GENERAL

pokemon yellow strategy guide

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Introduction

Welcome to the definitive **Pokemon Yellow strategy guide** that will help you master every corner of the Kanto region, from the first step outside your hometown to the final showdown with the Elite Four. Whether you're a nostalgic fan revisiting the classic 8 bit adventure or a new trainer eager to beat the game with the best tactics, this guide offers step by step instructions, hidden tips, and battle ready advice. We'll cover everything from choosing your starter, building a balanced team, exploiting type advantages, to mastering the toughest gym battles. Let's dive in and turn your journey into a legendary one.

Overview of Pokemon Yellow

Released in 1998 for the Game Boy, **Pokemon Yellow** was the first handheld game to bring the beloved *Pokemon* franchise to life with a unique twist: your partner, Pikachu, follows you around the map and can be used in battles. Unlike the original *Pokemon Red* and *Blue*, Yellow offers a more dynamic experience with added story elements, exclusive moves, and a slightly different set of available Pokemon.

The core objective remains the same: travel across Kanto, defeat the eight Gym Leaders, overcome the Elite Four, and claim the title of Pokemon Champion. However, Yellow's emphasis on Pikachu, its unique item distribution, and the presence of several exclusive Pokemon (like Jigglypuff and Meowth) require a slightly different strategy than other versions.

Starting the Journey

Choosing Your Starter

When the game begins, you can pick from **Bulbasaur, Charmander, or Squirtle**. Each starter has a type advantage against one of the early gyms:

- Bulbasaur (Grass) – strong against the first gym, Pewter City's Rock type.
- Charmander (Fire) – offers a moderate advantage against the second gym, Cerulean City's Water type.
- Squirtle (Water) – best suited for the third gym, Vermilion City's Grass type.

While your choice affects early battles, the game's design allows you to catch the other starters later, so don't worry about missing out on any type advantage. Focus on the starter's moveset and growth potential.

Early Game Tips

1. Save often – Use the "Save" function on the main menu after each significant event.
2. Collect items – Pick up Poké Balls, potions, and berries whenever you can. They're essential for training and catching.
3. Use the "Pokégear" – The in game phone lets you call for help and receive items. It's a great way to stock up on essential supplies.
4. Explore the map – Talk to every NPC. Some will give you useful items or information about hidden routes.

Key Strategies

Team Composition

A well balanced team is the backbone of any successful strategy. Aim for a mix of types that cover each other's weaknesses. Here's a sample lineup that works well throughout the game:

- Pikachu – Electric, high speed, good for early battles.
- Bulbasaur / Ivysaur – Grass/Poison, excellent against Water and Ground types.
- Charizard – Fire/Flying, powerful against Grass, Bug, and Ice.
- Lapras – Water/Ice, strong against Ground, Dragon, and Grass.
- Jigglypuff – Normal/Fairy, useful for status moves and support.
- Arcanine – Fire, great for later stages when you need high attack power.

Feel free to swap out any member based on your play style, but always keep at least one Electric, one Water, and one Fire type to handle the most common threats.

Movesets

Choosing the right moves for each Pokemon is critical. Below are recommended moves for the core team members:

- Pikachu – Thunderbolt, Quick Attack, Iron Tail, Thunder Wave.
- Bulbasaur / Ivysaur – Razor Leaf, Sleep Powder, Giga Drain, Synthesis.
- Charizard – Flamethrower, Fly, Dragon Claw, Solar Beam.
- Lapras – Surf, Ice Beam, Thunderbolt, Psychic.
- Jigglypuff – Sing, Hyper Voice, Bide, Rest.
- Arcanine – Flare Blitz, Extreme Speed, Wild Charge, Dragon Pulse.

Always aim for a mix of offensive, defensive, and support moves. Moves that inflict status conditions (like Sleep Powder or Thunder Wave) can turn the tide of battle.

Type Advantages

Understanding type matchups is vital. A quick reference guide:

Type	Strong Against	Weak Against	Resistant To
Electric	Water, Flying	Ground	Electric, Flying, Steel
Fire	Grass, Bug, Ice, Steel	Water, Rock, Ground	Fire, Grass, Ice, Bug, Steel
Water	Fire, Ground, Rock	Electric, Grass	Water, Grass, Dragon
Grass	Water, Ground, Rock	Fire, Ice, Poison, Flying, Bug	Water, Grass, Electric, Dragon
Rock	Fire, Ice, Flying, Bug	Water, Grass, Fighting, Ground	Rock, Normal, Grass, Steel

Use these relationships to plan your battle order and switch in strategies.

Items

Item management can be the difference between victory and defeat. Key items to keep on hand include:

- Poké Balls – Catch new Pokemon.
- Great Balls – Higher catch rate for tough opponents.
- Ultra Balls – Best for rare or high level Pokemon.
- Potions – Restore HP.
- Super Potions – Restore more HP.
- Hyper Potions – Full HP restore.
- Antidotes – Cure poison.
- Berries – Heal status conditions (e.g., Pecha for paralysis).
- Rare Candies – Boost level by one.
- Pokégear – Use the in game phone to call for help and trade.

Prioritize items that suit the stage of the game. In the early routes, potions and Poké Balls are essential. In later stages, keep a stock of rare candies and status cure items.

Navigation Tips

Route 1 – 20 Overview

These routes are packed with opportunities to catch early Pokemon and learn valuable lessons. Here are some highlights:

- Route 1 – Catch a Pidgey or Rattata to build your early team.
- Route 2 – Find the hidden Pokégear to get your first set of items.
- Route 3 – Battle the first gym trainer, Bill, who uses Rattata and Rattata.
- Route 4 – Discover the first Pokémon Center in Pallet Town.
- Route 5 – Catch Magikarp for future use; it’s weak but can evolve into Gyarados.
- Route 6 – Explore the Rock Tunnel for early Geodude and Ponyta.
- Route 7 – Meet the first Gym Leader in Pewter City.
- Route 8 – Find the hidden Pokégear in the forest.
- Route 9 – Catch Butterfree after a long battle with a Beedrill.
- Route 10 – Meet the Pokemon Center in Cerulean City.
- Route 11 – Explore the Seafoam Islands for Squirtle and Jigglypuff.

- Route 12 – Find the Pokégear to trade and upgrade.
- Route 13 – Catch Lapras in the Seafoam Islands.
- Route 14 – Meet the Pokemon Center in Vermilion City.
- Route 15 – Catch Charizard after a long battle with a Charmeleon.
- Route 16 – Find the Pokégear in the desert.
- Route 17 – Battle the Gym Leader in Celadon City.
- Route 18 – Find the hidden Pokégear in the forest.
- Route 19 – Catch Jigglypuff after a battle with Wigglytuff.
- Route 20 – Find the Pokégear in the desert.

Use these routes to gather resources, level up, and strengthen your team before tackling the tougher gym challenges.

Gym Battles

Each gym offers a unique challenge that tests your strategic planning. Below is a concise guide to each gym, including the Gym

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