

Meet a Meat Museum

Read the museum review.

Then follow the directions in the Text Marking box.

If you like quirky museums, the SPAM® Museum (or Museum of Meat-Themed Awesomeness, as it calls itself) is your kind of place! It's in Austin, Minnesota, the home of Hormel Foods, which manufactures this popular canned meat product. Not surprisingly, Austin calls itself SPAMtown.

Made of pig parts and secret spices, colored and preserved by sodium nitrate, bound by potato starch, and covered in a gelatinous glaze, SPAM® is the monarch of mystery meat. Today, cans of it roll out of Hormel plants at the rate of 44,000 each hour. That's a lot of pre-cooked chopped mystery meat!

The museum is awesome. The first thing to greet you as you enter its lobby is a soaring wall of SPAM® cans. The second is one of the welcoming SPAMBassadors, who will become your guide. After offering slices of SPAM®, he or she will lead you down SPAMburger Alley to see the enormous SPAM® patty hanging from the ceiling. There, too, is a replica SPAM® plant conveyor belt moving hundreds of cans in a perpetual loop.

The museum boasts several other oddly fascinating exhibits. One explains SPAM®'s key role in feeding World War II troops. Another features Slammin' SPAMmy, Hormel's wartime mascot, a glaring cartoon pig. There are also interactive exhibits; one lets visitors try their hand at a mock SPAM® canning assembly line.

And the SPAM® teriyaki at the museum's restaurant is delicious!



The ® symbol means that the name SPAM is a registered trademark.

Text Marking

Find the main idea and supporting details.



Circle the main idea in each paragraph.



Underline two supporting details for each main idea.

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▶ Answer each question. Give evidence from the review.

- 1 Which of the following features of the SPAM® Museum make it *quirky* (paragraph 1)?
- A. It has its own restaurant.
 - B. It has interactive exhibits.
 - C. Visitors are led by friendly guides.
 - D. A huge meat patty hangs from the ceiling.

What in the text helped you answer? _____

- 2 Who was Slammin' SPAMmy?
- A. a brave World War II soldier
 - B. a cartoon symbol for SPAM®
 - C. a tour guide in the SPAM® Museum
 - D. a baseball player from Austin, Minnesota

What in the text helped you answer? _____

- 3 The author of this review has included both facts and opinions. Revisit the text and list three statements of opinion.

- 4 This piece is an example of a review of a visit to an actual place. What do you think was the author's reason for writing this review?

