EDUCATION

Pokemon Yellow Guide

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Your Ultimate Pokemon Yellow Guide: Mastering the Kanto Region

Released in 1998 for the Game Boy, Pokemon Yellow: Special Pikachu Edition remains a beloved classic that offers a unique twist on the original Pokemon adventures. Unlike Pokemon Red and Blue, this version is loosely based on the anime, placing you in Ash Ketchum's shoes with a stubborn Pikachu that refuses to stay in its Poke Ball. Whether you are revisiting this nostalgic title or playing it for the first time on the Nintendo 3DS Virtual Console, this comprehensive Pokemon Yellow guide will help you navigate every corner of the Kanto region, defeat all eight Gym Leaders, and conquer the Elite Four. Get ready to become a true Pokemon Master.

Getting Started: The Unique Beginning of Pokemon Yellow

Your journey begins in Pallet Town, just like in the other Generation I games. However, Professor Oak's introduction is slightly different, and your starter choice is predetermined. Professor Oak's grandson, your rival, will pick an Eevee, which evolves based on how you battle against him. More importantly, you will receive a level 5 Pikachu as your very first Pokemon. Unlike other Pokemon in your party, Pikachu will follow you around on the overworld, and you can interact with it to see its mood. This special bond is a core mechanic in this game. Your Pikachu's happiness affects its performance in battle and its willingness to evolve. It will also refuse to use a Thunder Stone, meaning your Pikachu will never evolve into a Raichu, staying true to the anime.

Understanding the Pikachu Friendship System

One of the most important mechanics to master early is the friendship system. Check on your Pikachu frequently by pressing A while facing it. If it shows high affection, it will be more likely to land critical hits and will avoid fainting. You can increase friendship by walking steps, using items like vitamins, and battling effectively. Avoid letting Pikachu faint in battle, as this will lower its friendship significantly. Unlike later games, Pikachu in Yellow has a distinct cry that sounds more like the anime voice, adding to the immersive experience.

Complete Kanto Walkthrough: From Pallet Town to the Pokemon League

This Pokemon Yellow guide will break down each major leg of your journey, providing essential tips for tackling each challenge efficiently.

Viridian City and the First Rival Battle

After obtaining Pikachu, head north through Route 1 to Viridian City. Visit the Poke Mart to receive a delivery for Professor Oak, which is actually a required quest. Return to Pallet Town and give Oak the parcel to receive the Pokedex and five Poke Balls. Now you can catch wild Pokemon on Route 1 and 2. Before tackling the first Gym, you will need to train Pikachu to at least level 12 and catch a few key team members. A Pidgey or Spearow works well for early battles, and a Mankey is excellent for the first Gym. Your rival will challenge you on Route 22 just before Victory Road. His Eevee is weak to fighting-type moves, so a well-trained Mankey can dispatch it

easily.

Brock's Pewter City Gym: The Rock-Type Challenge

The first Gym Leader, Brock, uses Rock-type Pokemon. This is a tough matchup for Pikachu because electric moves have no effect on Ground-type Geodude. Your best bet is to catch a Mankey on Route 22. Evolve it into Primeape by level 28, but even a level 10 or 11 Mankey can learn Low Kick, which is super effective against Brock's Geodude and Onix. Alternatively, Nidoran with Double Kick works well. If you are determined to use Pikachu, level it up to learn Slam at level 20, though this takes significant grinding. The recommended path is to use fighting-type moves for a swift victory.

Misty's Cerulean City Gym: The Water-Type Threat

Misty's Starmie is a fearsome opponent, especially for an unevolved Pikachu. Before challenging her, travel through Route 3 and Mt. Moon. In Mt. Moon, you can find Clefairy and fossils. Choose the Dome Fossil to eventually obtain Kabuto, or the Helix Fossil for Omanyte. More importantly, catch an Oddish or Bellsprout on Route 24 or 25. Grass-type moves are four times effective against Starmie. Level your grass Pokemon to at least level 20. Pikachu can also learn Mega Punch from the TM in Mt. Moon, which is a solid normal-type move. Use status conditions like Paralysis or Poison to weaken Starmie before delivering the finishing blow.

Lt. Surge's Vermilion City Gym: The Electric Maze

Lt. Surge's Gym is a puzzle of trash cans that requires finding two switches. His Raichu is incredibly fast and hits hard with Thunderbolt. Pikachu cannot evolve, so you need a ground-type Pokemon. Diglett or Dugtrio from Diglett's Cave between Vermilion and Pewter City are perfect. A level 25 or higher Dugtrio can outspeed and one-shot Raichu with Dig or Earthquake. Before the Gym, visit the S.S. Anne, which is docked in Vermilion City. You will need a ticket from the captain, who will give you HM01 (Cut) after defeating him in a battle. Teach Cut to a suitable Pokemon to access the ship's lower decks and claim valuable items.

Erika's Celadon City Gym: The Grass-Type Challenge

Erika's Gym is a straightforward battle against Grass-types. Fire, Flying, Ice, and Poison moves work well. Pikachu can learn Flamethrower via TM38, but this is rare. Instead, catch a Growlithe or Vulpix on Route 7 or 8. Alternatively, a strong Flying-type like Pidgeot or Dodrio will handle her Victreebel, Tangela, and Vileplume easily. Be careful of Poison moves and status conditions. Stock up on Antidotes and Full Heals. This is also a good time to visit the Celadon Department Store for TMs, vitamins, and other essential items. The Game Corner is also here, where you can purchase Pokemon like Porygon with coins.

Koga's Fuchsia City Gym: The Poison-Type Ninja

Koga's Gym is filled with invisible walls, making navigation a puzzle. Use the item finder to locate hidden pathways. His Pokemon are high-level Poison-types that rely on status effects and evasion. Psychic-type moves are super effective. If you have a Mr. Mime (obtained in a trade in Celadon City) or a strong Psychic-type like Abra, Kadabra, or Alakazam, this battle is much simpler. Alternatively, use Ground-type moves for solid damage. Stock up on Full Heals and status berries. Koga's Weezing uses Self-Destruct, so be prepared to swap out your Pokemon to avoid a KO.

Sabrina's Saffron City Gym: The Psychic-Type Powerhouse

Sabrina's Psychic-types are some of the toughest in the game. Her Alakazam is incredibly fast and hits hard. The key is to use Dark-type or Ghost-type moves, though in Generation I, Ghost moves were physical and weak against Psychic. The best strategy is to use high-Special Pokemon with strong physical moves or a Pokemon with a high Special stat that can tank hits. A Snorlax with Body Slam works well, as does a Gengar with Lick or Night Shade. The most reliable method is to use a Pokemon with a high Special stat that can learn Thunderbolt or Flamethrower. Alternatively, use a Pokemon that can inflict status conditions directly, like

Hypnosis or Thunder Wave. Sabrina's Pokemon are frail but hit hard, so speed is crucial.

Blaine's Cinnabar Island Gym: The Fire-Type Gauntlet

Blaine's Gym is a quiz-based puzzle on Cinnabar Island. Answer correctly to proceed. His Fire-types are strong, but Water, Rock, and Ground moves are super effective. If you have a Lapras or a strong Water-type like Blastoise or Gyarados, this battle is straightforward. Pikachu's electric moves are weak against Ground-type, but Ground moves are not very effective against Fire-types. A Rhydon or Golem with Rock Slide is excellent. Be aware of Blaine's Rapidash and Arcanine, which have high speed and attack. Use Surf or Hydro Pump to sweep his team.

The Viridian City Gym: Giovanni's Earth-Shattering Finale

After defeating Blaine, you can return to Viridian City, where the Gym is now open. The Gym Leader is Giovanni, the boss of Team Rocket. His team consists of Ground-types, including a powerful Rhydon. Water, Grass, Ice, and Fighting moves are all effective. A strong Water-type or Grass-type will handle his team easily. Pikachu's electric moves are completely useless here. Use Surf or Ice Beam for maximum damage. Giovanni is the last Gym Leader before Victory Road, so ensure your team is at least level 40 before challenging him.

Key Differences Between Pokemon Yellow and Red/Blue

This Pokemon Yellow guide wouldn't be complete without highlighting the unique features that set this version apart. First, your rival now has a team that evolves based on your performance. If you win the first battle, his Eevee evolves into Jolteon. If you lose, it becomes Flareon. If you tie, it becomes Vaporeon. This dynamic is unique to Yellow. Second, all three starter Pokemon from Red and Blue are obtainable. You receive Bulbasaur from a girl in Cerulean City, Charmander from a trainer on Route 24, and Squirtle from an officer in Vermilion City. Third, the wild Pokemon encounters are different. You can find Pikachu in Viridian Forest, and certain rare Pokemon appear in new locations. Finally, the game includes the anime-inspired Team Rocket trio of Jessie and James, who use Meowth, Ekans, and Koffing. These changes add significant replay value.

Pokemon Yellow Team Building: Recommended Pokemon for Your Journey

Building a balanced team is essential for success in Pokemon Yellow. While Pikachu is your special partner, it cannot evolve, so you need strong allies. Here is a recommended team composition:

- Pikachu - Your starter. Keep it in your party for friendship bonuses. Teach it Thunderbolt, Thunder Wave, Slam, and Mega Punch or Quick Attack. It is fast and deals solid damage.
- Nidoking or Nidoqueen - Obtainable early via the Moon Stone in Mt. Moon. They learn a wide variety of TMs including Earthquake, Thunder, Ice Beam, and Flamethrower. Excellent coverage.
- Snorlax - Two Snorlax are blocking routes 12 and 16. Use the Poke Flute to wake them. Snorlax is a bulky powerhouse that learns Body Slam, Hyper Beam, and Earthquake. It can tank hits and deal massive damage.
- Lapras - Given to you by a Silph Co. employee in Saffron City. It learns Surf, Ice Beam, Thunderbolt, and Psychic. Its typing and move pool make it an invaluable team member.
- Alakazam - Trade Kadabra with a friend to evolve it. It has the highest Special stat in the game and learns Psychic, Recover, and a variety of coverage moves. It is fast and hits hard, though it is frail.
- Dragonite - Obtainable by evolving Dragonair, which you can find in the Safari Zone or by fishing with the Super Rod. Dragonite learns powerful moves like Hyper Beam, Thunder, and Fire Blast. It is a late-game powerhouse.

This team covers all types and ensures you have a response to any Gym Leader or Elite Four member.

Pokemon Yellow Guide: Tips for Completing the Pokedex

Completing the Pokedex in Pokemon Yellow requires trading with Pokemon Red and Blue, as certain Pokemon are version exclusives. For example, you cannot catch Weedle, Ekans, Meowth, Koffing, or Jynx in Yellow. You will need to trade for them.

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