

World-famous Tsukiji fish market closes

8th October, 2018



Tokyo's world-famous Tsukiji fish market has closed after 83 years of trading. It shut permanently at noon on Saturday, bringing an end to its long history of trading in all

kinds of fish. The market is being moved to a new site in the Toyosu area of Tokyo. The new market will start operating on Thursday. City planners in Tokyo made the decision to close the market at Tsukiji because they wanted to build a parking lot for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, which will take place in 2020. Market traders at Tsukiji were sad on Saturday as they finally shut up shop. One seafood auctioneer, Hisao Ishii, said: "I'm almost crying. Today is a sad day of goodbyes."

Tsukiji fish market was known as the "kitchen of Japan". Britain's Financial Times newspaper described how important the market was. It wrote: "Tsukiji is a symbol of the global food trade, the home of Japanese cuisine, and is one of Tokyo's most popular tourist attractions." It added that the atmosphere at Tsukiji showed, "an older Tokyo that is gradually disappearing in favor of glittering high-rise towers". Nearly 500 types of seafood were sold at the market. The most famous product sold there was bluefin tuna. One bluefin sold for a record \$1.7m in 2013. Hiroyasu Ito, chairman of the Tsukiji Market Association, said: "Everyone was pouring their heart and soul into their trade until the very end".

Sources: bbc.com / ft.com / japantimes.co.jp

Writing

It is OK to knock down a historic tourist attraction to make a parking lot. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

world-famous / fish / market / shut / noon / decision / parking lot / sad day / crying / kitchen / important / Japanese cuisine / tourist attractions / high-rise towers / tuna

True / False

- The Tsukiji fish market was over 80 years old. T / F
- The fish market closed permanently at midnight on Saturday. T / F
- A new fish market opened the day after Tsukiji closed. T / F
- The Tsukiji fish market closed so Tokyo could build a car park. T / F
- A British newspaper called Tsukiji the "kitchen of the world". T / F
- The article said Tsukiji was Japan's most important tourist attraction. T / F
- People could buy nearly 500 types of seafood at the Tsukiji fish market. T / F
- Tsukiji's chairman said everyone worked hard until the very end. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. closed | a. merchants |
| 2. kinds | b. slowly |
| 3. operating | c. reported |
| 4. traders | d. sorts |
| 5. sad | e. business |
| 6. described | f. sign |
| 7. symbol | g. shut down |
| 8. gradually | h. commodity |
| 9. product | i. unhappy |
| 10. trade | j. running |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Tsukiji fish market?
- What do you think of fish markets?
- What do you think of a historic market closing to build a car park?
- What do you think of fish?
- What kinds of markets do you like?
- Do you think the market should have been moved?
- Should the market be moved back to Tsukiji after the Olympics?
- When was the last time you cried because something finished?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. It shut permanently | a. the "kitchen of Japan" |
| 2. made the decision | b. up shop |
| 3. they wanted to build | c. end |
| 4. they finally shut | d. at noon on Saturday |
| 5. Today is a sad | e. cuisine |
| 6. Tsukiji fish market was known as | f. a parking lot |
| 7. the home of Japanese | g. towers |
| 8. one of Tokyo's most popular | h. day of goodbyes |
| 9. high-rise | i. tourist attractions |
| 10. until the very | j. to close the market |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What fish dishes do you like, and why?
- What do you think of your country's cuisine?
- What is the most famous cuisine from your region?
- Do you prefer the old or modern parts of your city?
- What would a \$1.7million tuna taste like?
- What do you always pour your heart and soul into?
- What questions would you like to ask a Tsukiji fish trader?

Spelling

- after 83 years of atdgnir
- It shut pterlyammen
- bringing an end to its long hsrioty
- start otaernpig on Thursday
- the sdeicion to close the market
- One seafood uetrnioeca
- known as the "hkcniet of Japan"
- dbrseedci how important the market was
- the home of Japanese incuiis
- popular urtttios attractions
- The most fsauom product
- irahcamn of the Tsukiji Market Association

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Fish

You think a fish market is the best kind of market. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their markets. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): vegetable market, second-hand or stock market.

Role B – Vegetable

You think a vegetable market is the best kind of market. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their markets. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): fish market, second-hand or stock market.

Role C – Second-hand

You think a second-hand is the best kind of market. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their markets. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): vegetable market, fish market or stock market.

Role D – Stocks

You think a stock market is the best kind of market. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their markets. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): vegetable market, second-hand or fish market.

Speaking – Markets

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

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| • clothes | • fish |
| • night market | • vegetable |
| • supermarket | • stocks |
| • souq | • second-hand |

Answers – True False

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