

POKEMON!



First known as 'Pocket Monsters', Pokemon is the highest-grossing media franchise of all time, comprising of a video game series, anime, manga, and various toys, games, and other merchandise. It is also the third best selling video game franchise of all time, with more than 440 million copies sold and one billion mobile downloads. The franchise revolves around a world where people live amongst creatures called Pokemon, which are integrated into daily, 'normal' life as well as being battled and collected.

HISTORY

The Beginnings (GEN 1): Satoshi Tajiri formed a game company called Game Freak, with the help of Ken Sugimori, and other friends. Much later, they also formed a design studio known as Creatures. When Tajiri discovered the Game Boy and Game Boy Game Link Cable, he was inspired (by the cable and also by the Ultraman fantasy television show Ultra Seven) to create a new game, which he titled Capsule Monsters. After several failed attempts at pitching the idea to Nintendo, they eventually secured funding, and six years later, in 1996, 'Pocket Monsters' was released. The original artwork was drawn by Sugimori, and the music and soundtrack were composed by Junichi Masuda.

The first games, Red and Green, were released in Japan in February of the year. They had modest sales until a magazine announced a 'Legendary Pokemon Offer' competition, provoking a surge in sales. Pokemon Blue followed, with improved graphics and sounds. A Pokemon Trading Card game was developed by Media Factory and the first cards were released in October. In November, the first manga was released. The popularity also led to an anime series being published the following year (inspired by the manga). Various manga series were later published, as well as a magazine called Pokemon Wonderland, and in 1998, a Pokemon Centre Store.

The series was released overseas because of its huge success. Before the games were released in North America, the localization team attempted to change the Pokémon designs, fearing that the cute designs would not appeal to western gamers; however, the proposal was refused. On the other hand, Nintendo originally did not intend to allow for localized Pokémon names (due to having to register more trademarks), but were eventually convinced by the French translation team to do so.

Pokemon Yellow was also released in 1998, and marked Pikachu as the most popular and recognized creatures in Pokémon history, turning it into the franchise's mascot. This led to a small spin-off game called Hey You, Pikachu!, which was released in Japan on December 12, 1998, and in North America on November 6, 2000. This was a virtual-pet game, utilizing the Nintendo 64's Voice Recognition Unit to let the players interact verbally with Pikachu. Many other spin-off games, and interesting merchandise, had been and were produced.

GEN 2 (continued success): In 1999 Nintendo re-released Gold and Silver versions for the new Game Boy Colour. 100 more Pokemon were added to the original 151, and new features were added like different genders, the introduction of breeding, a time system and real time clock, a friendship system, and shiny Pokemon. The following year the same games were introduced to North America.

Pokemon Crystal was, in both countries, released a year after Gold and Silver, and was the first portable Pokemon game to feature animations for every Pokemon. Trainers in Japan received the added bonus of being able to trade, battle, and even obtain the Legendary Pokémon Celebi wirelessly by using a cell phone to connect to the Mobile System GB. Trainers were also, for the first time, allowed to choose their character's gender

GEN 3 (growing and growing) : With the release of the Game Boy Advance came Ruby and Sapphire, and a further 135 new Pokemon. The games were released in 2002 and 2003, in Japan and America, respectively. New features included Pokemon Contests, Double Battles, Abilities and Natures for each Pokemon, reforms of effort and individual values, more types of weather, and new villainous teams. This generation were not compatible with earlier generations. Around the same time a show called Weekly Pokemon Broadcasting Station also began airing. In 2004 two new games, remakes of Pokemon Red and Green, were released. They brought the games to Gen 3 standards, added wireless connectivity, and a new region. Pokemon Emerald, a third version, added an updated version of Hoenn and animations for all Pokemon, like in Crystal. More popular spin offs were produced—for example Mystery Dungeon and Ranger, in 2005 and 2006. 2006 was Pokemons tenth anniversary and was celebrated in many ways.

GEN 4 (maturation): Diamond and Pearl games were released in 2006 and 2007, with again, a new land (Sinnoh), 107 new Pokemon, and a pseudo-3D rendering of the world, return of the time system, visible gender differences between Pokemon, a split between physical and special moves, and a new villainous team. Pokemon Battle Revolution and other spin offs were created (or updated). Like with the Pokemon Box created for the Game Cube in Generation 3, a storage game titled My Pokemon Ranch, was also sold. The third version of Gen 4, Platinum Version, was released in 2008/2009 and brought more Pokemon, among other updates.

HeartGold and HeartSilver, remakes of Gold and Silver, were also sold –as predicted by fans who had speculated that the Gen 2 games would be updated, following the compatibility changes in Gen 3.



GEN 5 (twists and shake ups): Pokemon now released Black and White, which again featured on the DS, but also represented some change! Nintendo revealed no old Pokemon would be available in the games until the main storyline had been completed, giving new and old Trainers a completely fresh experience. 156 new Pokemon were also added, and features like seasons, the replacing of Pokemon Contests with Musicals, and the introduction of Triple Battles, which made position as well as team cohesiveness an important part of battle. Black and White, also unlike previously paired games (which differed only in Pokemon distribution), had bigger differences between the worlds. Two movies were also released rather than the usual one, for these games.

GEN 6 (new technology): In 2013, Nintendo announced a new generation of Pokemon, through Nintendo Direct. Pokemon X and Y introduced several new Pokemon, and also were the first Pokemon games for the 3DS, marking the franchise's transition into the 3D world. The concept of mega evolutions was introduced, as well as a new region, and the games linked bank to Gen 1 in many ways, for example including older Pokemon, and introducing a brand new time. 2D sprites became animated 3D models, and this change has remained since.

GEN 7 (continuing changes and adaptations): The seventh generation was announced in 2016, as part of the franchise's 20th anniversary. The new games were called Sun and Moon, and the region Alola was introduced. The seventh generation broke several trends within the core series, such as abandoning HM moves, replacing Gyms with island challenge trials, and introducing Legendary Pokémon part of an evolutionary line.

Two follow up games, Pokémon Ultra Sun and Ultra Moon, were announced during a Nintendo Direct presentation in 2017. The games were released exclusively on the Nintendo 3DS and featured an alternate storyline set in Sun and Moon's world, and new Pokémon not available in the original games.

In 2018 Generation 7 continued with two more games, this time for the Switch. They were inspired by Pokemon Yellow with elements from Pokemon Go and were parts of the main RPG series. They were called Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee.



GEN 8 (present day): Pokemon Sword and Shield, announced in 2019, began the current generation of Pokemon. The games introduced the Dynamaxing and Gigantamaxing features, while abandoning the Mega Evolution and Z-Move features introduced in previous generations. The games became the fastest selling Nintendo Switch games, beating out Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and selling 6 million copies worldwide.

Instead of releasing a third generation or sequel to Sword and Shield, a pair of DLCs, The Isle of Armor and The Crown Tundra, were introduced in its place, featuring all-new areas, returning Pokémon, and new Legendaries.

(the ninth generation of Pokemon is set to be released at the end of 2022).

MAIN CHARACTERS

ASH—the protagonist of the anime and manga, Ash is a Pokemon Trainer from Pallet Town, who wants to become a Pokemon Master. His starter is a Pikachu. He travels around the Pokemon world with his close friends, and eventually, becomes the first Champion of the Alola region, and one of the eight best Trainers in the world. He is an only child who lives with his mum Delia, and is known for his determination, selflessness, trusting nature, and passion for raising Pokemon and earning their trust and respect.



BROCK—an aspiring Pokemon Doctor, from Pewter City, Brock is a friend of Ash, and used to be the Gym Leader there. Brock is the main caretaker for his nine younger siblings and is mature, wise, and level headed. He often acts as the voice of reason and puts others before himself. He is known for his domestic abilities, like sewing, vacuuming, and most notably, cooking. His bag has endless capacity!

Despite everything, he loses all sense and rationality at the sight of beautiful women, and is overly passionate about finding his true love!



MISTY—an aspiring water Pokemon Master and friend of Ash, Misty is the gym leader of the Cerulean gym. She can be sweet and optimistic but is known for her short temper and emotional extremes. She can be picky and grumpy when it comes to romance, and is sometimes vain, however she is shown to have a good heart.

She is the youngest in her family, and has three older sisters.



TEAM ROCKET—made up of Jessie and James, this duo made their debut in the second episode of the anime, and generally attempt to capture Pikachu, or another Pokemon, but usually end up being defeated and blasting off! Jessie is prone to vanity and explosive anger, and values her appearance, while James joined the team as an adventurous escape from his families demands, riches, and expectations. James is well versed in Pokemon Haiku, Orienteering, and lived a sheltered life, and has an odd, submissive personality. He is often shown to be kind, and to love Pokemon. He is also known for cross dressing frequently.



OAK—a Pokemon Professor, Oak lives and works at his research lab in Pallet Town. He is the Professor who gives Ash his first ever Pokemon, Pikachu, and regularly gives Ash advice to help him achieve his goal of becoming the greatest Pokemon Master.



MEOOWTH—part of Team Rocket, Meowth is one of very few Pokemon who can walk and talk. He is characteristically jealous.



GARY—a Pokemon researcher from Pallet Town, Gary is the grandson of Professor Oak, and the main rival of Ash in the original series. He is arrogant and entitled. His first Pokemon is a Squirtle.

PIKACHU—the signature Pokemon of both the series and the franchise itself, Pikachu is extremely loyal to Ash, and is the first Pokemon Ash obtains on his journey. He is generally friendly and even breaks up fights among other Pokemon.



SAFFRON
BALDOZA

THE TOWNS

The Pokemon world features many towns and regions. The first region was called Kanto, and included eight towns:

Pallet Town—a small town, hometown of the player, with Oak's lab. **Pewter City**—northwestern Kanto, Brock's home, rock expert.

Viridian City—west, Viridian Gym (only challenged after the seven other gyms of Kanto badges are obtained, Ground expert.

Cerulean City—seaside, Northern Kanto, near Mt Moon, four entrance roots, mid sized, Misty's home, Bike Shop, Berry Powder man.

Vermillion City—near a sea inlet in the South, sea port/harbor, SS Anne and SS Aqua.

Lavender Town—small town northeastern Kanto, known for ghost sightings and gravesite.

Celadon City—place to spend money, hotel, department store. **Saffron City**—metropolis, modelled on Tokyo, business district, 4 entrances.

Fuschia City—southwest, safari zone, Poison Pokemon. **Indigo Plateau**—capital, final destination, battle Elite Four and Pokemon Champion.

Cinnabar Island—large island, south Pallet Town, volcano, fire Pokemon, two water routes connecting it to mainland.

POKEMON TYPES

Normal - adaptable, enjoy chatting, friendly, practical, realistic, down to earth, able to get on with lots of people, and are great mediators.

Fire - steady and consistent heat, intimidating, leaders, extroverted, sociable, can appear attention seeking or boorish, great entrepreneurs and politicians, powerful, charming.

Water - playful, adaptable, reflective, easy to love, good listeners, friendly, sweet, empathetic, but not obnoxious, can be a little rebellious or mischievous, can lack backbone, like to help others.

Electric - explosive, frenetic, full of energy, can be short tempered, lovers of technology, often quite cool and collected, go with the flow, very inventive and creative, can be power hungry.

Grass - domestic, inner strength, protective, graceful, like things at a slower pace, healers, gentle, like to spend time indoors doing things for people, but able to be fierce if provoked.

Ice - polite, sometimes reserved or tense, can be hard to know, perfectionistic, graceful, slow, everything measured—sometimes have hidden anxieties, but always keep calm.

Fighting - love competition, always seeking new challenges, self assured, adaptable, voracious learners, into social justice, proud.

Poison - funny, sharp, critical thinkers, good comedians, can be too biting and witty, sometimes too unemotional and avoid tackling their feelings properly.

Ground - practical, perfectionist, workaholic, can be pessimistic, very reliable and consistent, very organized.

Flying - adventurous, happy go lucky, outgoing, overly optimistic, lots of energy, like to be busy, make great life coaches, very social.

Psychic - take themselves seriously, devote an almost monastic level of focus to their passions, mad scientists, craftsmen, like to work on their 'brilliance' but can be overwhelmed by practical concerns that don't interest them, wise intense, passionate, strong willed.

Bug - shy, often appear weak, not worried about popularity, can be secretive, defensive, but are also inventive, hard working, glamorous in their own weird, off-kilter way, frequently underestimated, can be sensitive, are good writers, artists, inventors, philosophers.

Rock - tough, defensive, prickly exterior, often sensitive inside, athletic, hands on types, and frequently underestimated.

Ghost - often obsessive, can be detached, usually have faced difficulties in their past, emotionally distant but can be oversharpers, both vulnerable and cold, intense and aloof, can't quite connect to reality, make amazing painters, story tellers, and historians.

Dragon - weird, reclusive, like to do their own thing and happy to live in their own world, often into conspiracy theories and specific projects, stubborn but happy, rebellious.

Dark - persuasive, challenging, vexing, depressive souls, genuine earnest emotion, can be complex fascinating leaders but can also isolate and be rebellious, tend to advocate for justice, can be selfish, charismatic.

Steel - total nerds—analytical, struggle with emotion, very calm and chill, live in their heads among facts, can be aloof but are very genuine.

Fairy - dreamers, effective healers, unique aesthetics, lovers of strange, often have niche hobbies, detached from reality, accepting, curious and non judgement, can be childlike and kind of sloppy.



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Pokémon Type Chart

created by pokemondb.net
Applies to all games since Pokémon X&Y (2013)

DEFENSE → ATTACK ↓	NOR	FIR	WAT	ELE	GRA	ICE	FIG	POI	GRO	FLY	PSY	BUG	ROC	GHO	DRA	DAR	STE	FAI
NORMAL													½	0				½
FIRE		½	½		2	2							2	½		½		2
WATER			2	½	½				2					2		½		
ELECTRIC				2	½	½			0	2						½		
GRASS		½	2		½			½	2	½		½	2		½		½	
ICE		½	½		2	½			2	2					2			½
FIGHTING	2					2		½		½	½	½	2	0		2	2	½
POISON					2			½	½				½	½			0	2
GROUND		2		2	½			2		0		½	2					2
FLYING				½	2		2					2	½					½
PSYCHIC							2	2			½					0		½
BUG		½			2		½	½		½	2			½		2	½	½
ROCK		2			2	½		½	2		2		2					½
GHOST	0										2			2		½		
DRAGON															2		½	0
DARK							½				2			2		½		½
STEEL		½	½	½		2							2					½
FAIRY		½						2	½						2	2		½

POKEMON GAMES LIST

(See next page for the core games, in order).

Aside from the main series, there are many Pokemon side games and offshoots. These include the Pokemon Stadium Series on Nintendo 64, the Pokemon Box, Pokemon Colosseum, Pokemon XD (all for GameCube), Pokemon Battle Revolution, My Pokemon Ranch, and Pokemon Conquest (all for Wii and DS), the Trading Card Games for Game Boy Colour and 3DS, the Play It series for Windows PCs, the Pinball Games, for Game Boys and the Wii U, the Mystery Dungeon Series, the Ranger series, the Rumble series, the Snap series, the Puzzle League series, the Trozei series, Pokemon Shuffle (3DS and Android/IOS), Pokemon Picross (3DS), Pokemon Café Mix (Switch and Android/IOS), the Pikachu series (for Nintendo 64 and GameCube), Arcade games, Pokken Tournament series, Mezastar, the PokePark Wii series, and several mobile apps.

PC and computer titles also included TCG Online, Pokemon PokeRom, Project Studio, etc. Games for the Sega game consoles were also made. Finally, other spin offs consist of Pokemon Dash, Pokemate, Typing Adventure, Pokemon Conquest, Art Academy, Detective Pikachu, Pokemon Quest, Magikarp Jump, and Pokemon Unite.

THE POKEMON ANIME SERIES

The TV Series has 25 seasons: Indigo League 1997-99, Adventures in the Orange Islands 1999, The Johto Journeys 1999-00, Johto League Champions 2000-01, Master Quest 2001-02, Advanced 2002-03, Advanced Challenge 2003-04, Advanced Battle 2004-05, Battle Frontier 2005-05, Diamond and Pearl 2006-07, Diamond and Pearl Battle Dimension 2007-08, Diamond and Pearl Galactic Battles 2008-09, Diamond and Pearl: Sinnoh League Victors, Black and White 2010-11, Black & White: Rival Destinies 2011-12, Black & White: Adventures in Unova 2012-13, Black & White: Adventures in Unova and Beyond 2013, XY 2013-14, XY: Kalos Quest 2014-15, XYZ 2015-16, Sun & Moon 2016-17, Sun & Moon – Ultra Adventures 2017-18, Sun & Moon – Ultra Legends 2018-19, Pokemon Journeys: The Series 2019-20, Pokemon Master Journeys: The Series 2020-21, Pokemon Ultimate Journeys: The Series .

The Films: Mewtwo Strikes Back (1998), Pokemon the Movie 2000 (1999), Pokemon 3 the Movie: Spell of the Unown (2000), Pokemon 4Ever: Celebi – Voice of the Forest (2001), Pokemon Heroes: Latios and Latias (2002), Pokemon: Jirachi – Wish Maker (2003), Destiny Deoxys (2004), Pokemon: Lucario and the Mystery of Mew (2005), Pokemon Ranger and the Temple of the Sea (2006), Pokemon: The Rise of Darkrai (2007), Pokemon: Giratina and the Sky Warrior (2008), Pokemon: Arceus and the Jewel of Life (2009), Pokemon: Zoroark: Master of Illusions (2010), White – Victini and Zekrom (2011), Black-Victini and Reshiram (2011), Kyurem vs. the Sword of Justice (2012), Genesect and the Legend Awakened (2013), Diancie and the Cocoon of Destruction (2014), Hoopa and the Clash of Ages (2015), Volcanion and the Mechanical Marvel (2016), I Choose You! (2017), The Power of Us (2018), Mewtwo Strikes Back: Evolution (2019), Secrets of the Jungle (2020).

Note there are also some ONAs, specials, and the live action adaption, Detective Pikachu.

	Original versions		Upper versions and expansions	
Generation I (Japan)	Red	Green	Blue	Pikachu
Generation I (International)	Red	Blue	Yellow: Special Pikachu Edition	
Generation II	Gold	Silver	Crystal	
Generation III	Ruby	Sapphire	Emerald	
	FireRed	LeafGreen		
Generation IV	Diamond	Pearl	Platinum	
	HeartGold	SoulSilver		
Generation V	Black	White		
	Black 2	White 2		
Generation VI	X	Y		
	Omega Ruby	Alpha Sapphire		
Generation VII	Sun	Moon	Ultra Sun	Ultra Moon
	Let's Go, Pikachu!	Let's Go, Eevee!		
Generation VIII	Sword	Shield	The Isle of Armor	The Crown Tundra
	Brilliant Diamond	Shining Pearl		
	Legends: Arceus			
Generation IX	Scarlet	Violet		



OTHER ELEMENTS TO THE FRANCHISE!

There are lots of other Pokemon bits and pieces available! For example:

POKEMON CARDS—a collectible card game.

POKEMON FIGURES—many figures and toys. Main lines released by takara, e.g. the monster/battle collection, pokemon mate series, pokemon zukan figures, poke-ball blasters, and by hasbro, e.g. plush clip on, and then there are some unique other ones like the plush pokedolls, pokemon action figures, pokemon kids, bandai friends, pokemon, Re-ment collectible figures. There was also a trading figure game using collectible Pokémon Trading Figures made by Kaiyodo.

POKEMON CYBER—a handheld toy made by Bandai. Similar to Digital Pokemon series of toys.

POKETCH—toy released along with the Japanese Pokédex from the Pokémon: Diamond and Pearl series, used to tell time.

POKEWALKER—a pedometer device specifically for use with Pokémon HeartGold and SoulSilver that is able to interact with the games in various manners. Similar to Pokemon Pikachu.

THINK CHIP—was a set of Pokémon toys distributed by Hasbro from 2000 to 2001. Each of the collectible figures contained an electronic THINKChip, which enabled the storage of unique sound effects and other data.

POKEMON MINI—a handheld game console that was designed and manufactured by Nintendo and themed around the Pokémon media franchise. It is the smallest game system with interchangeable cartridges ever produced by Nintendo.

The franchise also includes books, music, food, board games, stand alone electronic toys like Yahtzee, plush toys, some stand alone figures, construction toys, and other merchandise like furniture.

POKEMON FUN FACTS

- Pikachu is a Japanese onomatopoeia for squeaking and shimmering.
- There are over 800 Pokemon species today and the number continues to grow.
- Slowbro is the only Pokemon that can devolve.
- Bulbasaur is the first Pokemon in the Pokedex.
- The weaknesses of Psychic-type Pokemon are based on common fears.
- People eat Pokemon.
- Most Pokemon uses its male counterparts for the official artworks.
- All professors from the main series are named after trees.
- Ekans is snake spelled backward.
- Pikachu is not the original mascot for the franchise. The original mascot prior to Pikachu was Clefairy.
- Pokemon have even appeared on money.
- Pokemon waffles and pop tarts have existed.
- The original legendary bird trio include the Spanish words for one, two, and three.