

Source 1:



Professional Pusher

By Max Everton

If you have ever seen sardines stuffed into a tiny tin can, you will understand the concept of Japan's subway system. There is always room for more people to be stuffed into the train car.

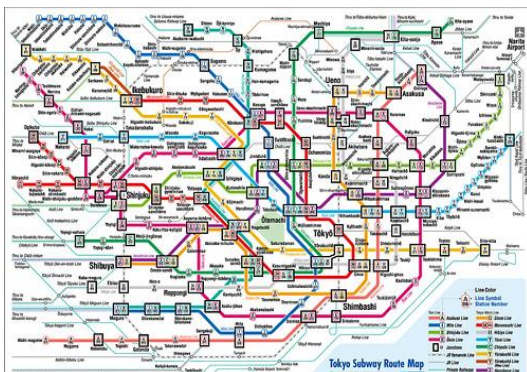
Tokyo's Metro

Close to 14 million people live in Tokyo, Japan – compare that to under 9 million in New York City and just over 4 million in Los Angeles, California. Now imagine millions of people traveling to work, class, and everywhere else. The Tokyo Metro and the Toei Subway, both subway systems in Tokyo, route commuters all over the large city, but there are more people than train cars. In fact, several sources say that during rush hour when people are going to and from work, the trains are overloaded by 70 percent – a few run at over 200 percent over capacity.

This is where the professional pushers make their living – they are also called *oshiya* which means “pusher.” Dressed in nice suits and donning white gloves, these professionals wait until the trains are full, and then they go to work. When there are more bodies busting out of the train car than it can hold, the professional pusher shoves the people into the train car. No one complains – they just stand while the professional pushers ram them into the train car with sheer might. The bodies may spring back out, but a force of three or four professional pushers can fix the situation. It is much like imagining trying to shove too many fish into an already-packed sardine tin can.



With the determination of Batman and the force of Superman, these professional pushers use their might, and a bit of finesse, to shove passengers into tightly-packed subway train cars.



Looking much like colorful spaghetti, the map for Tokyo's subway route would scare even the most adventurous traveler.

Preparation and History

Within two weeks, someone can be trained for a professional people pusher position. Trainees are taught to alert passengers that they will be pushed into the train. Then, they do their best to push and push until the doors are closed and the train can move.

The first pushers were students who were working to fill a part-time job. Eventually, the job position became more serious and training was required. When the pushers are not on duty, the rest of the train or subway staff have to help.

The first “pushers” were introduced in the United States in New York City, but the attitudes of the pushers often caused issues and the practice ceased. In Japan, however, pushers push, and riders wait until they are finished. For the most part, there are no incidents since people know that the subway trains are overcrowded, but people still need to travel to their destinations.

Source 2:

The Need for Oshiya

With a high population in Tokyo, Japan – well over 14 million – city managers feel the need to use *oshiya*, or professional pushers, to help push passengers into overcrowded subway train cars. After looking at the amount of people packing into train cars daily, one might applaud the need for the professional pusher. The chart below shows just how many passengers commute each day through major cities in the world.

City	Name of Transit	Passengers – per day	Passengers – per year
New York	MTA – Metropolitan Transportation Authority	5 million	1.757 billion
Tokyo	Tokyo Metro and Toei Subway	8.7 million	3.411 billion
Tokyo	All Tokyo Rail systems combined (subway and train)	40 million	14.6 billion
Paris	France Metro	4.16 million	1.526 billion
London	Underground	3 million	1.065 billion



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Read Source 1, "Professional Pusher," and Source 2, "The Need for Oshiya," and then answer Numbers 1 through 7.

- ① Provide two reasons from Source 1 that strongly and thoroughly support a need for a job like a professional pusher.
- ② Provide two conclusions about why "pushing" is tolerated in Tokyo but not in New York that are supported by details in Source 1?
- ③ Write an objective summary of Source 1.
- ④ What central idea is supported by both passages?

⑤ Provide a sentence from **Source 1** that BEST supports your response to question ④.

⑥ How does the author of **Source 1** introduce the idea that Tokyo's transit system is overcrowded?

⑦ How does the author connect ideas about preparation for being a pusher with the history of the job?

⑧ How do the specific details the author included in **Source 1** develop the central idea? Use at least TWO details from the passage to support your response.