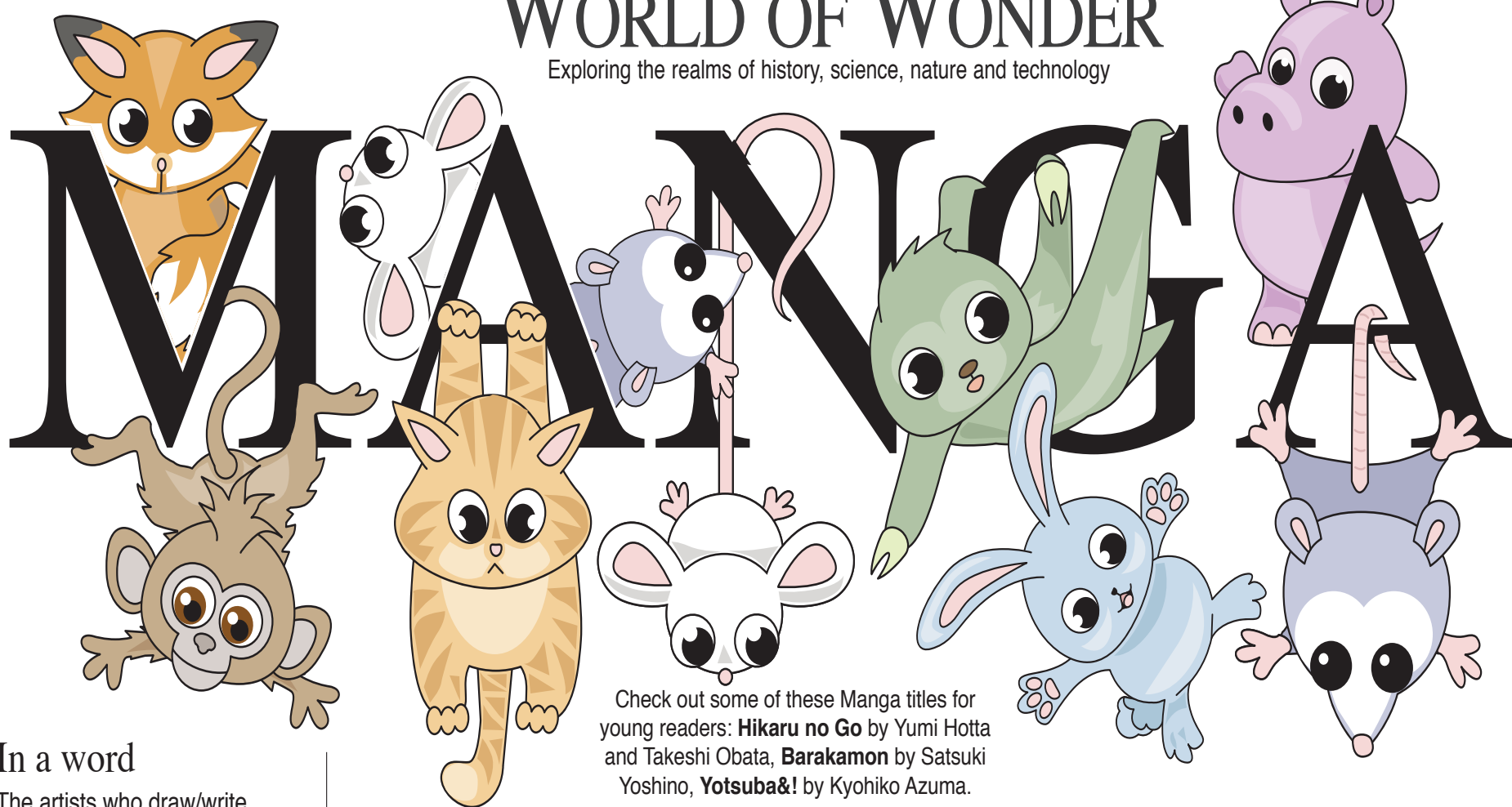


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WORLD OF WONDER

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Check out some of these Manga titles for young readers: **Hikaru no Go** by Yumi Hotta and Takeshi Obata, **Barakamon** by Satsuki Yoshino, **Yotsuba&!** by Kyohiko Azuma.

In a word

The artists who draw/write Manga characters and comics are called **Manga-ka**.

Manga is considered part of the **otaku** (nerd) culture in Japan, and it is celebrated as part of the nation's identity.

Manga can refer to all kinds of cartooning, comics and animation. The term "Manga" was first used in 1798, to describe the picture book **Shiji no Yuki-kai** (Four Seasons) by Santō Kyōden.

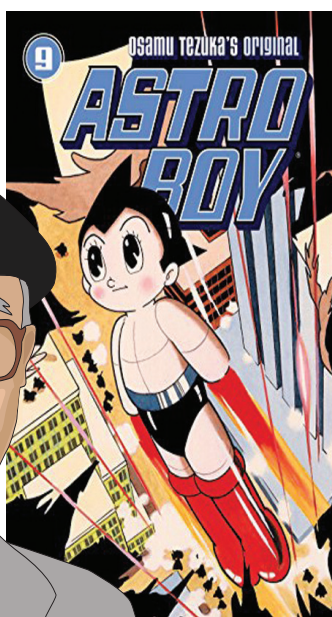
漫画 are the two **kanji** (symbols) used to write the word Manga in Japanese. The first kanji **漫** is called **man**, and means "whimsical or impromptu." The second kanji **画** is **ga**, and translates as "pictures." Together these symbols represent Manga.

A bit of history

The first Manga are thought to date back to 12th-century Japan with a series of drawings of frogs and rabbits called **Chōjū-giga** (Scrolls of Frolicking Animals). They were created by several artists and some of their drawing techniques have been adapted by modern Manga-ka.

Considered the grandfather of modern Manga and anime, **Osamu Tezuka** created **Astro Boy** and the distinctive large eyes characteristic of Manga today. He also incorporated cinematic action into Manga.

Osamu Tezuka
1928 – 1989



Machiko Hasegawa
1920 – 1992



Machiko Hasegawa was one of the first female Manga artists. In 1946, she started her comic strip **Sazae-san**, a four-panel comic that ran in newspapers.

A 2011 anime adaptation of Sazae-san had more viewers than any other anime on Japanese television.

Did you know?

Manga is pronounced maw-nnnnn-gah. In Japanese, it is actually three syllables, although the middle "N" is spoken very quickly.

Japanese Manga is read from the right to the left, the opposite of traditional Western books.

A Manga can have a mix of black and white pages and others with color.

After World War II, Japan was introduced to American comics and cartoons, which influenced the Manga styles of the 1950s.

There are different kinds of Manga in Japan. **Shōnen** is boys' Manga, pronounced show-nen. **Shōjo** is girls' Manga, pronounced show-joe. **Kodomo** is children's Manga, pronounced koh-doh-moh.

The action-packed **Dragonball** series (1984-1995) by Akira Toriyama had 519 chapters printed in 42 volumes.

The weekly **Shōnen Magazine** was first published in 1959. It was the first weekly magazine for children in Japan.

Themes & genres

Manga comics, graphic novels and anime cover a broad range of themes and storylines that appeal to a large and varied audience. Narrative themes range from action/adventures and romantic or historical dramas to comedies and suspense/mysteries to science fiction. Genres also include sports and games, even business and commerce.

Some classic reads

Here are some of the classic Manga titles: Akira, Ghost in the Shell, Battle Angel Alita, Lone Wolf and Cub, Nausicaa, Dragon Ball, Gunsmith Cats.

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