Handheld emperor

Nintendo, a Japanese electronics company, started as a *hanafuda* cards manufacturer in 1889. In the mid-1970s, they entered the early video games market and became famous for their home video and handheld game consoles. Nintendo introduced consoles like the **NES**, **SNES**, and **Wii**. But the most revolutionary was for sure the **Game Boy**.

A countdown of Nintendo handhelds

- 1. Game & Watch was Nintendo's first product offering out-of-home gaming. From 1980 to 1991, over a hundred games were released, gaining great popularity.
- 2. In 1989, the original **Game Boy** was released. The new amazing machine utilized a cartridge system, allowing the users to play a multitude of games of all kinds. This was a historical game-changer.
 - 2.1. It was followed by a number of versions, such as Game Boy Color or Game Boy Advance.
- 3. In 2004, Nintendo introduced a new console family called the Nintendo DS. It sported a dual LCD screen in a folded shell, with the lower one being a touchscreen.
 - 3.1. The most prominent development was Nintendo 3DS, which offered a 3D display.
- 4. 2017 brought the hybrid experience for both couch-preferring gamers and handheld enthusiasts with the release of the Nintendo Switch. It offers both a TV mode with high-definition graphics and a handheld mode using the built-in 6.2" display.



The Nintendo "flagship" - handheld Game Boy

Handheld consoles' popularity

While the most recent Switch is a prevalent choice nowadays, the 2DS and 3DS consoles are still popular. The king, however, is none other than the original wonder — the Game Boy.

Console	Production dates	Pieces sold (2021)
Game & Watch	1980-1991, 2020-2021	44 million
Game Boy	1989-2010	201 million ¹
Nintendo DS	2011-2020	76 million ²
Switch	since 2017	140 million ³
¹ 119 million Game Boy and Game Boy Color variants, 82 million Game Boy Advance variants.		

² Including all versions: DS, DSi, 2DS, 3DS, and New 2DS/3DS variants.

³ As of early 2024.

Handheld gaming experience

It's dangerous to go alone! Take this.

The Legend of Zelda, 1986

Games offered by Nintendo include multiple genres, out of which the famous platformer arcade *Super Mario* and the adventure role-play *Legend of Zelda* series are probably the most iconic.

Games that can be played on the handheld family include (examples of games listed):

- Action & adventure games
 - The *Legend of Zelda* series
 - o Chrono Trigger
- First-person action games
 - o Splatoon
- Role-playing games (RPG)
 - The *Pokémon* series
 - The *Final Fantasy* series