

3D Platformer history

- A chronological timeframe v 1.6-

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1990

- Aug 1 – Alpha Waves

1994

- Mar 12 – Geograph Seal

1995

- Apr 28 – Jumping Flash!
- May 15 – Bug!

1996

- Jan 19 – Floating Runner: Quest for the 7 Crystals
- Apr 26 – Jumping Flash! 2
- Jun 23 – Super Mario 64
- Sep 9 – Crash Bandicoot
- Oct 31 – Bubsy 3D
- Nov 30 – Bug Too!
- Nov 30 – SoulTrap

1997

- Mar 21 – Doraemon: Nobita to Mittsu no Seireiseki
- June 27 – Willy Wombat
- Sep 29 – Croc: Legend of the Gobbos
- Oct 31 – Crash Bandicoot: Cortex Strikes Back
- Nov 30 – Chameleon Twist
- Dec 12 – Jersey Devil
- Dec 18 – Ninpen Manmaru

1998

- Jan 26 – Gex: Enter the Gecko
- Feb 28 – Pitfall 3D: Beyond the Jungle
- Mar 18 – Rascal
- Mar 31 – Blasto

- June 29 – Banjo-Kazooie
- Sep 9 – Spyro the Dragon
- Oct 21 – Space Station Silicon Valley
- Oct 31 – Crash Bandicoot 3: Warped
- Oct 31 – Glover
- Nov 18 – A Bug's Life
- Dec 4 – Starshot: Space Circus Fever
- Dec 23 – Ganbare Goemon: Kuru Nara Koi! Ayashige Ikka no Kuroi Kage
- Dec 23 – Sonic Adventure
- Dec 25 – Chameleon Twist 2

1999

- Mar 1 – Gex 3: Deep Cover Gecko
- May 31 – Ape Escape
- May 31 – Bugs Bunny: Lost in Time
- Jun 30 – Croc 2
- Aug 31 – Tonic Trouble
- Sep 28 – Kingsley's Adventure
- Oct 12 – Pac-Man World
- Oct 14 – Robbit Mon Dieu
- Oct 29 – Rayman 2: The Great Escape
- Oct 31 – Earthworm Jim 3D
- Oct 31 – Rocket: Robot on Wheels
- Nov 2 – Spyro 2: Ripto's Rage!
- Nov 14 – 40 Winks
- Nov 18 – Whiplash
- Nov 22 – Donkey Kong 64
- Nov 25 – Ling Rise
- Nov 30 – Toy Story 2: Buzz Lightyear to the Rescue
- Dec 1 – Bugdom

2000

- Feb 3 – Super Magnetic Neo
- Mar 11 – Hugo: Quest for the Sunstones
- Jul 28 – Doraemon 3: Nobita no Machi SOS!
- Sep ?? – Bugs Bunny & Taz: Time Busters
- Sep 15 – The Land Before Time: Return to the Great Valley
- Sep 16 – Duck Dodgers Starring Daffy Duck
- Sep 26 – Buzz Lightyear of Star Command
- Sep 28 – M&M's The Lost Formulas
- Oct 13 – Blues Brothers 2000
- Oct 19 – Donald Duck: Goin' Quackers
- Oct 20 – Muppet Monster Adventure
- Oct 24 – Spyro: Year of the Dragon
- Oct 26 – The Grinch
- Nov 8 – 102 Dalmatians: Puppies to the Rescue
- Nov 19 – Banjo-Tooie

- Nov 30 – Mort the Chicken
- Dec 1 – Disney's Aladdin in Nasira's Revenge
- Dec 8 – Kao the Kangaroo
- Dec 22 – The Lion King: Simba's Mighty Adventure

2001

- Jan 18 – 3D Caveman Rocks
- Mar 5 – Conker's Bad Fur Day
- Apr 9 – Barbie: Explorer
- Jun 19 – Sonic Adventure 2
- Jul 12 – Hugo: Black Diamond Fever
- Sep 11 – Portal Runner
- Sep 30 – M&M's Shell Shocked
- Oct 4 – Evil Twin: Cyprien's Chronicles
- Oct 19 – Monsters, Inc.
- Oct 29 – Crash Bandicoot 4: The Wrath of Cortex
- Oct 30 – Monsters, Inc. Scream Team
- Nov 14 – Tarzan Untamed
- Nov 18 – Frogger: The Great Quest
- Dec 3 – Jak and Daxter: The Precursor Legacy
- Dec 7 – Woody Woodpecker: Escape from Buzz Buzzard Park

2002

- Feb 24 – Pac-Man World 2
- May 2 – Hugo: The Evil Mirror
- May 20 – Scooby-Doo! Night of 100 Frights
- Jun 14 – Lilo & Stich: Trouble in Paradise
- Jul 17 – Stuart Little 2
- Jul 18 – Ape Escape 2
- Aug 26 – Super Mario Sunshine
- Sep 10 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Revenge of the Flying Dutchman
- Sep 23 – Sly Cooper and the Thievius Raccoonus
- Oct 4 – PK: Out of the Shadows
- Oct 7 – Blinx: The Time Sweeper
- Oct 8 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger
- Oct 9 – Zapper: One Wicked Cricket
- Oct 23 – ToeJam & Earl III: Mission to Earth
- Nov 4 – Ratchet & Clank (Original)
- Nov 5 – Spyro: Enter the Dragonfly
- Nov 11 – Treasure Planet
- Nov 17 – Haven: Call of the King
- Nov 19 – Dr. Muto
- Dec 13 – Castleween
- Dec 13 – Marble Blast Gold

2003

- Jan 20 – Rayman 3: Hoodlum Havoc
- Jan 31 – Jinx
- Feb 11 – Vexx
- Jun 20 – Wario World
- Sep 9 – I-Ninja
- Sep 16 – The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron Boy Genius: Jet Fusion
- Sep 23 – Billy Hatcher and the Giant Egg
- Sep 23 – Voodoo Vince
- Oct 3 – Wallace & Gromit in Project Zoo
- Oct 14 – Jak II
- Oct 15 – Tak and the Power of Juju
- Oct 31 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Battle for Bikini Bottom
- Nov 11 – Ratchet & Clank: Going Commando
- Nov 18 – Kya: Dark Lineage
- Nov 18 – Whiplash
- Nov 19 – Looney Tunes: Back in Action
- Dec 30 – Sonic Heroes

2004

- Apr 8 – Malice
- Apr 15 – Kao the Kangaroo: Round 2
- Sep 14 – Sly 2: Band of Thieves
- Sep 28 – Crash Twinsanity
- Oct 1 – Scaler
- Oct 12 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger 2: Bush Rescue
- Oct 27 – The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie Video Game
- Oct 29 – Gadget & Gadgetinis
- Nov 2 – Ratchet & Clank: Up Your Arsenal
- Nov 3 – Spyro: A Hero's Tail
- Nov 9 – Jak 3
- Nov 21 – Super Mario 64 DS
- Nov 18 – Blinx 2: Masters of Time and Space

2005

- Jan 12 – Tork: Prehistoric Punk
- Feb 24 – Robots
- Mar 17 – Ape Escape: On the Loose
- Apr 19 – Psychonauts
- Jun 21 – Conker: Live & Reloaded
- Jul 8 – Anubis II
- Jul 13 – Ninjabread Man
- Jul 14 – Ape Escape 3
- Aug 19 – Myth Makers: Trixie in Toyland
- Sep 12 – Scooby-Doo! Unmasked
- Sep 26 – Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves
- Oct ?? – Garfield: Saving Arlene
- Oct 11 – Codename: Kids Next Door – Operation: V.I.D.E.O.G.A.M.E.

- Oct 11 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger 3: Night of the Quinkan
- Oct 18 – Disney's Chicken Little
- Oct 25 – Ratchet: Deadlocked
- Nov 15 – Pac-Man World 3
- Nov 15 – Shadow the Hedgehog
- Dec 2 – Kao the Kangaroo: Mystery of the Volcano
- ??? – Galidor: Defenders of the Outer Dimension

2006

- Feb 1 – Curious George
- Mar 14 – Dexter
- Mar 14 – Ice Age 2: The Meltdown
- May 5 – Over the Hedge
- June 28 – Ruff Trigger: The Vanocore Conspiracy
- Oct 10 – Over the Hedge: Hammy Goes Nuts!
- Oct 10 – The Legend of Spyro: A New Beginning
- Oct 16 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Creature from the Krusty Krab
- Oct 24 – Flushed Away
- Oct 24 – Nicktoons: Battle for Volcano Island
- Nov 14 – Barbie in the 12 Dancing Princesses
- Nov 14 – Sonic the Hedgehog
- Nov 19 – Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz

2007

- Jun 26 – Ratatouille
- Sep 17 – Rock 'n' Roll Adventures
- Oct 2 – The Legend of Spyro: The Eternal Night
- Oct 4 – Crash of the Titans
- Oct 23 – Ratchet & Clank Future: Tools of Destruction
- Nov 1 – Super Mario Galaxy
- Nov 5 – Agent Hugo: Lemoon Twist
- Nov 23 – Mr. Bean's Wacky World
- Nov 30 – Garfield: Lasagna World Tour

2008

- Mar 6 – Dora the Explorer: Dora Saves the Mermaids
- Jun 27 – De Blob 2008
- Jul 15 – Space Chimps
- Aug 21 – Ratchet & Clank Future: Quest for Booty
- Oct 6 – Agent Hugo: Hula Holiday
- Oct 7 – Crash: Mind over Mutant
- Oct 13 – Tak and the Guardians of Gross
- Oct 21 – The Legend of Spyro: Dawn of the Dragon
- Oct 28 – Mushroom Men: The Spore Wars
- Nov 18 – Sonic Unleashed
- Dec 2 – The Tale of Despereaux

- Dec 3 – M&M's Adventure

2009

- Mar 3 – Sonic and the Black Knight
- June 25 – Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs
- Oct 13 – Where the Wild Things Are
- Oct 27 – Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time
- Nov 3 – Jak and Daxter: The Lost Frontier
- Nov 20 – Crazy Chicken Tales

2010

- Jan 17 – Plucky's Adventure
- May 23 – Super Mario Galaxy 2
- Jun 15 – Toy Story 3: The Video Game
- Jun 28 – Jett Rocket
- Aug 11 – The Kore Gang
- Oct 19 – Flip's Twisted World
- Nov 11 – Sonic Colors
- Nov 25 – Epic Mickey
- Nov 28 – Dash and the Stolen Treasure

2011

- Feb 22 – De Blob 2
- Oct 18 – Ratchet & Clank: All 4 One
- Nov 1 – Sonic Generations
- Nov 3 – Super Mario 3D Land

2012

- Nov 18 – Epic Mickey 2: The Power of Two
- Nov 27 – Ratchet & Clank: Full Frontal Assault

2013

- Feb 5 – Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time
- Oct 18 – Sonic Lost World
- Oct 25 – Pac-Man & the Ghostly Adventures
- Nov 6 – Ratchet & Clank: Into the Nexus
- Nov 20 – Tearaway
- Nov 21 – Super Mario 3D World

2014

- Mar 20 – Cloudbuilt
- Jun 6 – Woodle Tree Adventures
- Oct 14 – Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures 2
- Nov 11 – Sonic Boom: Rise of Lyric

- Dec 30 – Kiwi 64

2015

- Feb 3 – SpongeBob HeroPants
- Mar 3 – Isaac the Adventurer
- Mar 10 – Grapple
- Sep 8 – Tearaway Unfolded
- Dec 8 – Ben and Ed
- Dec 8 – Dexterity Ball 3D
- Dec 10 – FreezeME

2016

- Mar 28 – Lucky's Tale
- Apr 8 – Warden: Melody of the Undergrowth
- Apr 12 – Marble Void
- Apr 12 – Ratchet & Clank (Remastered)
- May 6 – Scrap Garden
- Jul 2 – Gnomes Vs. Fairies: Greckel's Quest
- Aug 16 – Bound
- Aug 29 – Zissi's Island
- Sep 5 – Unbox: Newbie's Adventure
- Sep 27 – Dyno Adventure
- Oct 25 – Ginger: Beyond the Crystal
- Dec 3 – Skyway

2017

- Jan 3 – Ziggy's Chase
- Feb 1 – Poi
- Feb 14 – Fumiko!
- Feb 27 – Schacht
- Mar 17 – Macbat 64
- Mar 28 – Snake Pass
- Mar 31 – Dawn
- Apr 11 – Yooka-Laylee
- May 19 – Skylar & Plux: Adventure on Clover Island
- Jun 10 – Face It-A game to fight inner demons
- Jun 17 – Geoid
- Jun 30 – Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy
- Jul 21 – Crazy Ball Adventures
- Jul 21 – The Dungeon Power
- Jul 25 – Super Cloudbuilt
- Jul 29 – Super Lovely Planet
- Jul 31 – Trundle
- Aug 2 – Snake 3D Adventures
- Aug 25 – Cat vs. Corgis
- Sep 6 – PolyKat

- Sep 14 – Super Perspective
- Sep 28 – Marty Thinks 4D
- Oct 5 – A Hat in Time
- Oct 5 – Splat the Blob
- Oct 13 – Speebot
- Oct 24 – Viaerium
- Oct 27 – Super Mario Odyssey
- Nov 7 – Sonic Forces
- Nov 7 – Super Lucky's Tale
- Dec 2 – Polyball
- Dec 16 – Marble Skies
- Dec 31 – Celestial Hacker Girl Jessica

2018

- Feb 1 – Candleman
- Feb 13 – Ben and Ed - Blood Party
- Feb 14 – Newt One
- Feb 16 – Fe
- Mar 30 – Nogard
- Apr 4 – A Divided Light
- Apr 27 – Dynamite Bunny: Catch the Carrot
- May 2 – Run Jump Fail
- May 10 – Cosmic Trail
- May 16 – Flynn & Freckles
- May 24 – Funk Unplugged
- Jun 19 – Carly and the Reaperman - Escape from the Underworld
- Jun 19– Suzy Cube
- Aug 10 – Tiny Hands Adventure
- Aug 20 – Tyler: Model 005
- Aug 30 – Evocation
- Sep 14 – RAZED
- Sep 17 – The Adventures of Mr. Fluffykins
- Sep 25 – Pitterpot
- Sep 28 – Infinity
- Oct 2 – Astro Bot: Rescue Mission
- Nov 9 – Ascent: Crash Landing
- Nov 13 – Spyro Reignited Trilogy
- Nov 17 – Marble It Up!
- Nov 23 – Heart Chain Kitty
- Dec 1 – Santa's Story of Christmas
- Dec 7 – Scamp: High Hat Havoc
- Dec 21 – Pogo

2019

- Feb 1 – Choconoa
- Feb 8 – Synthrun
- Mar 1 – Bob's Cat Challenge
- Apr 25 – Bound Up & Squirming!
- Apr 26 – Wanna Run Again - Sprite Girl

- May 1 – Noodle Jump
- May 9 – BLOO
- May 9 – Draid
- May 15 – TECHNOSPHERE RELOAD
- May 16 – Spark the Electric Jester 2
- Jun 4 – Effie
- Jun 4 – Trover Saves the Universe
- Jun 6 – Maldrin Journey
- Jun 11 – Pumpkin Dog Islands
- Jun 19 – Lemons Must Die
- Jul 16 – The Way of Cinnamon
- Jul 25 – Woodle Tree 2: Deluxe
- Aug 15 – Impossible Jumpy Quest
- Aug 15 – Rogue Singularity
- Sep 12 – Boxwrecker Arena
- Sep 13 – Klym
- Sep 20 – Fishy
- Sep 24 – Breeza Budgie Bill
- Oct 2 – Spiralagon
- Oct 9 – 1984 Rewired
- Oct 16 – Feathery Ears 羽耳
- Oct 18 – Ice Age: Scrat's Nutty Adventure
- Oct 29 – Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz HD
- Oct 31 – Castle Costume
- Nov 30 – Ope
- Dec 12 – Raccoo Venture
- Dec 18 – Mineirinho Director's Cut
- Dec 31 – Malediction

2020

- Jan 16 – Little Big Rabbits
- Jan 18 – Through The Unknown
- Jan 25 – Lumin's Path
- Jan 28 – Fishy 2
- Feb 10 – Exhaust
- Feb 16 – Carlito
- Feb 18 – LOGA: Unexpected Adventure
- Feb 19 – Adrift Arena
- Feb 21 – Cube Chase
- Feb 21 – Lumote
- Feb 26 – Bob Venture 3D Level Editor
- Mar 2 – Isle of Ewe
- TBA – Cyberhook [Expected]
- TBA – Hell Pie [Expected]
- TBA – Psychonauts 2 [Expected]
- TBA – Pumpkin Jack [Expected Q4]
- TBA – Spheres: The Ancient Fuses [Expected]
- TBA – Tamarin [Expected Q1]
- TBA – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger Remastered [Expected Mar 31]

2022

- TBA – Captain's Tail [Expected]

What is a 3D Platformer?

Definitions are important, and game genres are no exception. Thanks to technological breakthroughs, three dimensional video games have become extremely commonplace, but of course, not all of them are 3D platformers. Platforming, as described by Wikipedia, refers specifically to the action of jumping onto, between, or across (suspended) ledges – one of the core ingredients in the 3D platformer recipe. Here are nine basic criteria a game should typically fulfil in order to be classified accordingly.

1. Primarily occurs in three dimensions (x, y and z axes)
2. Uses polygonal/3D graphics for both environments and characters
3. General movement and jumping are player controlled
4. Almost always designed in third-person perspective
5. Collectibles are fundamental to gameplay
6. Platforming is at the forefront and isn't overshadowed by other elements/genres
7. Playable environment is open-world, organised into levels/structured courses
8. There is an end point
9. Mascot or stylised cartoon character is the protagonist

There are many games which, on the surface, bear a very strong resemblance to 3D platformers; *Knack* is a good example because it ticks most of the boxes: True 3D, collectibles galore, distinct levels, endearing cartoon-hero. But, the crucial element differentiating it from something like *Super Mario 64* is its focal point: beat 'em up gameplay. A game that fuses *Crash Bandicoot*, *Katamari Damacy* and *God of War* is not going to provide the same experience as a pure platformer, especially when it is specifically built around a fighting mechanic that controls progression. Similar precautions must be applied to games that fall within the (admittedly broader) action-adventure bracket, as well as the narrative simulation and puzzle-platformer bracket. To put it more clearly: Is *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* a 3D platformer? What about *Mirror's Edge*? *Captain Toad's Treasure Tracker*? These games, and future games which will display heavy categorical overlap with 3D platformers only *encourage* definitional exclusivity. That said, I strive to keep an open mind and strongly believe that in order to create the most accurate, authentic list of 3D platformers for the history annals, classification should be contested as **much** as possible. Fight me. *Frequently*.

Contact author for 3D platforming debates: katrinafilippidis@gmail.com.