

My five favorite things that helped me through the pandemic are:
Animal Crossing came out about three weeks before the pandemic really hit my country, the USA. It was my absolute favorite game as a child, and I was already excited about its release. But then my work shut down for 30 days, and I dove deep! This game really got me through the early days of the pandemic.

On a similar note, by two best friends and I spent a lot of time virtually playing together. This was necessary for all three of us, it kept us sane and connected, and honestly, we hadn't laughed that hard in a long time!

Star Wars, something I've always loved, is my third favorite thing I spent time doing during the pandemic. I watched all the movies again and then began on the animated series. I'm now listening to the audiobooks!

School, perhaps surprisingly, has also been a huge part of my pandemic lifestyle. It is a great way to take my mind off of some of the horrible things happening, and educate myself! I had Spanish 101 last semester and I made a couple friends in the class. Somehow we all got sick with COVID around the same time, even though we're all in different time zones. I was overjoyed when I found out all of us got out okay!

And last but not least, I have really loved journaling. I bought a beautiful journal before the pandemic hit, and I started writing in it in June. I went over everything that happened so far in 2020 (and wow, was it a lot!) Then it became a daily journal, documenting COVID struggles, my political anxieties, current events, and my own personal journey. There are plenty of gaps, but somewhere in the back of my mind I revel in imagining a historian in 200 years reading my journal, trying to put themselves in the shoes of a person living in the year 2020. As someone studying to be a historian, the thought is irresistible!