

Manga exhibition is British Museum's biggest show

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Manga - the Japanese art of comic books - has greatly risen in popularity worldwide in the past few decades. The art form can trace its roots back nearly 1,000 years in Japan but it is only in recent times that it has taken off globally. Manga is now as synonymous

with Japan as sushi, geisha and Mt Fuji. Such is the popularity of manga outside Japan, an exhibition of manga works proved to be the most popular show at the British Museum in 2019. It attracted more visitors than a show on the Dutch painter Rembrandt. The manga exhibition was the largest display of manga material ever assembled outside Japan. Around 1,920 people paid to see it every day, according to the museum.

The manga exhibition showcased the 900-year history of the art. It included the earliest forms of manga by master painters to sketches and illustrations of today's popular anime and video game characters such as Pokemon. There were also exhibits from animated films known as "anime". The show included 70 manga series, including Osamu Tezuka's seminal work "Astro Boy". Hartwig Fischer, director of the British Museum, said: "Manga is the modern graphic art of storytelling first perfected in Japan and is now loved all over the world. Building on Japan's centuries-old tradition, the best manga have the visual power to excite us and draw us into their world, with inventive storylines that engage our emotions."

Sources:
telegraph.co.uk / theartnewspaper.com / japantimes.co.jp

Writing

Looking at art in museums is better than looking at it online. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

manga / comic books / popularity / worldwide / sushi / museum / popular / material / exhibition / art / painter / anime / Pokemon / storytelling / tradition / power / draw

True / False

- a) The article said manga has risen in popularity worldwide this year. T / F
- b) The origins of manga go back almost 1,000 years. T / F
- c) A manga exhibition is the British Museum's biggest show this year. T / F
- d) Over 2,000 people a day went to see the manga exhibition. T / F
- e) The manga exhibition included sketches of Pokemon characters. T / F
- f) The manga exhibition included exhibits from 70 manga series. T / F
- g) The British Museum's director said manga was first perfected in China. T / F
- h) The director said manga has storylines that are inventive. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. greatly | a. influential |
| 2. trace | b. pulled in |
| 3. taken off | c. refined |
| 4. attracted | d. put together |
| 5. assembled | e. track down |
| 6. included | f. items |
| 7. exhibits | g. comprised |
| 8. seminal | h. considerably |
| 9. perfected | i. captivated |
| 10. engaged | j. become popular |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of the art forms from your country?
- c) Who are your favourite artists?
- d) What do you think of Pokemon?
- e) What do you think of Japanese anime?
- f) Do you prefer comic books or novels?
- g) What is the best museum exhibition you have seen?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a manga artist?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. greatly risen in popularity worldwide | a. as "anime" |
| 2. trace its roots back | b. manga outside Japan |
| 3. it has taken | c. perfected in Japan |
| 4. Such is the popularity of | d. nearly 1,000 years |
| 5. the largest display of manga material | e. engage our emotions |
| 6. showcased the 900-year | f. ever assembled |
| 7. exhibits from animated films known | g. in the past few decades |
| 8. storytelling first | h. into their world |
| 9. excite us and draw us | i. history of the art |
| 10. inventive storylines that | j. off globally |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about manga?
- What do you think of comic books?
- Why has manga risen in popularity?
- What are the greatest things about Japan?
- Would you like to see a manga exhibition at a museum?
- Do you think manga is an art?
- Why might the manga exhibition be more popular than Rembrandt?
- What is your favourite art form?

Spelling

- greatly risen in pyaolpriut
- The art form can caret its roots back
- as uynnosymso with Japan as sushi
- It ardcetta more visitors
- the largest display of manga material ever blesamsde
- coairdcng to the museum
- heestkcs and illustrations
- hebxstij from animated films
- Osamu Tezuka's smiaeln work "Astro Boy"
- first rtefecdp in Japan
- Building on Japan's sucterine-old tradition
- venitvein storylines

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. d
6. g	7. f	8. a	9. c	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Manga

You think an exhibition on manga is the best thing to see at a museum. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their exhibitions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): dinosaurs, English or the future.

Role B – Dinosaurs

You think an exhibition on dinosaurs is the best thing to see at a museum. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their exhibitions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): manga, English or the future.

Role C – English

You think an exhibition on English is the best thing to see at a museum. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their exhibitions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): dinosaurs, manga or the future.

Role D – The Future

You think an exhibition on the future is the best thing to see at a museum. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their exhibitions. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): dinosaurs, English or manga.

Speaking – Exhibitions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best exhibitions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • English | • Manga |
| • Ceramics | • Dinosaurs |
| • The future | • Ancient Egypt |
| • Human body | • Harry Potter |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.