

The Legend of Zelda 35th anniversary

A video game series that's sold over 110 million units, made "Zelda" a household name and created a multibillion dollar franchise, was released 35 years ago

ZELDA

Titular character, somewhat confusingly not game's protagonist – that task falls to **Link**

Princess Zelda is member of **Hyrule** royal family.

In older games she is often damsel in distress in need of rescuing, but in more recent outings is stronger character who helps Link to defeat game's antagonists

Kingdom of Hyrule is setting for majority of games, including **Breath of the Wild**, in which its size is vast **360km²**



THE LEGEND OF ZELDA

Jul 16, 2021:

Skyward Sword HD

released for Nintendo Switch.

Game is update of 2011 Wii game which tells origin story of **Master Sword**

Hylian Shield and Master Sword: Invariably hidden in game world. Link can track them down and use them to defeat game's nemesis, usually **Ganon**

GAME RELEASES*

Year	Format†	Game title	Sales (millions)
TBC	Switch	Untitled Breath of the Wild sequel	—
2021	Switch	Skyward Sword HD	—
2019	Switch	Link's Awakening	4.57
2017	Switch	Breath of the Wild	21.45
2017	Wii U	Breath of the Wild	1.69
2016	Wii U	Twilight Princess HD	1.13
2015	3DS	Majora's Mask 3D	3.28
2015	3DS	Tri Force Heroes	1.34
2013	Wii U	The Wind Waker HD	2.33
2013	3DS	A Link Between Worlds	4.16
2011	3DS	Ocarina of Time 3D	6.22
2011	Wii	Skyward Sword	3.67
2009	DS	Spirit Tracks	2.96
2007	DS	Phantom Hourglass	4.76
2006	Wii/GC	Twilight Princess	8.85
2004	GBA	The Legend of Zelda	0.86
2004	GBA	Zelda II: The Adventure of Link	0.66
2004	GC	Four Swords Adventures	0.93
2004	GBA	Minish Cap	1.76
2003	GC	The Wind Waker	4.43
2002	GBA	A Link to the Past & Four Swords	2.82
2001	GBC	Oracle of Seasons and Ages	3.99
2000	N64	Majora's Mask	3.36
1998	GBC	Link's Awakening DX	2.22
1998	N64	Ocarina of Time	7.60
1993	GB	Link's Awakening	3.83
1992	SNES	A Link to the Past	4.61
1987	NES	Zelda II: The Adventure of Link	4.38
1986	NES	The Legend of Zelda	6.51
		Total game units sold	114.37

LINK

Soul of legendary hero reincarnated into teenage boy when need arises for him to defeat forces of evil



Usual suspect **Ganon** (above)

Triforce: Sacred relic that bestows magical abilities on those who bear it



Feb 21, 1986: **The Legend of Zelda** released for Nintendo **Famicom Disk System** (short-lived Japan-only **Famicom**† console peripheral)

Jul 14, 1987: Released for **NES** in North America in cartridge form

Nov 15: Cartridge released in Europe

Game designed by **Mario** creator, **Shigeru Miyamoto** (left) and **Takashi Tezuka**.

Named after high-spirited wife of U.S. author **F. Scott Fitzgerald**, **Zelda Sayre** (right)



*Official canon only – omits spin-offs and titles released on non-Nintendo hardware. †Japanese name for NES. Pictures: © Nintendo, Creative Commons Sources: Nintendo, iMore, Zelda Wiki, Zelda Universe, Game Sales Wiki, Hyrule Historia (Dark Horse Books), Mental Floss