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Age of Empires III



PLATFORM ESRB RATING

GAMEPAD RATING

9



GP REVIEW

Who knew I could get totally sucked in to real-time strategy?

Reviewed By: [gp_boogiewoogie](#)

I'm probably the last gal on the block who has any business reviewing a real-time strategy game, but here I am. I'm not big on historical games, war games, or games with anything but cute, colourful graphics. So why the heck am I reviewing Age of Empires III? Well, my gaming friends, I got invited to a LAN party (where you play over a network, instead of over the internet) with a bunch of other game reviewers, so I thought I'd broaden my gaming horizons. And I'm glad I did.

The first thing I noticed about this game – it's spectacular to look at. Have I been cheating myself by not playing these kinds of beautiful games? I swear I stared at the menu screen for a few minutes before I even attempted to play a game.



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Of course, since I'm not overly familiar with strategy gaming (besides my occasional Roller Coaster Tycoon addiction), I hit the tutorial. It takes you through all the functionality of the game first, then you can play a fake game to get you started and help you put what you've learned into practice.

The single-player options are quite deep; loads of variety. There are three different acts to cover different generations, a skirmish mode, a scenario editor. But what really hooked me was the multi-player play. And in all fairness, I was at a LAN party and that was the point – to play against others!

So we set off on our first game; we played in teams. I was doing all right; my settlers were gathering food, chopping down trees, building, and so on (all the resources they gather help you build up your army and population). I was still trying to figure out what I could do to defend my little settlement, so it was a bit slow going, but I didn't do too badly even though I was wiped out pretty quickly, but at least I wasn't the first! Then again, I was playing against people who were playing the game for the first time too, so once I'm out there in the real world, against serious real-time strategy gamers, I'm bound to get my butt kicked.

Next game we did the free-for-all thing and abandoned teams to play against each other individually. By now I was a pro, of course! I was building walls, houses, setting up my defense, and getting things organized. And to my surprise, I actually survived a couple of brutal attacks, and then some yellow army totally annihilated me! But overall, this time I did even better; I managed to come in second place.

Age of Empires III has a unique ability to suck time away from your life at the blink of an eye; we played for FOUR hours and I barely noticed. But all of a sudden reality came crashing down because I really needed to hit the washroom!

I had a great time playing this game; it looks amazing, and sounds pretty good, too. You'll have great fun listening to your settlers and soldiers speak in their native languages, and you might even learn a word or two. Addictive real-time strategy fun and potential for learning! Who could ask for more?

OVERALL:	GAMEPLAY:	8	SOUND:	8
9	GRAPHICS:	9	▶ ABOUT OUR RATINGS	