

= Professor Layton and the Last Specter =

Professor Layton and the Last Specter , known in Japan as Professor Layton and the Devil 's Flute ( ??????????? , Reiton @-@ ky?ju to Majin no Fue ) and in Europe as Professor Layton and the Spectre 's Call , is a puzzle adventure video game produced by Level @-@ 5 for the Nintendo DS handheld game console . Last Specter is the fourth game in the Professor Layton series , and is a prequel that takes place three years before the first trilogy , detailing how Professor Layton met his apprentice , Luke Triton and introducing Layton 's assistant Emmy Altava .

Professor Layton and the Last Specter also includes an additional role @-@ playing game entitled Professor Layton 's London Life , available from the start of the game . London Life , in which players interact with various characters from the series in a town called " Little London " , was advertised as having over 100 hours of content . London Life was removed from the European versions of the game because the translation of texts would have significantly delayed the game 's release .

The game was released during 2009 in Japan , and was the highest @-@ selling game there during the week of its release . It saw release in North American and PAL regions during 2011 .

= = Gameplay = =

Professor Layton and the Last Specter is a puzzle game presented in the style of an adventure game . The player controls the actions of a group of three protagonists as they move about a village called Misthallery : Professor Hershel Layton , his assistant Emmy Altava , and a young boy named Luke Triton . While in the village , the three of them are presented with several mysteries that are solved as the plot progresses . Misthallery is divided into several sections , although many require the plot to progress to a certain point before they can be accessed . In order to move about Misthallery , players tap a shoe @-@ shaped icon on the bottom @-@ right corner of the touch screen , and then the arrow representing the direction of the path they wish to take . While in Misthallery , the player is capable of tapping anywhere on the bottom screen of the Nintendo DS system to investigate objects and reveal bits of dialogue , hint coins , collectible items , or hidden puzzles . Likewise , if a non @-@ player character is visible on the screen , they can be tapped to initiate a conversation .

= = = Puzzles = = =

Initiating a conversation or investigating an object in the main game will often lead to the player being asked to solve a puzzle . If the plot progresses to a point at which a puzzle can no longer be accessed , it will be retrieved by a character named Keats the Cat for later solving . There are over 170 puzzles in the game , including brain teasers , sliding puzzles , logic puzzles , peg solitaire , and several other varieties . When a puzzle begins , the player is briefly presented with the puzzle 's name , number , and value in " Picarats " , the game 's system of points as well as an estimation of the puzzle 's difficulty . These points are not used during the main game , but if a player collects enough of these Picarats , they gain access to bonuses accessible from the main menu .

After this first screen , players are taken the main puzzle solving interface , which provides instructions for the current puzzle on the top screen while allowing the player to interact directly with the touch screen in order to solve the puzzle . The player has an infinite amount of time to complete each puzzle , and they have access to an in @-@ game memo pad function to aid them in solving each puzzle . If they do not wish to solve the puzzle at the time , they can hit the button labelled " Quit " in order to exit the interface without losing any Picarats . Additionally , all puzzles have three hints available that can be purchased with tokens called " hint coins " . If a player needs more help , they can also purchase a fourth " super hint " , a more detailed hint that costs two hint coins . However , there are a limited amount of hint coins , and the game recommends they be used wisely . The player starts with ten hint coins , but more can be obtained by thorough investigation of the village .

In order to solve a puzzle , the player must input an answer on the bottom screen . Sometimes , this will involve tapping a button labelled " Input Answer " and writing a word or number that solves the given puzzle . Other times , they might be asked to circle an answer or tap an area on the touch screen , and then hit " Submit " . Still others are solved automatically once the player finds the solution by interacting with objects on the bottom screen . If the player has made a mistake in solving a puzzle , they can hit the button labelled " Restart " to reset the puzzle . Deducted Picarats and purchased hints are not reset if a puzzle is restarted . If the player submits an incorrect answer , they will be asked to repeat the puzzle , and a varying amount of Picarats will be deducted from the maximum possible for that puzzle . If the player submits a correct answer , they are rewarded with the amount of Picarats the puzzle is worth , and the plot will progress . After completing a puzzle , it can be played again at any time from the Puzzle Index , a section in the game 's interface that lists the puzzles a player has completed . Occasionally , after completing a puzzle , the player will receive small items that can be used in minigames . Fulfilling certain criteria , such as clearing all levels in a minigame , unlock additional puzzles in the Bonuses section .

Players are also capable of connecting to Nintendo Wi @-@ Fi Connection in order to download additional puzzles in the " Bonuses " mode , which can be selected from the game 's title screen . These puzzles to be are made available each week following the game 's release . Hints for these puzzles could not be purchased with hint coins , but they were provided freely one week after the puzzle was made available , for 33 weeks . A 34th puzzle was produced but never issued . When a player connected to Nintendo Wi @-@ Fi Connection , all puzzles and hints would be downloaded . After May 20 , 2014 , it 's no longer possible to download the additional content , as the Nintendo Wi @-@ Fi Connection service was terminated on that date .

#### = = = Minigames = = =

Professor Layton and the Last Specter also features several small minigames that are playable in the main game , available by selecting them from the Professor 's Suitcase located in the top @-@ right corner of the bottom screen while moving about the town . In order to play these minigames , the plot must have progressed far enough to have unlocked each of them , and more difficult levels require the completion of puzzles in the main game .

The Toy Train minigame involves laying a railroad track across a complex game board . The toy train must pass through every train station and reach a defined end point , and in harder levels , it must be timed to avoid cars and other trains . The toy train requires fuel to move , limiting the amount of track that can be placed by a player unless more fuel is collected before a track ends .

The Fish minigame involves manipulating a fish to collect every coin in its tank . The fish moves in a straight diagonal line , and the player can alter this line by placing bubbles at certain marked points , reflecting it in a different direction . In the Japanese version of Last Specter , the Fish minigame is instead based on trying to create words by feeding them to fish , who alter them in specific patterns .

In the Puppet Theater minigame , the player is tasked with finishing the script of an ongoing play so that it makes sense . If the player chooses a word that does not make sense in the context of the play , the play abruptly ends and the player is asked to try again ; if all of the right words are chosen , the play is given an epilogue and an audience applauds .

After progressing far enough into the story , the player can tap mice across Misthallery to earn " mouse badges " and gain access to another minigame , entitled Mouse Alley . Unlike the other minigames , this is accessed through a character in Misthallery and not through the Trunk . The goal of the minigame is to tap as many mice as possible within the time limit , while avoiding tapping Luke 's mouse , Toppy , by mistake . This is the only real @-@ time element in the game .

#### = = Plot = =

#### = = = Setting = = =

Professor Layton and the Last Specter takes place three years before the events of Professor Layton and the Curious Village in a fictional English village known as Misthallery . In Misthallery , citizens have long spoken of legends of a specter who rose from the mist to defend the village whenever the Specter 's Flute was played . Lately , a monster who is believed by the town 's population to be this specter has been attacking the village during the middle of the night , destroying homes and buildings .

Misthallery is a watery town in which traveling via gondola to move about the town 's canals is commonplace . By these canals , the town is divided into five distinct regions : the Crossroads , the Market , the East District , Ely Street , and Highyard Hill . The Crossroads contain the library as well as the home of the mayor , Clark Triton . The town market is a shady place controlled by a mysterious entity known as the Black Raven , the East District contains an abandoned warehouse , and Ely Street as well as Highyard Hill are primarily residential areas . On the outskirts of Highyard Hill lies the manor owned by the former mayor 's children , who live away from the rest of the village . The townspeople believe that the manor is home to a witch . The town is also rumored to contain the Golden Garden , hidden ruins of an ancient city .

= = = Story = = =

As the story begins , a woman named Emmy Altava is hired to be Professor Layton 's assistant at the fictional Gressenheller University . Upon her introduction to him , he reveals that he is currently heading towards a town named Misthallery . According to a letter allegedly sent by his close friend , Clark Triton , a specter is attacking the village at night . As the pair reach Clark 's house , though , they find that the letter was sent not by Clark , but by his son , Luke , who has learned how to predict the specter 's attacks and wished to enlist Layton 's help in putting an end to them . Luke sneaks out of his house to join Layton and Emmy 's investigation . After they finish exploring Misthallery for the day , they go to spend the night at a local hotel . As they look out from the window in their room , they hear the sound of a flute and see a large , shadowy figure emerge from the mist , which proceeds to forge a path of destruction through the town , including their hotel room , before vanishing without a trace .

The next day , Layton , Luke , and Emmy set off to find the town 's black market in order to discover information about the Specter 's Flute , an artifact which is said grant those who play it control over the specter . After winning the trust of the Black Raven , a group of children who run the market , Layton learns that the flute was auctioned to the now @-@ deceased Evan Barde , once the richest man in Misthallery , soon before the specter started attacking the town . The three then head to Barde Manor to visit his daughter , Arianna , a girl who was once close friends with Luke , but is now suffering from a terminal illness and is believed by the townspeople to be a witch .

Arianna refuses to talk to anyone , however , so Layton and Luke continue to question the townspeople while Emmy goes to the Scotland Yard for information regarding Evan Barde 's death . With the aid of Inspectors Chelmey and Grosky , she uncovers the records for the case before heading back to Misthallery to reunite with Layton and Luke . Inspector Grosky returns with her , hoping that his own influence will help convince the town 's Chief of Police , Chief Jakes , to provide further information on the case . Regardless , Chief Jakes remains adamantly opposed to the investigation of Barde 's death , and demands that Layton and company leave the town within 24 hours . Despite Jakes ' threats , they visit Arianna to explain to her what has happened to the town and to her father . Arianna opens up to them , and proceeds to guide them to the nearby lake before playing the Specter 's Flute , which causes a prehistoric aquatic creature named Loosha to rise from the lake .

Chief Jakes then appears at the lake , revealing that he had followed the Professor , and takes Arianna and Loosha into police custody , claiming them to be behind the specter attacks . In his absence , the trio manage to find the real " specter " at an abandoned factory within the town . As Arianna and Loosha are being formally accused in front of the townspeople , Layton appears and exposes the true identity of the specter : an excavation machine destroying the town in search of the

" Golden Garden " , ancient ruins believed to be beneath Misthallery . He goes on to describe Chief Jakes ' scheme to become mayor of the town and his accomplice : a man disguised as Clark 's butler , Doland Noble , named Jean Descole , a scientist looking for the Golden Garden who had held hostage Clark 's wife along with his real butler . With Descole 's plan revealed , he combines his machines into a giant mecha in a final attempt to level the town in search of the Golden Garden .

With the combined efforts of Layton , Luke , Emmy , Loosha , and the Black Ravens , the mecha is eventually defeated and Descole is forced to retreat . Despite Loosha having been fatally wounded during the fight , she proceeds to destroy the floodgates of the town 's dam , drying the lake and revealing the entrance to the Golden Garden . As the group enter the garden , Loosha dies , and Arianna learns of Loosha 's true intentions . Loosha knew that the clean environment of the garden would help Arianna recover from her disease , and fought the specter to ensure the garden would survive long enough to cure her . She fully recovers from her illness a year later , and the Golden Garden 's discovery is then made public , marking the beginning of Layton 's fame in the field of archaeology .

As Luke leaves the garden , he realizes he still has much to learn about the world , and asks to become Layton 's apprentice . Layton obliges , and the game ends with Luke bidding farewell to the people of Misthallery before beginning his journeys with Layton . In a final scene , Jean Descole is seen on a cart , preparing his next plan .

= = Professor Layton 's London Life = =

Professor Layton 's London Life ( ??????????????? , Layton @-@ ky?ju no Rondon Raifu ) is a role @-@ playing game developed in cooperation with Brownie Brown , included with Professor Layton and the Last Specter . In London Life , the player creates an avatar that can later be customized with clothing and accessories . With this avatar , players live in " Little London " , a small city inspired by London . Within Little London , the player can create and decorate their own room and perform errands for the townspeople , who consist of many characters from all four games in the Professor Layton series at the time of its creation . The game also includes characters from the animated movie released later the same year , Professor Layton and the Eternal Diva , such as singer Janice Quatlane as well as Melina and Oswald Whistler . By aiding the townspeople , players can gain items or furniture that can be used to access new areas of the city , as well as wealth and happiness . Players can also use Nintendo Wi @-@ Fi Connection to upload their avatar to the Internet , to be downloaded by other players with whom they have traded friend codes . London Life is advertised to contain over 100 hours worth of gameplay . Players can also trade in @-@ game items with others through the Nintendo DS 's tag mode feature , in which the Nintendo DS system communicates wirelessly with other Nintendo DS systems running the same game while in sleep mode .

Professor Layton 's London Life is based on another Level @-@ 5 title , Fantasy Life . London Life can only be played after completing the Japanese version of the main game Last Specter , but is accessible from the beginning of the game in North American and Australian versions of the game . The European versions do not include London Life , because the amount of time it would take to translate the game would otherwise have prevented the game from being released before the end of 2011 .

= = Development and release = =

= = = Development = = =

Every puzzle in Last Specter was created by Akira Tago , a Japanese professor and author of the Atama no Tais? series of puzzle books , which has sold more than 12 million copies within Japan . The game was produced by Level @-@ 5 CEO Akihiro Hino , and designed around the concept of "

Nazotoki x Deai no Monogatari " ( ? ???? x ?????? ? , Lit . " Puzzle @-@ solving and the Story of the Encounter " ) , detailing how Professor Layton met his apprentice , Luke .

The Professor Layton series was envisioned as a trilogy , to be completed with the release of the third game , Professor Layton and the Unwound Future . In spite of this , Hino said that , during the development of Unwound Future , Level @-@ 5 had received a lot of questions from gamers asking if it was " really the end [ of the series ] " , which was all of the inspiration he needed to create a " second season " of the Professor Layton series . In March 2009 , Akihiro Hino officially unveiled Professor Layton and the Last Specter in Famitsu , stating that , with the second season , each game would take longer to develop than before , to dispel beliefs that Professor Layton had not significantly changed with each passing game . The second season of the series was also scheduled to have animated movies that take place between the games , starting with Professor Layton and the Eternal Diva , which was announced alongside Last Specter .

= = = Soundtrack = = =

In Japan , the music featured within the game was released as a soundtrack : the Layton @-@ ky?ju to Majin no Fue Original Soundtrack ( ???????????? ????? ? ?????????? , Professor Layton and the Specter 's Flute Original Soundtrack ) . The ending theme , " Paxmáveiti " ( Paxmáveiti ?????? -?????????- , Paxmáveiti Lafumabety -Kimiga Bokuni Kuretamono- ) , sung by Y?ko And? , was omitted from the soundtrack , and was also replaced with an instrumental version of the song in international releases of the game . The game also reuses music from Diabolical Box and Unwound Future .

The game 's musical score has been met very positively . Square Enix Music Online rated the soundtrack an eight out of ten , stating that it " goes a little step further compared to its ancestors " , and praised the quality of the orchestral renditions , calling them " superior to Professor Layton and the [ Unwound Future ] , which already had fantastic arrangements . " RPGfan likewise praised the orchestral songs , and also spoke highly of the rest of the soundtrack , particularly " The Last Specter 's Theme " , stating that it was " sure to win over most any video game music fan . "

= = = Release = = =

Though the game was released within Japan during November 2009 , the game did not appear at E3 2010 alongside Unwound Future and the Nintendo 3DS sequel to Last Specter , Professor Layton and the Miracle Mask , which were both announced at the event . The game would , for the next year , only be mentioned by Nintendo in passing during an interview involving the Nintendo DSi XL , where it was referred to as Professor Layton and the Specter 's Flute . At the end of May 2011 , Level @-@ 5 filed a trademark in the United States for Professor Layton and the Last Specter , and the game was officially unveiled internationally following E3 2011 . The game was released in North American and PAL regions during late 2011 .

After the game 's release in Japan during late 2009 , Professor Layton and the Last Specter quickly rose to the top of Japanese sales charts , moving over 300 @,@ 000 units during its first week , eventually totaling 659 @,@ 504 sales in Japan as of December 20 , 2010 . When it saw international release during late 2011 , it became the best @-@ selling Nintendo DS game in North America on the week of its release ? although across all platforms , it was outsold by Batman : Arkham City and Just Dance 3 , among other titles . In the United Kingdom , it was the seventh @-@ highest selling game on its week of release , and the third @-@ highest on a single console following both the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 versions of Call of Duty : Modern Warfare 3 . By the end of 2011 , the game totaled 1 @.@ 19 million sales within North America and Europe , where it has sold 1 @.@ 25 million copies as of March 2012 .

= = = Reception = = =

Professor Layton and the Last Specter received " favorable " reviews according to video game

review aggregator Metacritic . Many critics noted that although the game feels similar to past titles , the series had found a working formula and did not need to change . IGN shared these sentiments , but found that the game had " an added attention to detail that makes the whole game feel a bit sharper and more magnificent " than its predecessors . The game 's puzzles received mixed reception . Reviewers often commented that they felt too similar to puzzles from the other games in the series , and several felt that they tended to be vague or inconsistent in difficulty . Despite this , GamePro felt that the game 's puzzles were " more balanced " than those from previous games . The game 's cutscenes and visuals were very well received , with GamesRadar describing the cutscenes as " near @-@ Ghibli quality " and IGN saying that " the graphics , which make use of a cartoony yet beautifully detailed , painterly art style , are simply gorgeous . "

Professor Layton 's London Life was also viewed as a worthwhile extension to the game , with 1UP.com stating that the main game was " almost a side diversion " in comparison . Critics often compared the gameplay to the popular Animal Crossing franchise . Response to the game was mixed . IGN felt it " surprising the game was included as a mere bonus " and GamePro praised the dialogue , calling it " clever and genuinely funny in ways that few other games are . " However , Game Revolution said that the game soon " becomes a chore " to play , and some reviewers were unhappy with the decision to remove the game from European versions of Professor Layton and the Last Specter .

The Escapist gave Last Specter a score of four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five , saying , " Another Professor Layton game , another bit of puzzling brilliance . Some of the brain teasers feel a bit recycled - instead of foxes and chickens , you 're shuttling dogs and cats across the river , for example - but there 's more than enough variety to warrant doggedly tracking down every last one . But if you only solve the ones you need to move the story forward , that 's ok , too . " The Guardian gave it four stars out of five , saying , " If you 've not been a fan of the series , this isn 't the game that 's going to change your mind . For everybody else though , Professor Layton & The Spectre 's Call is several days of commute @-@ improving , grey cell stimulation in a mostly effective package . And bravo to Nintendo for keeping this franchise on the standard DS rather than ? for the time being , at least ? adding that third dimension . " However , The Daily Telegraph gave it two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five , saying , " The Layton charm is undoubtedly still present , but it 's not enough to carry the series by itself . Upon solving certain puzzles , Layton exclaims ' I love the thrill of a good solution ' . So do we , Hershel , so do we . And in this Layton game , sadly , that thrill is all too rare . "