

## 'Demon Slayer' movie breaks Japan's box office records

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While movie theatres around the world are struggling to survive, cinemagoers in Japan are helping to smash box office records. Despite COVID-19 social distancing rules, an animated film has just seen (by far) the biggest box office weekend in the

history of Japan's cinemas. The movie 'Demon Slayer: Mugen Train' not only broke records in Japan, it also had the biggest opening weekend for any movie anywhere in the world. The movie only debuted domestically in Japan but it more than doubled the previous record. Ticket sales last weekend were greater than those of all other countries combined. Japanese cinemas saw over 3.4 million patrons forking out a whopping \$44 million on tickets.

The movie Demon Slayer is based on a smash-hit Japanese manga - a Japanese-style comic book. The story is set in early 20th-century Japan. The main protagonist is a young man who joins a group of warriors to get revenge on a group of ghouls and Demons that killed his family and cursed his sister. It is the latest in a long line of anime and manga to become a phenomenon in Japanese popular culture. The 22-volume manga has sold over 100 million copies, making it one of the most successful manga of all time. Japanologist Roland Kelts from Tokyo's Waseda University said: "This particular title cuts across generations. Even people over 40, over 50, really like Demon Slayer."

Sources: [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) / [comicbook.com](https://www.comicbook.com) / [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)

## Writing

Anime is a very important art form. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

movie theatre / smash / box office / social distancing / history / debut / ticket / manga / anime / warriors / ghouls / Demons / popular culture / Japan / generations

## True / False

- a) The article said movie theatres in Japan are struggling to survive. T / F
- b) Ticket sales doubled those of the previous Japanese record. T / F
- c) The movie sold more tickets than all other movies around the world. T / F
- d) Japanese cinemas sold \$440 million of tickets for the movie. T / F
- e) The movie Demon Slayer is set in Japan in the late 19th century. T / F
- f) The movie is about a man who wants revenge for his sister's killing. T / F
- g) There are 22 volumes of the manga the movie is based on. T / F
- h) An expert on Japan said people over 50 like the movie. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>struggling</b>  | a. specific          |
| 2. <b>broke</b>       | b. mixed             |
| 3. <b>debuted</b>     | c. huge              |
| 4. <b>combined</b>    | d. located           |
| 5. <b>whopping</b>    | e. fighting          |
| 6. <b>set</b>         | f. retribution       |
| 7. <b>protagonist</b> | g. sensation         |
| 8. <b>revenge</b>     | h. smashed           |
| 9. <b>phenomenon</b>  | i. central character |
| 10. <b>particular</b> | j. came out          |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of movie theatres?
- b) What do you know about anime?
- c) What do you think of this news?
- d) Would you feel safe to sit in a movie theatre during COVID-19?
- e) Would you like to see the movie Demon Slayer?
- f) What is the best movie you have seen at the cinema?
- g) What do you think of Japanese movies?
- h) What is the best animated movie you've seen?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. movie theatres around the world are | a. across generations    |
| 2. helping to smash                    | b. previous record       |
| 3. it also had the biggest             | c. countries combined    |
| 4. it more than doubled the            | d. box office records    |
| 5. greater than those of all other     | e. on a group of ghouls  |
| 6. based on a smash-                   | f. line of anime         |
| 7. The main protagonist is             | g. struggling to survive |
| 8. get revenge                         | h. a young man           |
| 9. It is the latest in a long          | i. opening weekend       |
| 10. This particular title cuts         | j. hit Japanese manga    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about manga?
- What are the good and bad things about anime?
- What do you think of ghouls and Demons?
- What do you think of Japanese popular culture?
- Why is anime so popular?
- In what ways are manga better than novels?
- What questions would you like to ask a manga fan?

## Spelling

- ggsugtirnl to survive
- rscageomine in Japan are helping
- social iadsngtcin rules
- an aiteandm film
- etebddu domestically in Japan
- forking out a owppnihg \$44 million
- The main otstipornga is a young man
- get ervege on a group of ghouls
- esmdno that killed his family
- a ennhoemnpo in Japanese popular culture
- This paiacutrrl title
- cuts across eirnntasgeo

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Anime

You think anime is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): biopic, pandemic or comedy.

### Role B – Biopic

You think a biopic is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): anime, pandemic or comedy.

### Role C – Pandemic

You think pandemic is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): biopic, anime or comedy.

### Role D – Comedy

You think comedy is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): biopic, pandemic or anime.

## Speaking – Movies

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

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| • Anime    | • Romance  |
| • Action   | • Fantasy  |
| • Horror   | • Thriller |
| • Pandemic | • Biopic   |

### Answers – True False

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