

Super Nintendo World Opens in Universal Studios California

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Interactive (Adjective) /ˌɪntərˈæktɪv/ involving two or more people or things influencing each other
Example: The performance was a very interactive experience.
2. Overload (Noun) /'əʊvərləʊd/ a great amount or too much of something
Example: Many respondents reported experiencing social media overload on a regular basis.
3. Sense (Noun) /sens/ one of the abilities that the body uses to get information, including sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch
Example: Daredevil doesn't have a sense of sight but all of his other senses are way stronger than normal.
4. Qualify (Verb) /'kwɑːləˌfaɪ/ to be allowed to take part in a competition or its final rounds
Example: The Netherlands didn't qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
5. augmented reality (Noun) /ɔːgˌmentɪd riˈæləti/ technology that adds computer-generated images on top of real-world images
Example: This shop has an augmented reality app that lets you see how items would fit you.
6. Virtual (Adjective) /'vɜːtʃuəl/ created by or existing on a computer
Example: Virtual learning has become far more common since the pandemic.



Super Nintendo World is opening at Universal Studios Hollywood. And according to those who have already had a look inside, the theme park, based on the Super Mario games, is as bright, colorful and interactive as you might expect. The Guardian has called it "the closest thing you can get to diving head-first inside a video game." And that's the idea — an exciting experience for fans of Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach and their famous world. Although The Guardian did also say that it's an expensive overload for the senses.

Japanese fans may have already visited the Super Nintendo World at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, and the California park is similar. The official opening is on February 17, 2023, but the gates already opened in January for some visitors to get a first look. Guests are able to meet the characters and visit places like Peach's castle, while they can also visit Toad's cafe for Super Mario snacks.

There is a story, too, for visitors to take part in — Bowser's son, Bowser Junior, has stolen a gold mushroom from Peach, and visitors have to try to get it back. They do this by completing tasks in the park to qualify for a final interactive fight with Bowser Junior.

But many people will be looking forward to the Mario Kart ride. Drivers wear augmented reality equipment, allowing them to throw virtual shells while traveling around different areas. It's not a fast ride, say visitors, and the lines might be a little long. But for many Mario fans, this — and everything else — will probably be worth the wait.

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on California's Super Nintendo World?
2. Are you a fan of the Super Mario games? When did you first play them?
3. Why do you think Super Mario is so popular all over the world?
4. Do you know anyone who's obsessed with a particular video game or series?
5. If you could open a theme park based on any game, what would you choose?