

- slides)
- 3. Present your findings in an interesting way: Powerpoint, infographic, mindmap, audio recording.

THINGS CO INVESTIGATE:

- Who wrote/designed the game?
- What is the point of the game?
- Who is its target audience?
- How is it played? (How do you access it? Hardware, software, streaming?)
- Would you consider it an independent or mainstream game? (Like mainstream and independent cinema.)
- Are there spin-off games? Is the game a spin-off from another media form?
- Are there other spin-offs? (Physical games, soft toys, cartoons)
- Is the game successful? How much money has it made? What have the designers gone on to do?
- Does it follow the traditional 'production, circulation and distribution' pattern?

The Video Game Industry

Early Beginnings
Arcade Boom
Rise of Personal Computers
Console Wars
Online Gaming

Task: Produce a timeline of important events in video game history. Use images to support your points.



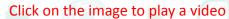


Platforms

PC
Mobile Devices
Handheld devices
Cloud Gaming
VR

Task: Produce a timeline of important platforms in video game history. Use images to support your points.

























Developers

Game Design
Art and Animation
Sound Design
Quality Assurance
Production and Project Management

Task: identify the logos of the video companies listed above.



Click on the image to play a video



Publishers

Distribution Marketing and Promotion Support and Updates Intellectual Property Management

Task: Who are the 10 biggest publishers? What successful games do they produce?













Interactive



























Video Game Genres

Action Adventure **Role-Playing Strategy**

Simulation

Sports

Racing

Fighting

Shooter

Puzzle

Stealth

Horror

Open World / Sandbox Massively Multiplayer Online (MMO)



RACING



CASTLE DEFENSE



PINBALL



MUSIC GAMES



CASINO



FIGHT, FPS



SPORTS









Task: What are 5 of the most successful games for each genre?

> **David Hesmondhalgh #Vertical Horizontal** #Formatting / Risk **#Different industries**

Horizontal and Vertical Integration

Microsoft Sony Nintendo

Task: Apply Horizontal and Vertical Integration to the three companies above?

What companies did they buy? How much did they pay for them?

Use images to support your points.

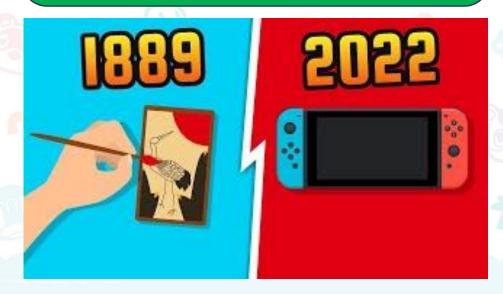


David Hesmondhalgh #Vertical Horizontal #Formatting / Risk #Different industries

Nintendo

Microsoft Sony Nintendo

Task: Task: Produce a timeline of Nintendo.
Use images to support your points.























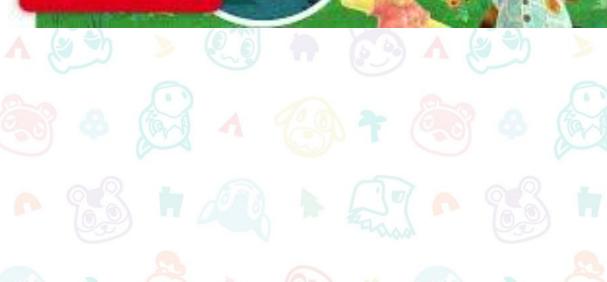














Animal Crossing Unique Concept

Open-ended and Non-competitive Gameplay **Player Creativity and Customization Relaxing and Escapist Atmosphere Continuous Updates and Events**

Task: What makes Animal Crossing a unique concept? Use images to support your points.





Marketing

Social Media Campaigns Cross-promotion and Collaborations Special Events and Limited-Time Content Word-of-Mouth and Player Community Merchandising and Tie-ins

Task: List the different methods used to market the game. Use images to support your points.









































User Interaction Maintain

Regular Updates and Events
Timeless Gameplay and Endless
Possibilities
Community and Social Interaction
Seasonal Changes and Real-Time Events
Collectibles and Achievements
Customization and Self-Expression
Player Creativity and Sharing

Task: How does Animal Crossing maintain user interaction? Use images to support your points.



Click on the image to play a video

Multi Platform?

Nintendo Devices
Game Cube
Nintendo DS
Wii
Nintendo 3DS
Wii U
Mobile

Task: Produce a timeline of Animal Crossing games across the various Nintendo devices. Use images to support your points.

What was different about each version?

Click on the image to play a video

Curran and Seaton
#Power and Profit
#Limit Creativity
#Social Diversity



Merchandise

Find examples of merchandise for Animal Crossing and share your findings with the group.

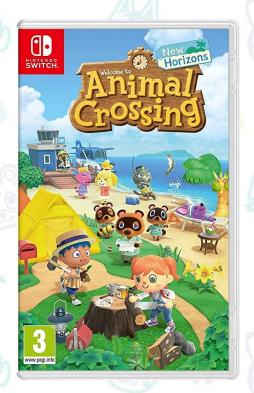
Task: Produce a list of merchandise you can buy for Animal Crossing. Use images to support your points.

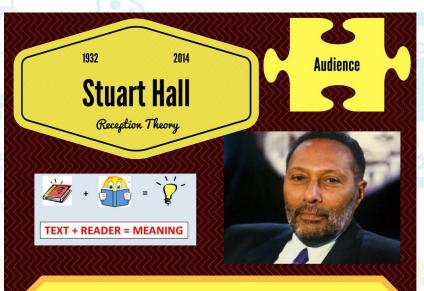


Reception Theory

Active Audiences
Preferred Reading
Negotiated Reading
Oppositional Reading

Task: Apply Stuart Hall's theory to Animal Crossing.





- > The idea that communication is a process involving encoding by producers and decoding by audiences.
- >The idea that there are three hypothetical positions from which messages and meanings may be decoded: the preferred reading, the negotiated reading or the oppositional reading.
- > The preferred reading is the producer's intended message, the negotiated is when the audience understand the message but adapt it to suit their own values and the oppositional is where the audience disagrees with the preferred meaning.

In a nutshell: - Producers want audiences to respond in a particular way to a text. Some audiences do (preferred reading), some audiences don't (oppositional reading) and some are in the middle (negotiated reading).

Reception Theory

#Preferred #Negotiated #Oppositional















Covid / Lockdown

Escapism and Relaxation
Social Interaction and Connection
Sense of Routine and Normalcy
Creative Outlet and Self-Expression
Positive and Uplifting Atmosphere
Longevity and Replayability

Task: Why was Animal Crossing successful during lockdown?

62% of UK adults played video games during the pandemic, says Ofcom

Research finds that lockdown gave people time to indulge in games such as Animal Crossing



A person playing Animal Crossing at home during lockdown. Photograph: William West/AFP via Getty Images



Covid / Lockdown

Personalized Reflection
Emotional Connection to Villagers
Seasonal Changes and Time Passing
Community Support
Escape and Distraction

Task: How does Animal Crossing help to players deal with difficult subjects? Use images to support your points.

Exploring Grief in Animal Crossing: New Horizons

Under the pandemic many people are unable to hold funerals and grieve together. In result, people are creating their own rituals, and spaces – from memorials to funerals – in the Nintendo game, Animal Crossing: New Horizons.

May 13, 2020

















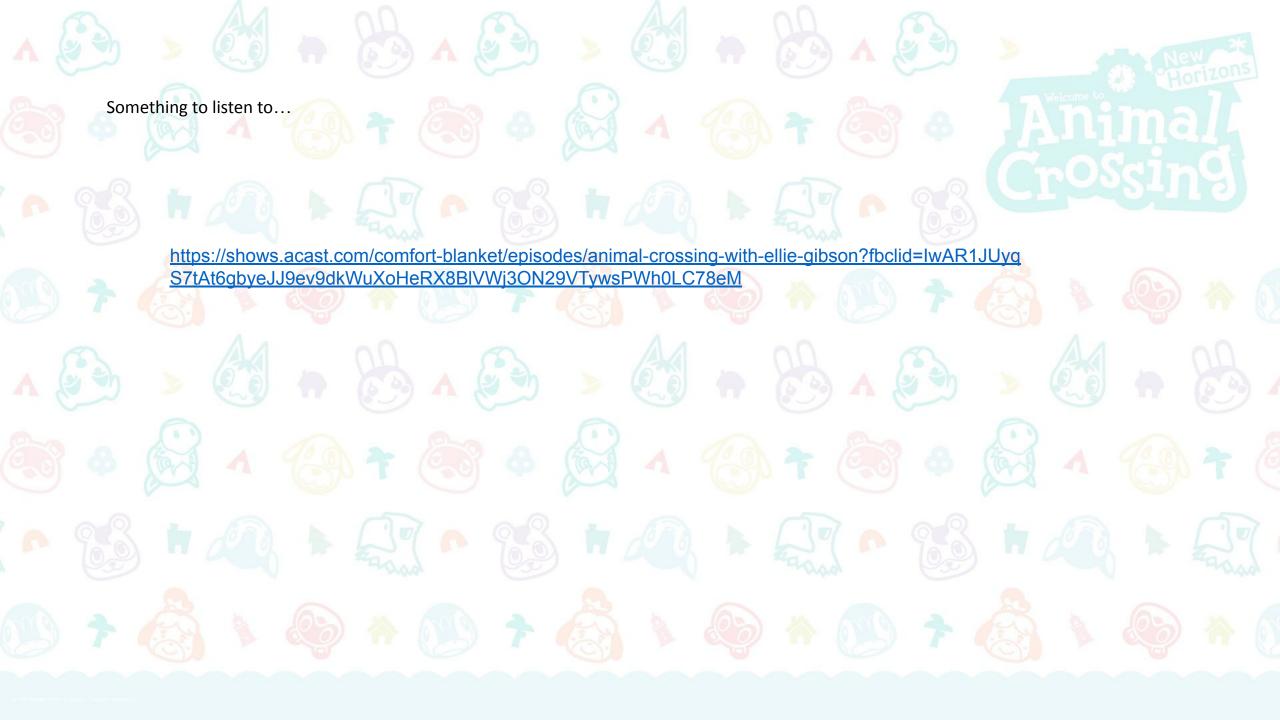












Education

Virtual Classrooms Cultural Exploration Financial Literacy Ecology and Nature Studies Design and Creativity





Task: How does Animal Crossing help to educate young players? Use images to support your points.



















































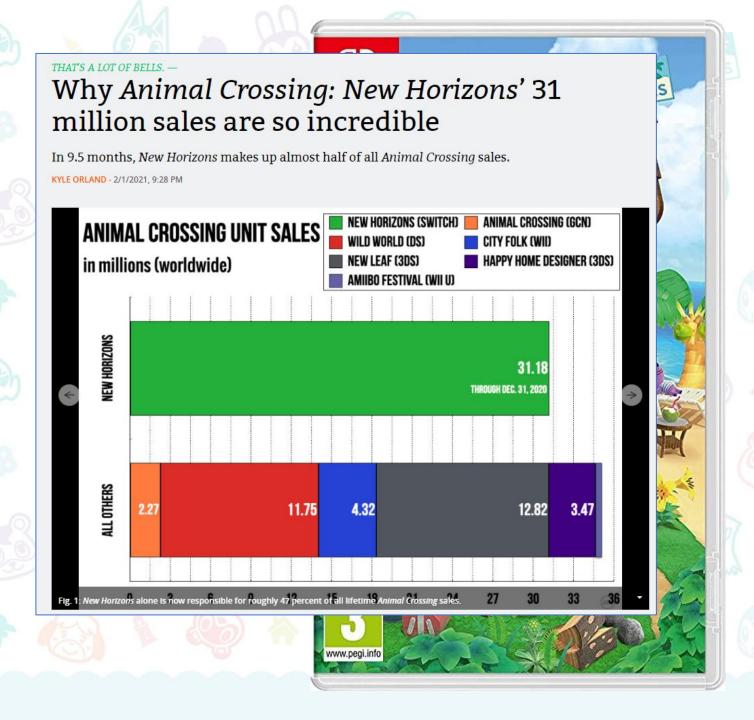




Economic Context

Game Sales
Downloadable Content (DLC)
Amiibo Figures and Cards
Merchandise and Licensing
Collaborations and Partnerships

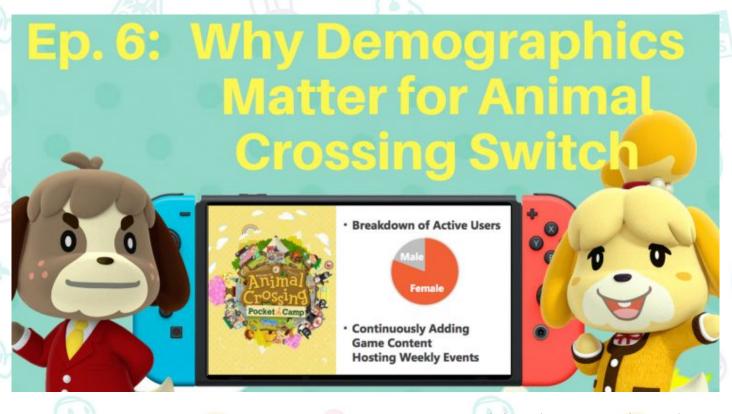
Task: How do we measure success for the video games? Apply this Animal Crossing.
Use images to support your points.



Demographics

Casual Gamers
Female Gamers
Social Gamers
Creative and Artistic Individuals
Nintendo Fans

Task: Produce a demographic profile for Animal Crossing.



Click on the image to play a video























David Gauntlett

Identity Construction (Customisation)
Creative Expression
Social Interaction and Communities
Everyday Creativity
Playful Exploration

Task: Apply David Gauntlett to Animal Crossing. Use images to support your points.





David Gauntlett
#Straightforward past
#Pick'n'Mix
#Diversity Present











>The idea that the media provide us with 'tools' or resources that we use to construct our identities.
>The idea that whilst in the past the media tended to convey singular, straightforward messages about ideal types of male and female identities, the media today offe us a more diverse range of stars, icons and characters from whom we may pick and mix different ideas.

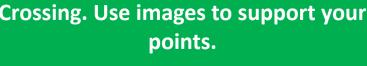
In a nutshell: - We use the Internet and other media texts to help us to create our dentity. We now have more of a variety of representations to identify with.

Fandom

Participatory Culture Fan Labour Fan Communities Transmedia Storytelling Emotional Investment

Task: Apply Henry Jenkins to Animal Crossing. Use images to support your points.

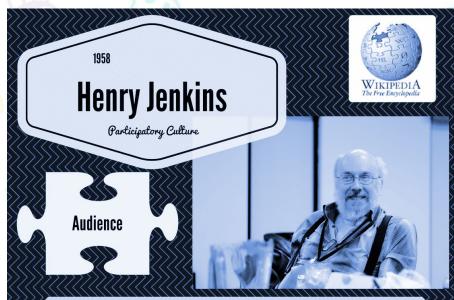




Henry Jenkins

#Active **#Textual Poaching** #Borrowing





> The idea that fans are active participants in the construction and circulation of textual meanings. The idea that fans appropriate texts and read them in ways that are not fully authorised by the media producers ('textual poaching').

The idea that fans construct their social and cultural identities through borrowing and inflecting mass culture images, and are part of a participatory culture that has a vital social dimension.

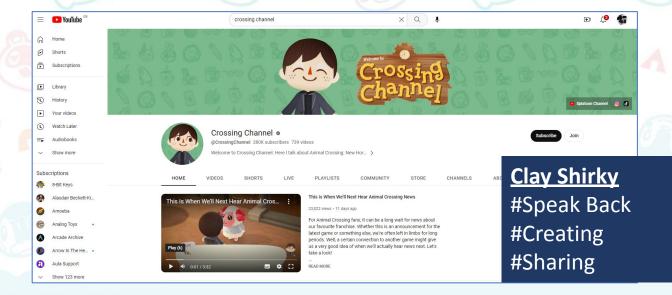
In a nutshell: - The Internet has allowed fans to gather and create their own texts and easily share their work. Instead of just consuming the texts, audiences are creating them.

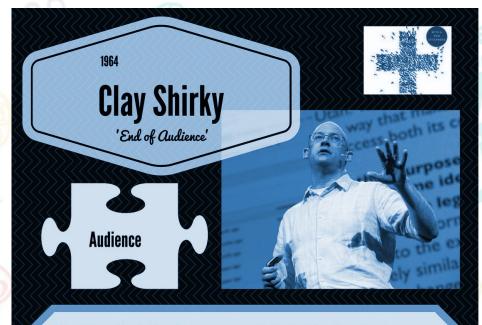
Clay Shirky

User-Generated Content

Task: Apply Clay Shirky to Animal Crossing.
Use images to support your points.







- > The idea that the Internet and digital technologies have had a profound effect on the relations between media and individuals.
- > The idea that the conceptualisation of audience members as passive consumers of mass media content is no longer tenable in the age of the Internet, as media consumers have a now become producers who 'speak back to' the media in various ways, as well as creating and sharing content with one another.

In a nutshell: - We are now more likely to use the Internet and other technologies to respond to texts, including creating our own.

Social Context

Community and Social Interaction Self-Expression and Creativity Online Communities and Sharing Real-Life Events and Seasonality

Task: Give examples of the points above in relation to Animal Crossing. Use images to support your points.

Black Lives Matter meets Animal Crossing: how protesters take their activism into video games

In the Covid-19 age, protestors are finding novel ways to express themselves, from BLM rallies in The Sims to Hong Kong protests in Animal Crossing



▲ A screenshot from a Black Lives Matter Animal Crossing rally. Photograph: Claudia McDonagh

s street protests against anti-black racism erupted across the globe, Animal Crossing: New Horizons players were taking their own stand. Adelle, a software engineer from New York, decided to create a memorial on her in-game island, decorated with flowers and pixel art portraits of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other black victims of police brutality.

























Regulation

Age Ratings
Content Restrictions
Online Interactions
Local Laws and Regulations

Task: How is the video game industry regulated. Give examples to each of the different age ratings. Why were they given each rating? Use images to support your points.



Click on the image to play a video



PEGI

The Video Game Industry

Task: Why was Animal Crossing given a 3-age rating?













Click on the image to play a video

Sonia Livingstone and Peter Lunt

#Protection #Consumers

#Internet

China

The Video Game Industry

Task: Why did China remove the game from stores?

Sonia Livingstone and Peter Lunt

#Protection

#Consumers

#Internet

How Animal Crossing became a place of protest in China and Hong Kong

The politics of play in China and Hong Kong.



Budget: \$120 million

Marketing Costs: \$120 million

Total Spend: \$240 million

Total Box Office: \$1+ Billion

Cinemas: 40% \$400 million

Total Profit / Loss: \$600+ million profit

David Hesmondhalgh stated that the largest companies operate across different industries.











Assessment

- Explain how ongoing audience interaction influences the production of video games. Refer to Minecraft to support your answer.
- Explain how videogame producers target and address audiences.
 Refer to Minecraft to support your answer.
- Explain the significance of fans to the success of media products.
- Explain the impact of recent technological changes on the video games industry.

Roland Barthes

#Signs #Connotations #myths

Tzvetan Todorov

#Equilbrium #Disequilbrium #ideology

Steve Neale

#Repetition Difference #Borrowing #Industry

Claude Lévi-Strauss

#Binary Oppositions #ideology

Jean Baudrillard

#Reality Simulation #Simulacra #Hypereality

Stuart Hall #1

#stereotypes #Signs #Power

David Gauntlett

#Straightforward past #Pick'n'Mix #Diversity Present

Lisbet Van Zoonen

#Domestic Roles #Objectification #Spectacle (men)

bell hooks

#Struggle #Oppression #Race Class

Judith Butler

#Hetronormativity #Performance #Rituals

Paul Gilroy

#Colonialism #Racial Hierarchies #Binary Oppositions

Curran and Seaton

#Power and Profit #Limit Creativity #Social Diversity

David Hesmondhalgh

#Vertical Horizontal
#Formatting / Risk
#Different industries

Sonia Livingstone and Peter Lunt

#Protection #Consumers #Internet

Albert Bandura

#implant #modelling #transgressive

Cultivation Theory

#Repeated Patterns
#Mainstream Values

Reception Theory

#Preferred #Negotiated #Oppositional

Henry Jenkins

#Active #Textual Poaching #Borrowing

Clay Shirky

#Speak Back #Creating #Sharing