

Virtual Reality or VR for short, is a form of gameplay that completely immerses the player. In order to experience it, the user has to put on a headset that rests over their eyes, which places a screen right in front of the user. The screen wraps around the field of vision of the user to give a sense of “living” in the game. VR is a way of experiencing a fictional world and a way for escaping reality. It truly makes you feel like you’re thrust into a situation physically, mentally and emotionally.

With the sudden uprising in VR gaming, many game manufacturers started competing for the spotlight. Here is a list of 10 VR games that have gained popularity since the outbreak of COVID-19 began.

10 VR Games that have gained popularity:

- i) **Star Wars: Squadrons** (*PC, PSVR*)
 - Squadrons is a dogfight game where you can choose your side to protect: the light side or the dark side. Your selection will give your character a different path, with two separate storylines. (Daniel C.)

- ii) **Beat Saber** (*Oculus Rift; Quest; PS VR; HTC Vive*)
 - A music rhythm game where you cut the color blocks with your matching color saber to the beat. Play to the beat of your favorite songs while dodging obstacles! (Esli F.)

- iii) **Trover Saves the Universe** (*Oculus Quest, PS VR*)
 - It’s a single player, story mode game with different outcomes, where you travel around the universe with Trover collecting power babies to defeat the final boss. This game is rated M for Mature, and it is made from the same creators of Rick and Mordy (Esli F.)

- iv) **Moss** (*Oculus Rift; Quest; PS VR; HTC Vive*)
 - You play as a “guidance” for the little mouse quill on her quest, you both work as a team to help her solve puzzles and defeat enemies to reach the end of the story. Although she does speak during cutscenes as the story progresses, she also communicates to the player via ASL (american sign language) during game play, and can give hints along the way. (Elizabeth y)

- v) **SuperHot** (*Oculus Rift; PS VR; HTC Vive*)
 - In this action game, everything is in slow motion but time will move when you move. You are in a room, outnumbered and outgunned. Your goal is to snatch weapons from fallen enemies and dodge their attacks, so

you need to think about your next move before you move a lot. Be careful because this game makes you move and there are times where my friends move up close to the TV. (Esli F.)

- vi) Half life Alyx (*Steam VR, HTC Vive, Oculus Quest*)
 - This game is set in between the events of the first half life and half life two. You are a founder of the resistance in a city under the rule of invaders (Daniel C.)

- vii) Five Nights at Freddy Vr (*PSVR; HTC Vive*)
 - Fnaf is a game where you're a nightguard surviving a graveyard shift in a pizzeria with haunted animatronics. This game always lives up the hype making me want to play more of it! (Jesus G.)

- viii) Vr Chat [*Oculus Rift; Quest; PS VR; HTC Vive*]/Rec Room [*Ps4/5 on Vr or controller, Microsoft Windows, Oculus Quest, iOS 12.0 and up, Xbox one and Xbox series S/X*]
 - VrChat is a social game where people can make different worlds for others to hang out. You are able to create custom avatars though different modeling programs and go, or make anything you can dream of. This is a 18+ recommended game. Crude language, and sexual content is fairly common (Elizabeth Y.)
 - Rec Room is an online VR video game where you can play games, make friends, explore/create games, customize your room, and style your character. The game also lets you create your own games too. This game helped me connect and meet new people while I was in quarantine (Esli F.)

- ix) Astro Bot Rescue Mission (*PS VR*)
 - Can only be played on PS VR only because it's exclusive to that console only. It's a fun, kid friendly game. It's like playing mario but in VR. You take control over the captain BOT and help him find his fellow bots and collect ship parts to rebuild the ship. There are boss battles and many levels to complete. (Esli F.)

- x) Keep talking and nobody explodes (*Oculus Rift; Oculus Go; Gear VR; PS VR; HTC Vive*)
 - It's a 2 player game where 1 person only sees a bomb and the other player sees the instruction manual. The game requires lots of teamwork and communication in order to defuse the bomb. How well do you work under pressure? Can you stay calm while to bomb in slowly counting down and intense music playing in the background? (Esli F.)

As VR gaming continued to arise during state issued stay-at-home orders, many games have come into and fallen out of the spotlight. The next section of our article focuses on the games we have personally played. These games have held a spot in our heart.

10 VR Games that will always be our favorites:

- xi) Walking Dead: Saints and Sinners
 - In this survival, adventure game you get to play as one of the last remaining humans on earth. As you battle herds of zombies and explore the open world you can gather clues, craft, and change the story within the game based on your own decisions, are you a saint or a sinner? With realistic real world mechanics that put you into the heart of the game you feel like you're really in the thrilling world of The Walking Dead. Choose your own path and survive in this new apocalyptic adventure. (Elizabeth)

- xii) No Man's Sky
 - This game is interesting because of its unlimited worlds you can explore. The tasks are tedious because of the material you collect and the amount of time it takes to get to your destination, but that is what makes it more enjoyable because you can discover something new in every planet you visit. (Jacqueline)

- xiii) Batman VR Game
 - When the game first dropped it was epic which was giving us a Batman first point of view game. The game gives you chills and the experience of the world's greatest detective but due to having a short story it wasn't memorable enough like the other Arkham games. (Jesus G.)

- xiv) Job/Vacation Simulator
 - This game is fun for young children. This is fun, but once you play all the levels, you kinda lose interest in it and there is no point in re-playing it again. (Esli F.)

- xv) Minecraft VR
 - It's fun to play with friends and mess around in creative or survival. Play normal minecraft, but in Vr. (Esli F.)

- xvi) Phasmophobia
 - Phasmophobia is a great game to practice your ghost hunting skills as it is very intense and suspenseful. You are able to play with three other people and communicate through proximity chat with each other to strategize the best plan to identify the type of ghost you are dealing with. (Andres G)

- xvii) Tilt Brush (different versions)

This was one of the first VR programs/games to come out and it holds a special place in my heart. While it doesn't exist anymore, there are still many ports available online via sidequest or other sites/ resources that will allow users to play with this simple yet entrancing experience. I urge you to check out the game to allow your creativity to run wild as you can, create whatever you think is possible in a new way to paint. (Elizabeth Y.)

- xviii) The Climb

Even though the climb was a fun experience, the game used to help those who love to hike and give the players the experience. But at the same time the game didn't hit anymore how it used to. It is kind of rare to see youtubers and streamers to play this game. (Jesus G.)

- xix) Lucky's Tale

Lucky's tale is a game similar to moss where you move the fox character lucky in 3rd person overlooking him as if he were a piece in a board game. Help him solve puzzles and defeat enemies in this very cute seated vr game that's fun for people of all ages. (Elizabeth Yonan)

Although Virtual Reality is extremely advanced for today's standards over time those experiences in VR can be enhanced for the future generations. The future of VR is incredibly

bright with the innovative technologies rapidly advancing, the uses of VR have multiplied. VR has brought real experiences to safe environments. VR has been used in multiple real world jobs; Medical Professionals have used a VR simulation to perform surgeries, while Police Cadets have used VR to imitate arrests and hostage situations. While we live in a present time where VR has taken over the world, the future of VR is immensely momentous and absolutely mind boggling.

What are your thoughts on this article? Do you agree with our lists? Or do you disagree? Let us know in the comments!