

Manga Worksheet

Definition

The Oxford English dictionary says that manga are ‘Japanese cartoons, comic books, and animated films with a science-fiction or fantasy theme’. The Cambridge English dictionary, however, says manga are ‘Japanese comic books that tell stories in pictures’. Which do you think is the most accurate? Why?

History

The term 漫画 was created by Hokusai. He used it in reference to the doodles in his sketchbook. It is also used in Korean (manhwa) and also in Chinese (manhua). Eshinbun Nipponchi was the first manga magazine created in 1874. It was not very popular and only released three issues. The first successful magazine produced was Tokyo Pakku in 1905. It was followed by Shōnen Pakku which was considered the first children’s manga. These manga were unique.

Can you find out why?

Look at the Brief History of Manga timeline. (see Gravett, 2004, pp. 6-7)

a) Can you add any examples to the different time periods?

b) How many of these manga do you know?

c) Choose one manga from two different time periods and imagine you are introducing it to a foreigner. Write a brief summary of what it was about and explain what is/was good or bad about it, whether you would recommend it and why/why not.

Genres

There are many different genres of manga in Japan. Brainstorm and list as many different genres as you can. Give examples.

Readings:

① What are the four main Manga demographics?

a)

b)

c)

d)

Do you read any of these? Which ones do you read? Which ones would you like to read?

② Why do you think manga are so popular?

How fast do Japanese people take to read one page in a manga according to the article? _____

Do you read this fast? _____

What surprised you the most about manga artists' work conditions?

What did not surprise you?

Would you like to be a manga artist? Why/why not?

Try to find out how much a mangaka earns. _____