

*If you only have 30 minutes ...*

“Animated Narratives for New Eyes” tells of a coming-together of two very different cultures. From Japan comes anime—animated movies with a distinct visual style and stories that emphasize community and collective purpose. From Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations come stories from the Qur’an, with their own form and subject matter. Anime is wildly popular in Saudi Arabia. Filmmakers there wanted to use anime to present content of particular interest to Arab audiences.

Creating this kind of hybrid—a mixture of two different cultures—is both exciting and challenging. Fill in the table below to answer these questions: What are the possible benefits of bringing these two cultures together? What challenges does doing so raise?

Benefits	Challenges
A. <sup>1</sup>	A. <sup>6</sup>
B. <sup>2</sup>	B. <sup>7</sup>
C. <sup>3</sup>	C. <sup>8</sup>
D. <sup>4</sup>	D. <sup>9</sup>
E. <sup>5</sup>	E. <sup>10</sup>

Making *The Journey* was a big effort that resulted in a creative work of art. But what happens to the collaboration between Japanese and Saudi Arabian artists now? What can be done to ensure that the collaboration continues? In other words, how do countries encourage more people to do what *The Journey's* creators did? Discuss the questions below to guide you to an answer. Answers may vary.

- What is Manga Productions? How has it supported Japanese-Saudi collaboration?<sup>11</sup>
- Stepping back from Manga's actions, how would you generalize about what they did?<sup>12</sup>

### Common Core Standard(s) Met:

**CCRA.R.1** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**CCRA.R.10** Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

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<sup>1</sup> Saudi Arabia has a huge anime fan base, so there's a market for anime there.

<sup>2</sup> Saudi artists learn visual techniques from Japanese artists.

<sup>3</sup> Japanese artists learn stories and storytelling techniques from Saudi artists.

<sup>4</sup> Different generations work together.

<sup>5</sup> Creative new art emerges. It is "visually spectacular and conceptually groundbreaking ... ."

<sup>6</sup> Japanese artists did not have knowledge of Arab history and culture.

<sup>7</sup> Arab artists had little experience making anime.

<sup>8</sup> Japanese and Saudi artists traveled between countries to work together. (Distance, expense, language barriers.)

<sup>9</sup> Cultural misunderstandings.

<sup>10</sup> Different generations work together.

<sup>11</sup> Sponsoring travel for filmmakers to go to one another's countries; developing internships and training programs.

<sup>12</sup> They provided material support and created programs that would welcome new participants.