

# Tokyo essay



I will be talking about the city of Tokyo. Tokyo is well known and is very interesting with many great attractions and a huge economy. Tokyo is the capital of Japan and is the most densely populated cities of the country. Since ancient times, the city has been one of the most densely populated cities of the country. Tokyo is the largest metropolitan area in the world. The Tokyo metropolis was formed in 1943. Tokyo was originally a fishing village named Edo. Tokyo isn't just a city, it is a megacity.

Tokyo is great now but just 400 years ago this global powerhouse was little more than a backwater castle town on the shores of the muddy Sumida River. Over the past century it has been twice virtually annihilated. It almost first collapsed during the 1923 Great Kanto earthquake and subsequent firestorm, and again in 1945 after the devastation of the Allied bombings. Each time it has risen like a phoenix from the ashes, reborn in an ever-more-modern reflection of itself. Tokyo now shines and is a great city to be a part of.

The political economy of Tokyo is very immense and the city revolves around the people, environment and jobs. Though it occupies only 0.6% of the total area of Japan, the population density is nearly 5,655 persons per square kilometers, thereby making it one of the most populated cities of the world. As on October 1st, 2003 the population of the city stood at 12.369 million. Tokyo has the largest metropolitan economy in the world. Tokyo has a total GDP of  $\text{¥}1.479$  trillion in. As of 2009, 51 of the companies listed on the Global 500 are based in Tokyo, almost twice that of the second-placed city (Paris).

Tokyo is a major international finance center. It houses the headquarters of several of the world's largest investment banks and insurance companies, and serves as a hub for Japan's transportation, publishing, and broadcasting industries. During the centralized growth of Japan's economy following World War II, many large firms moved their headquarters from cities such as Osaka, to Tokyo, in an attempt to take advantage of better access to the government. This trend has begun to slow due to ongoing population growth in Tokyo and the high cost of living there.

It is the most expensive city in the world to live in for 14 years in a row until 2006. Another aspect that helped build Tokyo to what it is is The Tokyo Stock Exchange. It is Japan's largest stock exchange, and third largest in the world by market capitalization and fourth largest by share turnover. Tourism in Tokyo is also a huge contributor to the economy. In 2006, 4.81 million foreigners and 420 million Japanese visits to Tokyo were made; the economic value of these visits totaled 9.4 trillion yen according to the government of Tokyo.

Many tourists visit the various downtowns, stores, and entertainment districts throughout the neighborhoods. Besides banking and stock aspect, Tokyo had 8,460 ha (20,900 acres) of agricultural land as of 2003. The farmland is concentrated in Western Tokyo. Perishables such as vegetables, fruits, and flowers can be conveniently shipped to the markets in the eastern part of the prefecture. Komatsuna and spinach are the most important vegetables; as of 2000, Tokyo supplied 32.5% of the komatsuna sold at its central produce market.

With 36% of its area covered by forest, Tokyo has extensive growths of cryptomeria and Japanese cypress, especially in the mountainous western communities of Akiruno, Maebashi, Okutama, Hachioji, Hinode, and Hinohara. Tokyo Bay was once a major source of fish. Presently, most of Tokyo's fish production comes from the outer islands, such as Izu Shima and Hachijima. Skipjack tuna, nori, and aburahi are among the ocean products. (Wikipedia) Tokyo was built because of the people and because of the jobs and opportunities.

Throughout the years, Tokyo has expanded the companies and businesses and became one of the most expensive cities in all aspects in the world. The culture and urban ecology of Tokyo is widespread and a big part of the community. Over the years, people from the other prefectures of Japan gradually moved into this city, thereby leading to a massive growth in its population. The population of the city is divided into juveniles, working age population and the aged population. The juvenile age groups range from 0-14 years, the working age ranges from 15-64 years while the aged population ranges from 65 years and above.

As per the figures provided in January 2003, the three age groups constitute nearly 11.9%, 70.9% and 17.1% respectively, of the total population of the city. The aged population of the country is particularly on the rise over here. Tokyo's population is also higher due to the huge number of people who commute everyday to this city from the nearby prefectures for studying or for working. Because of this reason, the daytime population of Tokyo is higher than the nighttime population. Tokyo is home to a number of foreign

nationals. As on January 2005, the number of foreign residents found in the country stood at 353, 826.

The five major nationalities of the foreign residents staying in this country consist of British, Chinese, American, Korea and Philippine. The natives to Tokyo are called Tokyoites. Tokyo is also a great landscape and has great scenery. Tokyo is one of few places in the world where a flower can bring an entire city to a state of near-sexual excitement. Cherry blossoms last for less than two weeks and are symbolic, of the impermanence of life, the sadness underlying its exquisite beauty. Cherry blossoms fall in their prime, as samurai warriors were meant to do.

High-end kurabu bar hostesses compose themselves into human ikebana flower arrangements with the same eye for art and beauty as the geisha who once frequented the pleasure districts of old Edo, famous throughout Japan. Look out over Tokyo and you will see a 21st-century megalopolis, a city of glassy skyscrapers ringed by an elevated super toll road, like a modern Great Wall of China. But Tokyo is far more than that. It's a place where the past is inextricably woven into the present; where pockets of ancient traditions don't just survive, they thrive in the midst of an ultramodern consumer culture.

Architecture in Tokyo has largely been shaped by Tokyo's history. The socio-psychological aspect of Tokyo is very interesting. Twice in recent history, the metropolis has been left in ruins: first in the 1923 Great Kantō earthquake and later after extensive firebombing in World War II. Because of this, Tokyo's urban landscape consists mainly of modern and contemporary

architecture, and older buildings are scarce. Tokyo features many internationally famous forms of modern architecture including Tokyo International Forum, Asahi Beer Hall, Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower, NTT Docomo Yoyogi Building and Rainbow Bridge.

Tokyo also features two distinctive towers: Tokyo Tower and the new Tokyo Skytree which is the tallest tower in Japan and the second tallest structure in the world. Tokyo also contains numerous parks and gardens. There are four national parks in Tokyo Prefecture, including the Fuji- Hakone-Izu National Park, which includes all of the Izu Islands. All the parks and fields are sights to see and enjoyed by many people and still making people enjoy that they live there. The fut