

How Among Us Skyrocketed in Popularity

By Zoe Fickett



Unless you have been living under a rock, or just don't fancy video games, you've probably heard of the game Among Us. Among Us is an online multiplayer game released in June of 2018, but has recently skyrocketed in popularity. Players will either be Crewmates or Imposters, with more Crewmates than Imposters. In mid-2020, around September, Among Us took off on a tremendous spike in popularity. So what makes the game so popular, and what started off this surge in popularity?

On July 15th, 2020, the Twitch streamer Chance Morris, better known as "Sodapoppin", streamed himself playing Among Us for the first time. Sodapoppin has a large audience on Twitch, so naturally, others were interested in the game. So, what is the game all about? Among Us has three different maps, all set in space. Each round consists of 4-10 players, with 1-3 of the players being Imposters, and the rest being Crewmates. Crewmates have tasks that they must finish around the spaceship, while Imposters have to kill the Crewmates without being detected. Once an Imposter kills someone, and the dead body is found, it is reported by a Crewmate, and there is a meeting where everyone discusses who did it. The crew then decides on who to eject, and

if they successfully eject all Imposters, the Crewmates win. If the Imposters end up outnumbering the Crewmates, the Imposters win. There are also other fun elements to being an Imposter, such as sabotaging parts of the ship or dropping into the vents scattered around the map.

When Among Us was originally released in June of 2018, it had about a regular 30-50 players playing. The company, Inner Sloth, still updated the game frequently. After Sodapoppin's stream, it went from an average of 30-50 players to 1.5 million. The game is especially popular right now since everyone is in quarantine, and it gives us all something to do. It's also available on iOS, Android, and Steam, and can crossplay between any of those platforms.

The game has also created a rise in the usage of the messaging software Discord. Discord is a platform mostly used by gamers and gaming communities. The app has an array of features, including text messaging, voice/video calls, and media files, all able to be used over servers (com-

munities of more than one Discord user) or private chatting. Discord and Among Us can easily go hand in hand. Given most everyone is quarantining, players can meet virtually over Discord and voice/video chat whilst playing Among Us together. Oftentimes, players will mute whilst playing so they don't reveal who the Imposter is, and then when there is a meeting time they will all unmute and discuss. Once the Among Us spike happened, Discord went along with it.

Originally, Inner Sloth was going to create Among Us 2, but because of the original's popularity, the company has decided to focus on making updates for Among Us. Inner Sloth is keen on committing to their projects, as we can see with how long they persisted with Among Us. The gaming community is looking forward to Among Us' updates and the future of Inner Sloth's games. Not only do I think that Among Us is a game worthy of talking about in general, but I think it also serves as a success story for small projects, showing that: if you persist and have grit, it will work out in the end.



Rise to the Top: How the Dodgers Won the World Series!

By Carter Sand



It's no surprise that the Los Angeles Dodgers finished first in the National League West. The Dodgers have finished first for the past eight seasons, and as shortstop Cory Seager said, "We've been on a pretty special run". Star right fielder Mookie Betts said, "It's just step one to where we want to be." The Dodgers first challenger was the San Diego Padres who came up short in all three games against the Dodgers.

The Dodgers then had to face the Atlanta Braves who got off to an amazing 3-1 lead in the series. Things weren't looking great for the Dodgers, but they were able to fight their way back to beat the Braves and advance to the World Series.

The Dodgers had to face the Tampa Bay Rays who had only made the playoffs six times in their twenty-three seasons. LA started their ace, Clayton Kershaw, in the first game. He was dominant and they took a 1-0 series lead. Tampa Bay beat LA 6-4 in game 2 tying the series at 1. The Dodgers then flipped the script and won game three, 6-2.

In game 4, they had a 2 run lead going into the ninth, but after two Tampa Bay runners



reached base with 2 outs, the Dodgers closer had to face one more batter. He gave up a single to right field that scored 1 run tying the game, but after a fielding error by Dodgers center fielder Chris Taylor, Randy Arozarena of the Tampa Bay Rays rounded third base and started heading home. Chris Taylor got to the ball and threw to first base. LA's first baseman, Max Muncy, then threw the ball to catcher Will Smith. While this was happening, Arozarena fell, but Dodgers catcher Smith missed the throw from Muncy allowing Arozarena to score. Here is a link to the play: ([Link](#)). This resulted in a Tampa Bay Win, tying the series at 2.

The Dodgers Clayton Kershaw then won Game 5, 4-2, resulting in the Dodgers moving ahead in the series, 3-2. In game 6, Dodgers rookie Tony Gonsolin took the mound to try to finish off the Tampa Bay Rays. He got off to a bad start after giving up a solo home run to Randy Arozarena in the first inning. After that, the Dodgers Bullpen finished off the rays giving up a total of 2 hits. This resulted in the Dodgers first World Series win

in 35 years.

There was one slight problem during the game though. Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner was removed in the sixth inning after receiving a positive covid test. He was not supposed to come out onto the field to celebrate, yet he did so anyway. The case was put under investigation, and after apologizing for his actions, there was no punishment for the all-star third baseman.

The Dodgers were also playing one player short this season after Dodgers starting pitcher David Price opted out of the 2020 season due to covid-19 just weeks after the Dodgers acquired him. Hopefully he will be back for the 2021 season. It just goes to show that the Dodgers have a lot of fight and perseverance in them to win a World Series title short a starting pitcher.

Not only did the Dodgers win the world series this year, but the LA Lakers also won their championship as well! All in all, it was a pretty special year for LA.