

Ancient East Asian History Manga

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There are many ways history is recorded in the world. The most common kind of documented history can be found in ancient texts and artwork. However, a more contemporary way to record history can be found in the form of manga. Manga are visual stories, much like American graphic novels, that originated in Japan. These stories can range from fictional and fantastical to historical and educational. In History 2350: Ancient East Asian History, the class covers the societies and cultures of pre-modern China, Korea, and Japan. This history project focuses on telling particular events in Ancient East Asian History and displaying them in the contemporary form of manga. One of the manga presented is about a Chinese girl of higher status who is going through foot binding. The story will illustrate why and how women bound their feet and who bound them. The second manga is a retelling of the creation myth of Japan. This story, in particular, has many abstract portrayals of creation and, through the medium of manga, allows the reader to better grasp the cultural context of the story. History encompasses the written word and art, allowing the reader not only to see the story and capture cultural nuances but also express the perspective and mood of the artist creating it. Creating a manga can help us dive deeper into the historical narrative of our topics by illustrating cultural norms in a comprehensible format and providing a visual perspective of people of the past.