

France and Saudi Arabia agree to manga theme park

3rd September 2026



Millions of people around the world enjoy Japanese manga and anime. Popular series such as One Piece, Naruto, and Dragon Ball have fans in many countries. Now, this global popularity is leading to a new theme park. Saudi Arabia and France are

planning an attraction based on the series Dragon Ball Z. It will be built near Paris and will cost around \$7 billion. It will take several years to build and will be one of Europe's largest amusement parks. The idea for the park began after Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met France's President Emmanuel Macron in Saudi Arabia in 2024. They discovered they both had a passion for manga and liked Dragon Ball Z.

The project will benefit the economies of both countries. It will create 22,000 jobs in France. It will also help Saudi Arabia move away from relying on oil. As part of its plan to reduce its reliance on the fossil fuel, Saudi has been investing in tourism, entertainment, sports and other industries. President Macron said the park would be "a new global destination". A spokesperson for the French government said the park was "a project on the scale of Disneyland". The Politico website reported that the park would also focus on green issues. It wrote: "The development is also expected to include 50,000 square metres of green spaces dedicated to biodiversity."

Sources: japantimes.co.jp / politico.eu / reuters.com

Writing

Theme parks are the best form of entertainment. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

manga / anime / series / fans / Saudi Arabia / France / Paris / theme parks / passion / project / oil / tourism / global destinations / Disneyland / green issues / biodiversity

True / False

- 1) The article says millions of people in Japan love manga. T / F
- 2) A new manga theme park will be built in Saudi Arabia. T / F
- 3) The new park will cost about \$7 billion. T / F
- 4) The leaders of France and Saudi Arabia love manga. T / F
- 5) The theme park will create 22,000 jobs for Saudis. T / F
- 6) Saudi Arabia hopes to rely less on oil because of the theme park. T / F
- 7) France's government says the new park will be better than Disneyland. T / F
- 8) The new park will use 50,000 square metres of space for biodiversity. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. enjoy | a. construct |
| 2. fans | b. believed |
| 3. global | c. followers |
| 4. build | d. dependance |
| 5. discovered | e. size |
| 6. benefit | f. worldwide |
| 7. reliance | g. help |
| 8. investing | h. found |
| 9. scale | i. like |
| 10. expected | j. putting money into |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How does manga compare to anime?
- c) What theme parks are there in your country?
- d) Why has manga become so popular?
- e) Do you think Disneyland is the best theme park?
- f) How can theme parks be greener?
- g) What kind of theme park would you like to design?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the French and Saudi leaders?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. global | a. on the series |
| 2. an attraction based | b. on oil |
| 3. It will take several years | c. for manga |
| 4. one of Europe's largest amusement | d. destination |
| 5. They discovered they both had a passion | e. popularity |
| 6. The project will benefit the economies | f. to biodiversity |
| 7. move away from relying | g. parks |
| 8. fossil | h. of both countries |
| 9. the park would be a new global | i. to build |
| 10. green spaces dedicated | j. fuel |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of manga?
- Are manga better than novels?
- What are the differences between manga and American comics?
- Who are your favourite manga characters?
- What do you think of going to a manga theme park?
- What do you know about Dragon Ball Z?
- What do you think of world leaders liking anime?
- What books or manga do you have a passion for?

Spelling

- manga and anmei
- eesris such as One Piece, Naruto...
- global otryipupla
- Saudi and France are planning an ttciantrao
- one of Europe's largest utemaenms parks
- they both had a nosapsi for manga
- benefit the eocosmnei of both countries
- part of its plan to reduce its niealrec
- slfsio fuel
- entertainment, sports and other niduessrit
- a new global isatnteodin
- green spaces dedicated to sitoerivbiyd

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How many people around the world like manga and anime?
2.	Where do the manga Naruto and One Piece have many fans?
3.	Where will the new Dragon Ball Z be built?
4.	Whose idea was the Dragon Ball Z theme park?
5.	What do the leaders of Saudi Arabia and France have a passion for?
6.	How many jobs will the park create in France?
7.	What does Saudi want to move its economy away from?
8.	What did Emanuel Macron say the new park would be?
9.	What did the French government say the new park would be like?
10.	What will 50,000 square metres of green spaces be dedicated to?

Speaking – Manga

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

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • One Piece | • Demon Slayer |
| • Tokyo Ghoul | • Dragon Ball |
| • My Hero Academia | • Attack on Titan |
| • Naruto | • Jujutsu Kaisen |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.