

ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS ISLAND HOP

AGES

Tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Animal Crossing: New Horizons has tons to explore on land and in the ocean! Invite patrons to visit library staff islands for treasures, games, freebies, and more! Make this a one-island journey, or more, if multiple library staff have islands to play. A fun social game for making friends. This is also a good program to use as filler at the end of other programs. Suggested runtime: 15–30 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Enlist the help of a teen volunteer if you aren't familiar with the game.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials: Nintendo Switch; Animal Crossing New Horizons

Instructions:

- In advance, set up your own island and game.
- If running virtually, share Dodo Codes with patrons before the event.
- Also share guidelines for good gamer etiquette.
- If you have a lot of virtual interest, have participants sign up for 15-min time slots.

Game ideas:

- For an ocean scavenger hunt, research what ocean creatures spawn during this time of day/year. Create a list of fish or deep sea creatures to find.
- For an island fishing tournament, create different fishing challenges with specific fish to find, or set a timer and see who can catch the most fish.
- For a seek-and-find gift grab, hide bells and wrapped presents around your island, such as behind buildings, trees, and/or other structures.

GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

Tips for gameplay:

- In the game, plan to have extra tools, like fishing rods, wetsuits, and vaulting poles to help island visitors that forget something.
- Only seven people can be on your island at once, including yourself!
- Island hoppers can only join one at a time, and the game pauses every time a new person lands.
- Keep a look out for special visitors, like Flick, Mabel, Redd, etc., and let visitors know to visit with them.
- Only people that are your “best friend” can use a shovel or axe.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Virtual or in-person. Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

Guide to Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *Digital Bookmobile*:
<https://bit.ly/3oTI1gY>

Virtual library in Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *KidLit TV*:
<https://bit.ly/3wvd9ou>

Game ideas for Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *Screen Rant*
<https://bit.ly/3yHRsTT>

Tips for playing Animal Crossing: New Horizons from *Nintendo*:
<https://bit.ly/3bTZRtR>

Books

Non-fiction

Enchanted Air (2016) by Margarita Engle (YA)

Island: A Story of the Galápagos (2012) by Jason Chin (children’s)

Fiction

Lalani of the Distant Sea (2019) by Erin Entrada Kelly (YA)

Beauty Queens (2011) by Libba Bray (YA)

Summer of Salt (2018) by Katrina Leno (YA)

The Floating Islands (2011) by Rachel Neumeier (YA)