

February 2021

Animal Crossing

THIS MONTH!

STARTING ...AND ENJOYING



**FLOWERS
FISHING
AND MORE!**



Cover Picture by Jacob Juliar
Interior Picture by Jacob Juliar

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SECTION 1:
GETTING STARTED AS NEW
A NEW GAMER!

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IN TRANSFORMATION!

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SECTION 3:
WORKING WITH OTHERS
ON YOUR ISLAND AND
FROM ABROAD!

This month's Introduction:

Animal Crossing: New Horizons has continued to dominate the world of gaming because how much new gamers enjoy it, the endless ways to transform the island, and working with others on your island and from abroad.

First, the game is popular because people who are new to gaming have fallen in love with the daily routine of the game. The creators created an easy-to-understand world and populate it with a comforting daily routine.

Another reason the game is popular is because there are endless ways to transform the island. I even saw a real-life published author decorate her Animal Crossing home with books that looked like the books she published in real life.

Finally, another reason the game is popular is because you're always encouraged to work with others. My daughter leaves gifts for me and other residents and I exchange gifts each day. Other characters offer tips and tricks to help make our island even better.

Because new gamers enjoy it, gamers can endlessly transform their island, and it's easy to work with others, Animal: Crossing New Horizons has continued to dominate the world of gaming.

A Comfortable Daily Routine

Collecting shells, money, and butterflies



Just a walk on the beach!

One of my favorite tasks is to walk the the beaches and collect shells, sand dollars, and conches. In this screenshot, characters can even learn about new sealife. Do you know what a Venus comb is? After a long day of teaching, I love learning as I explore this world!

Money and Loans

Make sure to visit the "Nook Stop" terminal. This wonderful machine allows you to see how many miles you've accumulated, to save money and pay loans to expand your house, and special order goods and services. I always visit here to buy tickets in order to use Dodo Air and visit different islands!



Butterflies and Flower Blossoms

After planting hundreds of flowers, butterflies flocked to the island. Although I have never used a butterfly net in my real life, I have come to enjoy a casual walk around my island looking for bugs - big and small - to catch and add to our growing collect. Common does not mean boring!



FLOWERS IN BLOOM



Picture by Jacob Juliar

FLOWERS

During the humid summers in Minnesota, you can always find me in our small garden pruning flowers, checking the pumpkins, and making sure the soil is perfect for plants to grow. Unfortunately, we can't do those things here in the winters! Thus, in the virtual world, I started the garden of my dreams!

What's your passion?

What is your passion in real life or online? What do you enjoy most? What brings you the most joy in life? Do you love traveling? Do you love socializing, fishing, decorating, collecting art, or using cosmetics? Animal Crossing: New Horizons offers all of these activities! In this strange new world of quarantines and stay-home orders, find your joy here!

FRIENDS **MAKE** **THE WORLD** GO ROUND!

Bring even more joy to
Animal Crossings by
playing with real-life
friends or virtual friends,

Island Friends

Every night when I get back to the island, I make sure to visit the houses of my friends. Kevin, a muscular ever-busy elephant, wanders the island to exercise night. He loves clothes, and we give gifts of clothing to each other every night. Reigna, a stylish fashionista, and I talk about the joy of catching bugs while she prominently displays my daily gift of rare flowers from the island. They clap, laugh, and shout on their joy every night, and I go to sleep even happier than before!

Real Life Friends

The real joy, though, of this game is playing with people you know. I share the island with family members, and we send surprise gifts to each other and help build our island by hitting rocks to get the supplies we need. A friend told me his whole family spent New Year's Eve celebrating together on their island with fireworks online and food in real life.

(Pictured, top to bottom: a celebration to open the new store, the author and a fashionista, and the travelling flower seller.)

Got friends?



Pictures by Jacob Julliar



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PARTING SHOT

BY: JACOB JULIAR

I started playing video games when the Nintendo NES came out back when I was five years old. My brother would have been three years old at

the time, so it was a few years before he developed the dexterity needed to work the controllers. Then he started to win, and he won all the time. As he started to win and win, I lost interest in gaming.

You can only be destroyed by your younger brother so many times before you find something else to do.

I found I was faster, stronger, and more social than him. I skied, ran track, lifted weights, played jazz and pep band. He dug deeper into PlayStation games before moving on to build his own gaming computers with components imported from around the world. He started learning Japanese so he could import games straight from Tokyo. I moved out into the world and he moved into a virtual one. In my mind, gaming was something little brothers did. Nothing impressive. A waste of time.

Now here we are - almost a year into a pandemic. I read more books last year than I have ever before - tens of thousands of pages. I cooked meal after delicious meal and became a masterful baker. I ran more miles than I have since high school. I was still looking for something more.

One of my favorite authors, a gifted poet and novelist and overall amazing human being, started posting about Animal Crossing during lockdown. I scoffed at first, but then I started to wonder. "If another person I admire so much loves the game so much, what am I missing?"

Lucky for me, Santa brought our children two gaming consoles before dawn on December 25.

He started learning Japanese so he could import games straight from Tokyo.