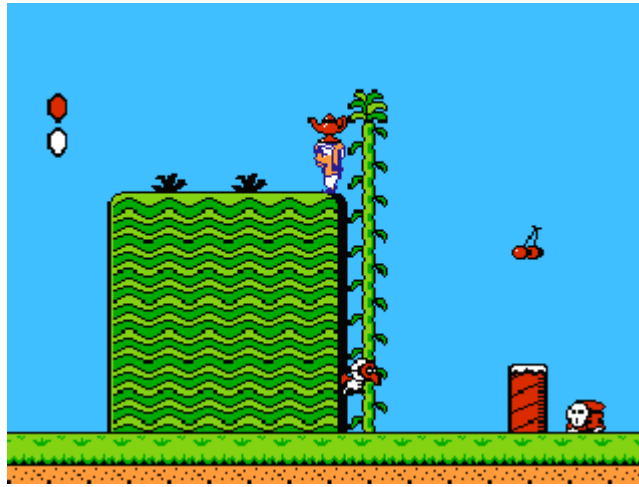
## Your Hosts Are Old

The risk you take when you let Xennials run a collegiate trivia contest is that they might write you a bunch of detailed and/or obscure questions about the games they played on the only console they owned in childhood, the original Nintendo Entertainment System.

But we'll try to go easy on you in this final tribute to our youth. We promise that all of these questions will have at least some avenue for those of you who aren't from our very specific demographic to guess the correct answer.

172. In 1989, Sunsoft decided to publish a game starring a supporting character from a family sitcom that had been off the air for two decades (and hadn't even been revived as a movie franchise yet!). The source material was light on action, but Sunsoft made the game a top-down shooter in which the hero has to save the world by killing frog-like aliens. Name the title protagonist, who may soon become the subject of a Netflix spin-off starring an SNL alum.

173. Here is a screenshot of an Arabian-themed 1987 game, released only in Japan, about a family who journey inside a book to rescue two kids. Why might Americans be familiar with it?



174. *Star Tropics* stars Mike Jones, an all-American teen who has to journey the Caribbean in the submersible Sub-C to save his uncle from aliens. During the game, he must unlock three functionalities in Sub-C using secret numerical codes. Since the game was released primarily in the USA, the Japanese developers chose the three most American numbers they could think of. Name *any* of those numbers.

175. Somewhat bafflingly (though it is eventually at least *sort of* explained if you make it far enough into the game, which Laurie never successfully managed to do), monsters such as this giant blue flying guy are referred to in *Faxanadu* as what kind of well-known fantasy creature?



176. Below is the text of Maya Angelou's classroom chestnut "Still I Rise." As we're sure Angelou originally intended, hidden within the text are seven words that, when placed before "Man," name robot masters from the Stage Select screens of one of the eleven numbered games in the mainline *Mega Man* series. Find as many as you can.

**Note:** Any case where the correct string of letters appears counts, even if it is within a word. For example, if the word "stop" were in the poem, it would count for **Top Man** from *Mega Man 3*.

## Still I Rise

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may tread me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.