

Game on! "Fortnite" fast becoming a favorite with kids

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"Fortnite" is the biggest video game in the world. Photograph: Epic Games

The game "Fortnite" is very popular with young people.

"Fortnite" is a survival game. You can play it with others online.

At first, the game could be played only on computers and video game systems.

In March, an iPhone version of the game came out. In just a few hours, it was the most popular iPhone game in 13 countries.

A company called Epic Games created "Fortnite." An earlier version of "Fortnite" came out in 2017. It was not as popular.

Free Game Grows In Popularity

Then, Epic made some changes to it. They also made "Fortnite" free to download.

Soon, the game exploded in popularity. In February, the game made more than \$125 million from its computer, PlayStation and Xbox versions.

At any one time, there are 3.4 million people playing "Fortnite" online. Right now, you have to be invited by email to play it.

Kids Can't Get Enough Of Video Game

The game is especially popular with children. Some parents are concerned about this. They are writing posts online about it.

In February, a U.S. mother wrote an article. It was called "How I lost my kids to Fortnite."

Hundreds of parents responded to the post. One mother complained that her son was "addicted" to the game.

Fun, Unique Features

The game's look may be what makes it appealing to kids. It has bright pictures and silly humor, like a cartoon.

Players can buy different things in the game. Some buy clothing items for their character to wear. They also buy "emotes." These are digital ways of expressing feelings.

Players can dress up as astronauts and superheroes. They may also perform dance moves.

Smartphones are getting more powerful, says writer James Batchelor. Now, smartphone games can do more than they used to. Companies are trying to make more interesting games for smartphones. They want to attract gamers who use computers or videogame systems.

The game could still gain more players, too, says Piers Harding-Rolls. He studies business trends. The game has not gotten popular in China yet.

Even Rapper Drake Plays Game

Tyler "Ninja" Blevins is a popular "Fortnite" player. Last month, he played the game against the rapper Drake. More than 600,000 people watched. The live video was on the website Twitch.

Still, "Fortnite" could quickly become unpopular, too. The game "Pokemon Go" was downloaded 750 million times in its first year. It is no longer one of the top 50 iPhone game downloads.

Quiz

- 1 Which event in the article happened FIRST?
- (A) "Fortnite" made \$125 million from its computer, PlayStation and Xbox versions.
 - (B) An iPhone version of "Fortnite" became popular in different countries.
 - (C) "Fortnite" could be played only on computers and video game systems.
 - (D) Epic Games made "Fortnite" free to download.

- 2 Complete the sentence.
- Because smartphones are getting more powerful, _____.
- (A) companies are trying to attract players with more interesting games
 - (B) companies are making their games free so more people will download them
 - (C) companies are creating things players can buy in their games, such as "emotes"
 - (D) companies are asking famous people to play their games on smartphones

- 3 One mother said that her son was "addicted" to "Fortnite."
HOW does she feel about the game?
- (A) She is worried that the game is too hard for her son.
 - (B) She is worried that her son plays the game too much.
 - (C) She is worried that the game is too silly for her son.
 - (D) She is worried that her son does not know how to play the game.

- 4 Read the paragraph from the section "Even Rapper Drake Plays Game."

Still, "Fortnite" could quickly become unpopular, too. The game "Pokemon Go" was downloaded 750 million times in its first year. It is no longer one of the top 50 iPhone game downloads.

- What is the author's point of view about "Fortnite"?
- (A) People who played "Pokemon Go" now play "Fortnite."
 - (B) People like "Fortnite" better than "Pokemon Go."
 - (C) People will never stop liking "Fortnite."
 - (D) People might not like "Fortnite" forever.