

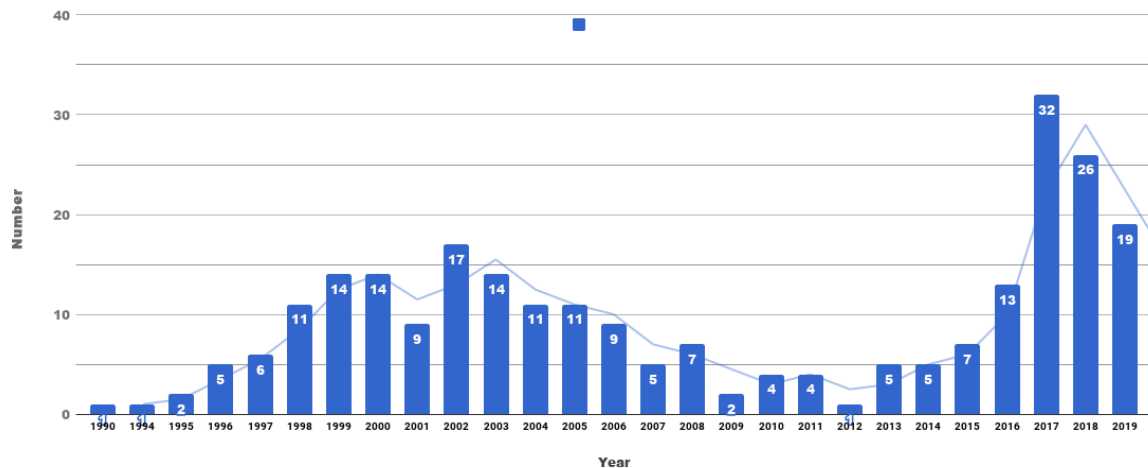
3D Platformer history

- A chronological timeframe v 1.1-

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Proliferation of 3D Platformers (1990-2019)

Sample size: 256



- 1990 – Alpha Waves
- 1994 – Geograph Seal
- 1995 – Jumping Flash!
- 1995 – Bug!
- 1996 – Super Mario 64
- 1996 – Crash Bandicoot
- 1996 – Bubsy 3D
- 1996 – Bug Too!
- 1996 – Floating Runner: Quest for the 7 Crystals
- 1997 – Doraemon: Nobita to Mittsu no Seireiseki
- 1997 – Croc: Legend of the Gobbos
- 1997 – Crash Bandicoot: Cortex Strikes Back
- 1997 – Chameleon Twist
- 1997 – Jersey Devil
- 1997 – Ninpen Manmaru
- 1998 – Gex: Enter the Gecko
- 1998 – Pitfall 3D: Beyond the Jungle
- 1998 – Rascal
- 1998 – Banjo-Kazooie
- 1998 – Crash Bandicoot 3: Warped
- 1998 – Spyro the Dragon
- 1998 – Glover
- 1998 – A Bug's Life
- 1998 – Starshot: Space Circus Fever
- 1998 – Sonic Adventure
- 1998 – Chameleon Twist 2

- 1999 – Gex 3: Deep Cover Gecko
- 1999 – Ape Escape
- 1999 – Bugs Bunny: Lost in Time
- 1999 – Croc 2
- 1999 – Tonic Trouble
- 1999 – Kingsley's Adventure
- 1999 – Pac-Man World
- 1999 – Rayman 2: The Great Escape
- 1999 – Earthworm Jim 3D
- 1999 – Rocket: Robot on Wheels
- 1999 – Spyro 2: Ripto's Rage!
- 1999 – 40 Winks
- 1999 – Donkey Kong 64
- 1999 – Toy Story 2: Buzz Lightyear to the Rescue

- 2000 – Super Magnetic Neo
- 2000 – Doraemon 3: Nobita no Machi SOS!
- 2000 – Bugs Bunny & Taz: Time Busters
- 2000 – Duck Dodgers Starring Daffy Duck
- 2000 – M&M's The Lost Formulas
- 2000 – Blues Brothers 2000
- 2000 – Donald Duck: Goin' Quackers
- 2000 – Muppet Monster Adventure
- 2000 – Spyro: Year of the Dragon
- 2000 – 102 Dalmatians: Puppies to the Rescue
- 2000 – Chicken Run
- 2000 – Banjo-Tooie
- 2000 – Disney's Aladdin in Nasira's Revenge
- 2000 – Kao the Kangaroo
- 2001 – Conker's Bad Fur Day
- 2001 – Sonic Adventure 2
- 2001 – M&M's Shell Shocked
- 2001 – Evil Twin: Cyprien's Chronicles
- 2001 – Monsters, Inc.
- 2001 – Crash Bandicoot 4: The Wrath of Cortex
- 2001 – Monsters, Inc. Scream Team
- 2001 – Frogger: The Great Quest
- 2001 – Jak and Daxter: The Precursor Legacy
- 2002 – Pac-Man World 2
- 2002 – Ape Escape 2
- 2002 – Super Mario Sunshine
- 2002 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Revenge of the Flying Dutchman
- 2002 – Sly Cooper and the Thievius Racoonus
- 2002 – PK: Out of the Shadows
- 2002 – Blinx: The Time Sweeper
- 2002 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger
- 2002 – Zapper: One Wicked Cricket
- 2002 – ToeJam & Earl III: Mission to Earth
- 2002 – Galidor: Defenders of the Outer Dimension
- 2002 – Ratchet & Clank (Original)
- 2002 – Spyro: Enter the Dragonfly
- 2002 – Treasure Planet
- 2002 – Dr. Muto
- 2002 – Castleween
- 2002 – Marble Blast Gold

- 2003 – Rayman 3: Hoodlum Havoc
- 2003 – Jinx
- 2003 – Vexx
- 2003 – Wario World
- 2003 – I-Ninja
- 2003 – The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron Boy Genius: Jet Fusion
- 2003 – Billy Hatcher and the Giant Egg
- 2003 – Voodoo Vince
- 2003 – Wallace & Gromit in Project Zoo
- 2003 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Battle for Bikini Bottom
- 2003 – Jak II
- 2003 – Tak and the Power of Juju
- 2003 – Ratchet & Clank: Going Commando
- 2003 – Kya: Dark Lineage
- 2004 – Malice
- 2004 – Sly 2: Band of Thieves
- 2004 – Crash Twinsanity
- 2004 – Kao the Kangaroo: Round 2
- 2004 – Scaler
- 2004 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger 2: Bush Rescue
- 2004 – The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie Video Game
- 2004 – Ratchet & Clank: Up Your Arsenal
- 2004 – Spyro: A Hero's Tail
- 2004 – Jak 3
- 2004 – Blinx 2: Masters of Time and Space
- 2005 – Tork: Prehistoric Punk
- 2005 – Psychonauts
- 2005 – Anubis II
- 2005 – Ninjabread Man
- 2005 – Ape Escape 3
- 2005 – Myth Makers: Trixie in Toyland
- 2005 – Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves
- 2005 – Codename: Kids Next Door – Operation: V.I.D.E.O.G.A.M.E.
- 2005 – Ty the Tasmanian Tiger 3: Night of the Quinkan
- 2005 – Disney's Chicken Little
- 2005 – Pac-Man World 3
- 2006 – Dexter
- 2006 – Over the Hedge
- 2006 – Ruff Trigger: The Vanocore Conspiracy
- 2006 – Over the Hedge: Hammy Goes Nuts!
- 2006 – The Legend of Spyro: A New Beginning
- 2006 – SpongeBob SquarePants: Creature from the Krusty Krab
- 2006 – Nicktoons: Battle for Volcano Island
- 2006 – Sonic the Hedgehog
- 2006 – Kao the Kangaroo: Mystery of the Volcano
- 2007 – Rock 'n' Roll Adventures
- 2007 – The Legend of Spyro: The Eternal Night
- 2007 – Crash of the Titans
- 2007 – Ratchet & Clank Future: Tools of Destruction
- 2007 – Super Mario Galaxy
- 2008 – De Blob
- 2008 – Ratchet & Clank Future: Quest for Booty
- 2008 – Crash: Mind over Mutant
- 2008 – Tak and the Guardians of Gross
- 2008 – The Legend of Spyro: Dawn of the Dragon

- 2008 – Mushroom Men: The Spore Wars
- 2008 – M&M's Adventure
- 2009 – Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time
- 2009 – Jak and Daxter: The Lost Frontier
- 2010 – Super Mario Galaxy 2
- 2010 – Toy Story 3: The Video Game
- 2010 – Jett Rocket
- 2010 – The Kore Gang
- 2010 – Epic Mickey
- 2011 – De Blob 2
- 2011 – Ratchet & Clank: All 4 One
- 2011 – Sonic Generations
- 2011 – Super Mario 3D Land
- 2012 – Epic Mickey 2: The Power of Two
- 2013 – Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time
- 2013 – Sonic Lost World
- 2013 – Pac-Man & the Ghostly Adventures
- 2013 – Tearaway
- 2013 – Super Mario 3D World
- 2013 – Cloudbuilt
- 2014 – The Last Tinker: City of Colors
- 2014 – Woodle Tree Adventures
- 2014 – Kiwi 64
- 2014 – Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures 2
- 2015 – SpongeBob HeroPants
- 2015 – Isaac the Adventurer
- 2015 – Grapple
- 2015 – Tearaway Unfolded
- 2015 – Ben and Ed
- 2015 – Dexterity Ball 3D
- 2015 – FreezeME
- 2016 – Warden: Melody of the Undergrowth
- 2016 – Ratchet & Clank (Remastered)
- 2016 – Lucky's Tale
- 2016 – Marble Void
- 2016 – Scrap Garden
- 2016 – Gnomes Vs. Fairies: Greckel's Quest
- 2016 – Bound
- 2016 – Zissi's Island
- 2016 – Unbox: Newbie's Adventure
- 2016 – Dyno Adventure
- 2016 – Rogue Singularity
- 2016 – Ginger: Beyond the Crystal
- 2016 – Skyway
- 2017 – Ziggy's Chase
- 2017 – Candleman
- 2017 – Poi
- 2017 – Fumiko!
- 2017 – Schacht
- 2017 – Macbat 64
- 2017 – Snake Pass
- 2017 – Dawn 2017 – Yooka-Laylee
- 2017 – Skylar & Plux: Adventure on Clover Island
- 2017 – Face It-A game to fight inner demons

- 2017 – Geoid
- 2017 – Crash Bandicoot N. Sane Trilogy
- 2017 – Crazy Ball Adventures
- 2017 – The Dungeon Power
- 2017 – Super Cloudbuilt
- 2017 – Super Lovely Planet
- 2017 – Trundle
- 2017 – Snake 3D Adventures
- 2017 – Cat vs. Corgis
- 2017 – PolyKat
- 2017 – Super Perspective
- 2017 – Marty Thinks 4D
- 2017 – A Hat in Time
- 2017 – Splat the Blob
- 2017 – Speebot
- 2017 – Viaerium
- 2017 – Super Mario Odyssey
- 2017 – Super Lucky's Tale
- 2017 – Polyball
- 2017 – Marble Skies
- 2017 – Celestial Hacker Girl Jessica
- 2018 – Ben and Ed - Blood Party
- 2018 – Fe
- 2018 – Nogard
- 2018 – A Divided Light
- 2018 – Dynamite Bunny: Catch the Carrot
- 2018 – Run Jump Fail
- 2018 – Cosmic Trail
- 2018 – Flynn & Freckles
- 2018 – Funk Unplugged
- 2018 – Carly and the Reaperman - Escape from the Underworld
- 2018 – Suzy Cube
- 2018 – Tiny Hands Adventure
- 2018 – Tyler: Model 005
- 2018 – Evocation
- 2018 – RAZED
- 2018 – The Adventures of Mr. Fluffykins
- 2018 – Pitterpot
- 2018 – Infinity
- 2018 – Astro Bot: Rescue Mission
- 2018 – Spyro Reignited Trilogy
- 2018 – Marble It Up!
- 2018 – Heart Chain Kitty
- 2018 – Newt One
- 2018 – Ascent: Crash Landing
- 2018 – Santa's Story of Christmas
- 2018 – Pogo
- 2019 – Choconoa
- 2019 – Synthrun
- 2019 – Bob's Cat Challenge
- 2019 – Bound Up & Squirming!
- 2019 – Wanna Run Again - Sprite Girl
- 2019 – Noodle Jump
- 2019 – Draid
- 2019 – BLOO

- 2019 – **TECHNOSPHERE RELOAD**
- 2019 – **Spark the Electric Jester 2**
- 2019 – **Effie**
- 2019 – **Trover Saves the Universe**
- 2019 – **Maldrin Journey**
- 2019 – **Pumpkin Dog Islands**
- 2019 – **Lemons Must Die**
- 2019 – **The Way of Cinnamon**
- 2019 – **Woodle Tree 2: Deluxe**
- 2019 – **Impossible Jumpy Quest**
- 2019 – **Tamarin**
- 2020 – **Ty the Tasmanian Tiger Remastered [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 here: katrinafilippidis@gmail.com