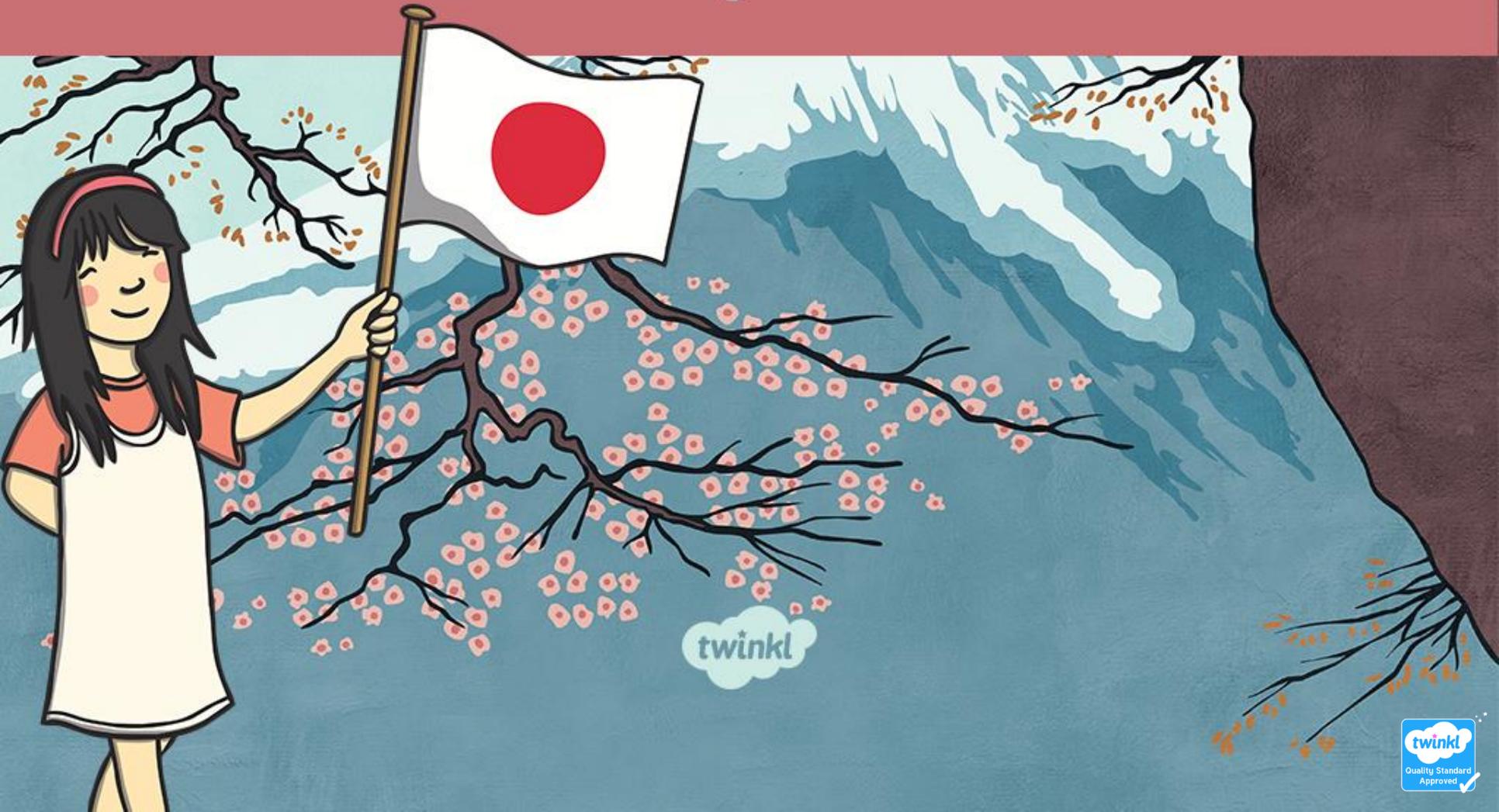


Japan



twinkl

Where is Japan?

Japan is a country in Asia.

It is an island country. It is surrounded by the Sea of Japan in the east and the Pacific Ocean in the west.

Japan



Facts About Japan

The capital city of Japan is Tokyo. It is the largest city in Japan.



Facts About Japan



Japan has a population of over 127 million people.

The prime minister of Japan is called Shinzō Abe.

The currency is the Japanese Yen.

The main language spoken in Japan is Japanese.

Some Japanese Phrases

Konnichiwa

Hello.

O-genki desu ka?

How are you?

Sumimasen

Excuse me.

Jaa ne

See you.



Japanese Food

Japan is famous around the world for its food, especially sushi.



Sushi is usually made of cold rice and vegetables or raw fish, sometimes wrapped in seaweed.



Soups are popular in Japan, as well as rice and noodle dishes.

Mount Fuji

Mount Fuji is Japan's tallest mountain. It is 3776 metres high.

Thousands of locals and foreigners climb the mountain every year.



Shibuya Crossing

Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo is famous because it is one of the busiest intersections in the world.

More than 250,000 people use it every day and they have just 2 minutes to make it across the road.



The History of Sport in Japan



Sumo



Sumo is considered to be the national sport of Japan and is a form of wrestling. It is played in a ring called a 'dohyo'. Wrestlers are called 'rikishi', which means 'strength' and 'power'. They wear loin clothes called 'mawashi'.

A sumo match will start when both wrestlers put their hands on the ground.

A match ends when one of the following happens:

- a player is pushed out of the ring
- a player places any part of their body (other than their feet) on the ground
- a player's mawashi is pulled off

Kendo

Kendo means 'way of the sword' in Japanese. It is a form of fencing played using wooden or bamboo sticks called 'shinai'. Two people play against each other, wearing armour and black garments called 'hakamas'. Players are called 'kendoka'.



Kendo's origins are in Samurai warfare. The Samurai were groups of warriors who acted as Japan's military from around the 12th century.

Kendo

In kendo, points can be scored by striking the head, the body, the wrist or the throat. Whilst striking, kendoka give a loud shout called a 'kiai'.

A kendo fight has three referees, called 'shinpan'. They award points not only on the number of strikes but also on the skill and flow shown during each strike. The first to reach two points is declared the winner.



Did You Know?

In Japan, children can choose to learn kendo at secondary school.

Judo

Judo is a martial art that originated in Japan. It is a form of fighting or defence that means 'the gentle way'.

The origins of judo are in the martial art jujitsu. People who participate in judo are called 'judoka'.

Judo is played on a mat called a 'tatami'. Judoka wear a uniform called a 'gi' which is tied with a belt.



Judo

There are three main ways of scoring points in judo. 'Ippon' is when an opponent is thrown to the ground so that they land on their back; this means an immediate win for the other player. Points can also be won by trapping an opponent in a hold or throwing them without them landing on their back.

Rules of judo include:

- no punching
- no kicking
- no touching faces
- no attempts to deliberately injure the other player



Judo has been an Olympic sport since the 1964 Tokyo games.

Yabusame

'Yabusame' is a form of archery on horseback. It originates from the days when Samurai warriors would go into battle on horseback.

Players race along a 255 metre track, trying to fire their bows at three targets, each spaced around 70 metres apart. As players use both hands to fire arrows, they have to control their horse with their knees, which requires great balance and coordination. When players fire their arrows, they shout 'in-yo-in-yo' which means 'darkness and light.' Then, they have to ensure that they have slowed their horse down before the end of the track.



Aikido

Aikido is a martial art. It was invented by Morihei Ueshiba as a non-violent way of redirecting an attack. Aikido is a group of Japanese words which when put together can mean 'the way of harmony with nature'.

Aikido is non-competitive, which means there are no points awarded for moves. It consists of turns, pivots and circles.

Aikido takes place in a hall called a 'dojo'.



Karate

Karate is a martial art. It was developed in Okinawa and has lots in common with Chinese martial arts. The word 'karate' can be translated as 'the way of the empty hand.'

People who participate in karate are called 'karateka'. Karate has different grades. You can tell what grade a person is by the colour of the belt tied around their 'gi'. Beginners start with a white belt, while experts wear a black one.



Sport in Japan

Many Japanese sports have grown in popularity across the world. Have you participated in any of them?

Other sports from around the world are played in Japan. Baseball is one of the country's most popular sports, although there are some differences between the Japanese and American versions. Football, golf and tennis are also popular. Japan have qualified for the last six FIFA World Cups. In 2019, Japan hosted the Rugby Union World Cup.

The Nippon Budokan, an important martial arts stadium in Tokyo.



"Nippon Budokan" by Toshihiro Gamo @flickr is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

All About Japanese Manga



What Is Manga?

Manga is an art form, a type of Japanese comic book or graphic novel. First published in Japan in the early nineteenth century, it has become more popular and widespread in recent years. Manga is the form of telling a story through illustration. These stories often involve adventure or humour.



The History Of Manga

The art form that we now recognise as manga was published in newspapers as cartoon strips in the 20th Century. Although its roots may be earlier, Kitazawa Rakuten (1876-1955) is considered by many to be the father of modern manga. As its popularity became more global, the art form expanded to include anime (animated media, e.g. cartoons), clothing, graffiti and gaming.



Audience

Unlike traditional comic books, manga is not just read by children. There are many different types of manga, written to appeal to a wide audience:

- **Kodomomuke** often teaches morals to its audience of young children.
- **Shonen** appeals to teenage boys with its action and adventure stories.
- **Shojo** is primarily for pre-teen and teenage girls and include stories based on real-life situations as well as action and adventure.
- **Seinen** is written for older teenagers and men. These stories involve plenty of action.
- **Josei** are often realistic tales and capture an audience of girls in their late teens to older women.



Themes

Themes range from real-life situations, to humour, to historical events.

Manga fiction can be realistic or fantastical with protagonists (leading characters) ranging from samurai warriors to robots.

Manga can be found filling the shelves in bookshops all over Japan.

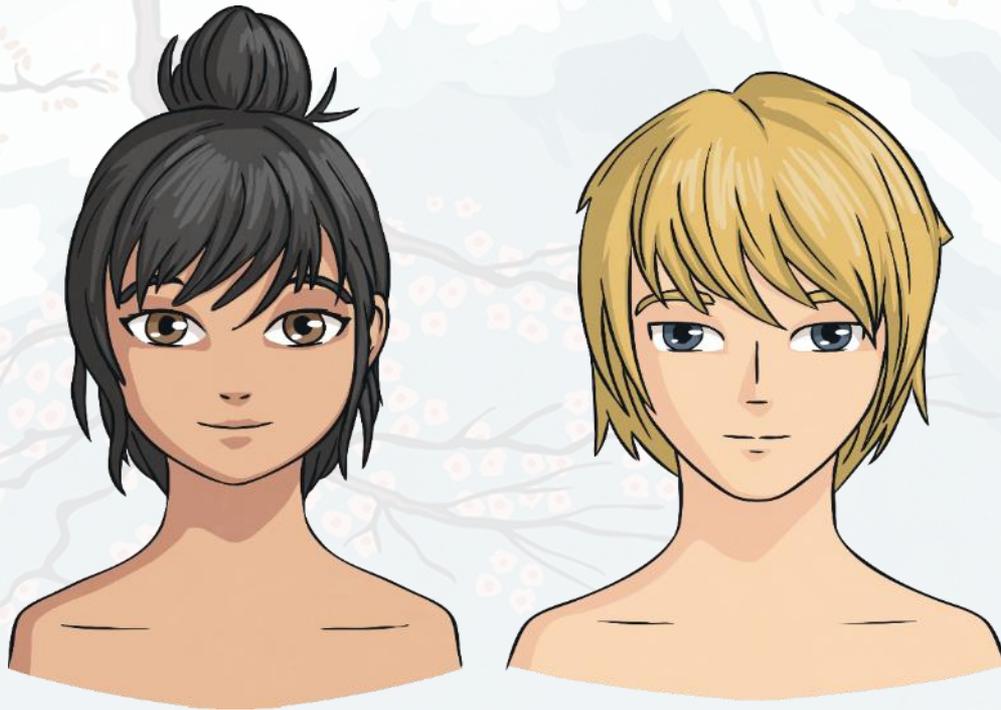
Did you know?

You can even get manga recipe books!



The Manga Style

Manga has a specific style. It is drawn by hand in pencil, or pen and ink. Characters are depicted with large eyes, small mouths and often unnatural hair colour. Much manga is still printed in black and white.



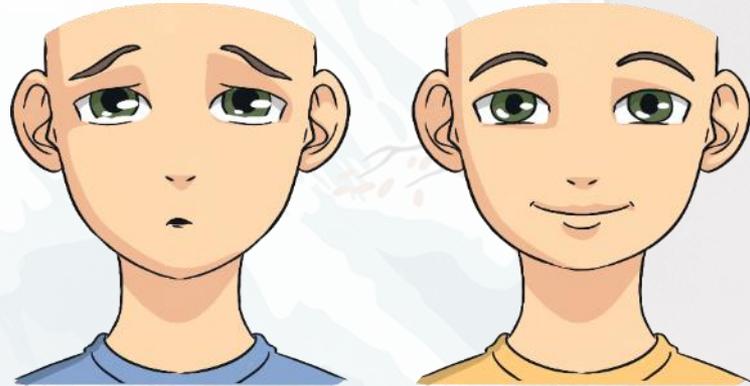
Telling A Story

Manga can include some text but the focus is on the illustrations.

Emotions are shown through highly exaggerated illustrations, e.g. a **sad** character would be depicted crying a waterfall of tears.

A **happy** character's smile would be really wide and almost fill the face.

An **angry** character would be depicted with red, rosy cheeks and have steam coming from them.



Draw Your Own Manga Character

1. Draw a circle, with a light line down the middle.
2. Draw two vertical lines from both sides of the circle, angling towards the central line, to create a chin.
3. Half way down the circle, draw the eyebrows and below that, large eyes.
4. Halfway down the bottom half of the face, draw a simple line for the nose, or two nostrils. Add ears, with the bottom in line with the nose.
5. Add a simple lip outline, halfway between the nose and chin.
6. Add choppy hair, with sweeping strands.
7. Add colour and further details to depict your character's emotions.

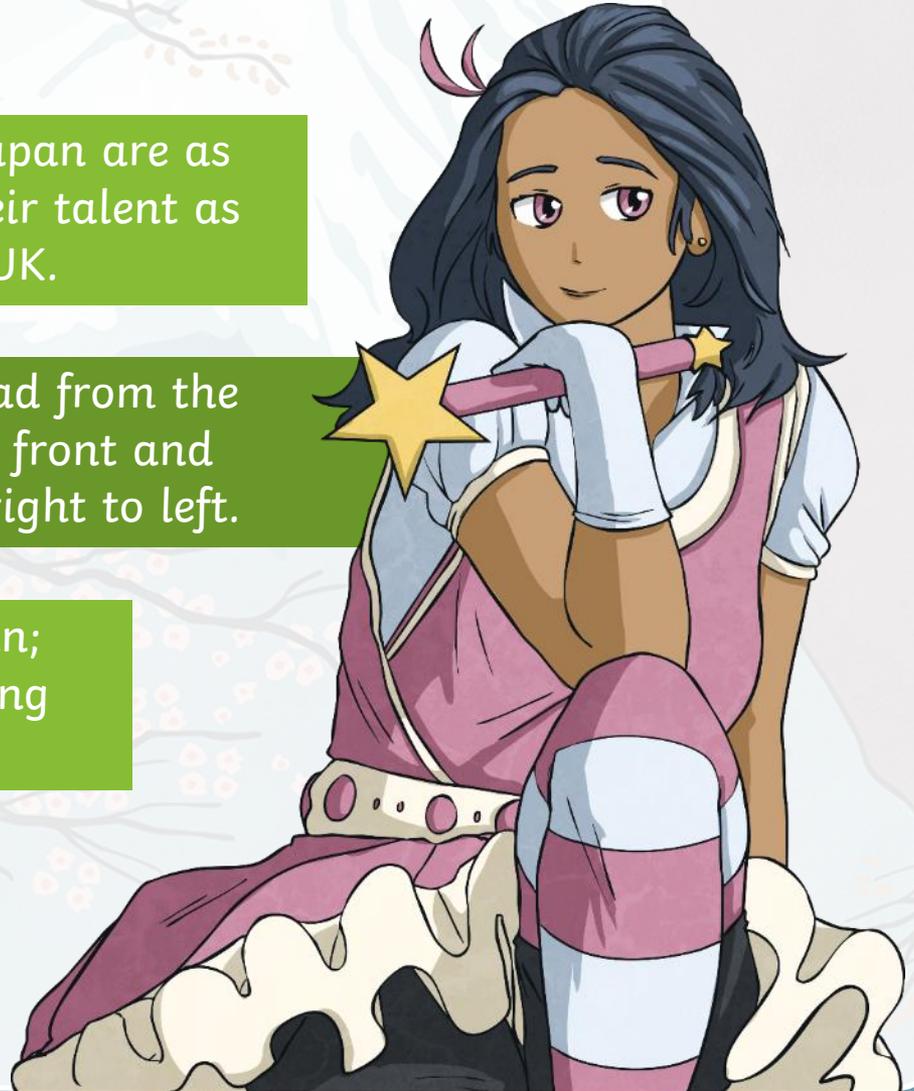


Fabulous Facts

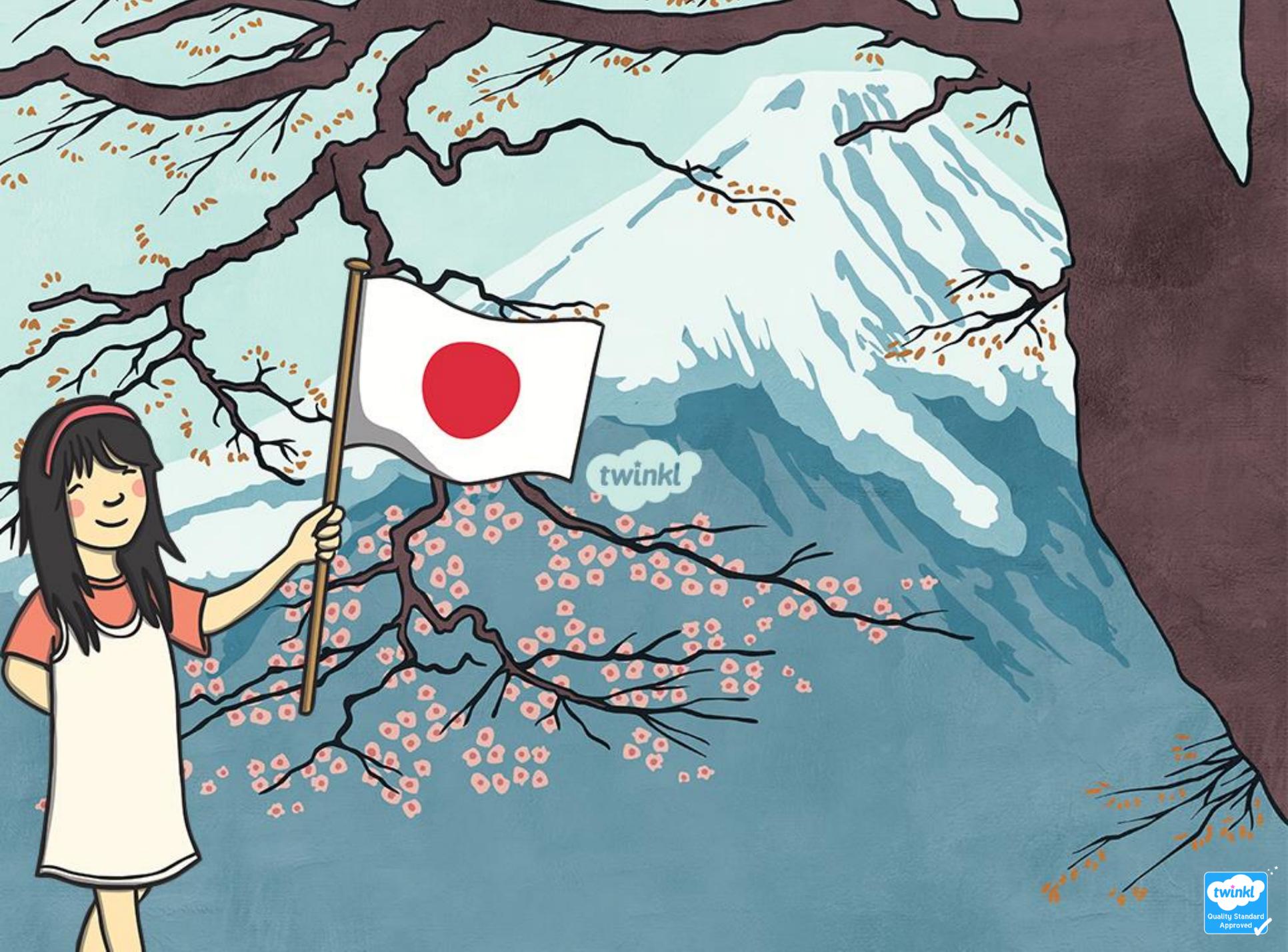
Artists and writers of manga in Japan are as admired and well-respected for their talent as a famous writer is in the UK.

Traditional manga is read from the back of the book to the front and each page is read from right to left.

Manga cafes are common in Japan; you can enjoy a drink while reading your favourite manga.







twinkl