

What Is Manga?

Manga is the name of a type of **graphic novel** and comic from Japan. Unlike the colourful comic book styles from the USA and Europe, Japanese manga is almost always published in black and white. Like other Japanese texts, manga is read from right to left.



Sometimes people confuse manga and anime but they are actually two different things. Manga generally means printed text, such as books and comics. The term anime describes films and television series. However, manga and anime are closely linked. Popular manga titles are often made into anime series.

Manga is written by artists called **mangaka**. Some mangaka attend special manga schools and others learn their skills by working with a trained mangaka.

Different Types of Manga

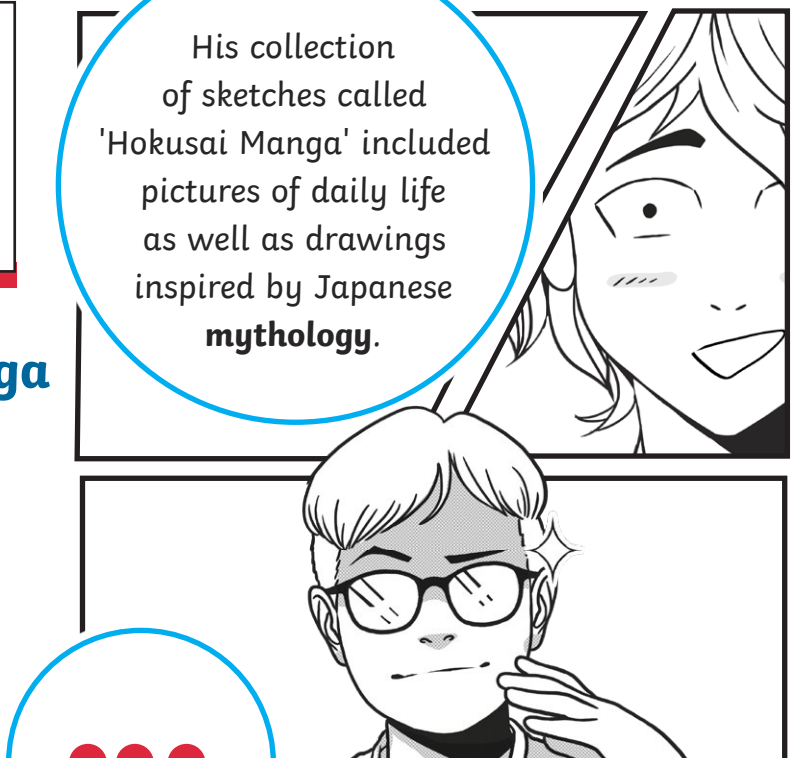
There is a huge range of different types of manga. Shonen is targeted at boys and is usually about an adventure, shojo is written for girls and is often centred around friendships and kodomo is designed for toddlers and very young children.



History of Manga

The term manga was first used in 1798 to describe a picture book by Santō Kyōden called 'Shiji no Yukikai', which means the four seasons. In 1814, a famous Japanese artist named Hokusai used the term manga for his sketchbooks.

His collection of sketches called 'Hokusai Manga' included pictures of daily life as well as drawings inspired by Japanese **mythology**.



Japanese Manga (漫画)

Although the traditional types have these audiences, anyone can enjoy both shonen and shojo.



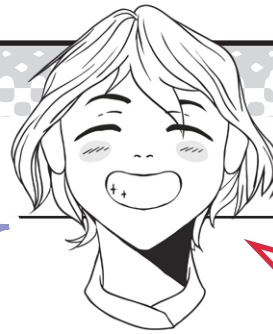
Some of the most popular manga continue for many years. The 'Glass Mask' by Suzue Miuchi was one of the longest-running shojo manga published for 44 years from January 1976 until 2020.



'KochiKame' by Osamu Akimoto is a popular shonen manga series with over 1960 chapters.

History of Manga

After the end of the Second World War, Japan was **occupied** by the United States. The Americans brought their own comics to Japan and they had a huge impact on the development of manga. The mangaka added an American flair to the traditional Japanese illustrations and modern-day manga was born.



Most book shops also have a comic section that will have a selection of manga. With so many titles to choose from, you should always ask an adult to help you choose a suitable series.

Getting into Manga

Manga is a fantastic way to expand the variety of your reading material. Your local library is a perfect place to start if you are keen to learn more about manga or want to start reading some manga for yourself. Usually, they will have a manga area and a librarian can help you pick a good title to start with.

Glossary



graphic novel: A book written in comic-strip form.

mangaka: Someone who creates manga.

mythology: A set of stories of beliefs that belong to a particular culture.

occupied: To be taken control of due to a war or conflict.



Questions

1. What are manga creators called? Tick one.

- ☐ kodomo
☐ shojo
☐ mangaka
☐ shonen

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened.

- ☐ Hokusai published 'Hokusai Manga'.
☐ The term manga was used for the first time.
☐ The Second World War ended.
☐ The final chapter of 'The Glass Mask' was published.

3. Which manga series had over 1960 chapters? Tick one.

- ☐ 'Shiki no Yukkai'
☐ 'The Glass Mask'
☐ 'KochiKame'
☐ 'Kodomo'

4. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its definition.

mangaka	•
shojo	•
kodomo	•
shonen	•

•	manga about friendships
•	manga for toddlers
•	manga about adventures
•	someone who creates manga

5. Look at the section called **History of Manga**.
 Find and copy one word which means 'folk tales'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Although the _____ types have these _____, anyone can enjoy both shonen and shojo.

7. Explain how the end of the Second World War affected manga.

8. Look at the section called **Different Types of Manga**.

Summarise the key points in 30 words or fewer.
