

# The Mall of America

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about the Mall of America?
- What would you like to know about it?

### Definitions:

- Skeptic – a person who shows doubt, questions, or does not believe

## Reading



16 The Mall of America welcomes more visitors each year than Walt Disney World, the Grand Canyon  
32 and Graceland combined. The early skeptics who thought the **mega**-mall would be a “mega-disaster,” have  
happily been proved wrong.

36 In 1982, Minnesota’s baseball and football teams, the Twins and the Vikings, moved from the Met  
52 Stadium in Bloomington to the Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis. Losing the two teams, gave the city  
68 of Bloomington 78 acres of prime real estate. The land was located only a mile and a half from the  
88 Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and at the intersection of four major highways.

101 A vision for the Mall of America was born. In 1986 the Ghermezian brothers signed an agreement to  
119 develop the nation’s largest retail and entertainment complex. The Ghermezian’s had just completed  
132 building the world’s largest retail and entertainment center, the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada.

147 On June 14, 1989 ground was broken and three years of construction began. The Mall of America  
164 opened its doors on August 11, 1992. On that date, the 4.2 million square foot complex was 71 percent  
183 leased with 330 brand new stores open for business. It was the first time in history that the department store  
203 giants, Bloomingdale’s, Macy’s, Nordstrom, and Sears were all together under one roof.

215 Despite the fact it is known for its awesome shopping (it now has more than 520 stores), the Mall of  
235 America is more than just a shopping mall. It is a retail and entertainment experience. You can see a movie  
255 at the fourteen screen movie theater. If you like amusement parks, you’ll love Camp Snoopy, the nation’s  
272 largest indoor theme park. You can take a ride on the 74-foot Ferris wheel or experience the rush of the  
292 Flume. The new Timberland Twister will take you on a fast spinning quarter-mile ride through the park.

310 Explore life underwater at Underwater Adventures, a 1.2 million gallon walk-through aquarium.  
323 Traveling 14 feet underwater in the 300 foot-long curved tunnel, you can experience breathtaking views of  
340 sharks, stingrays, and other “giants” of the sea. A great time for ocean enthusiasts of all ages!

357 Has all of that shopping and playing made you hungry? The Mall of America offers much more than  
375 a simple food court. There are 30 fast-food restaurants and 20 sit-down restaurants. You could have lunch at  
393 Little Tokyo and dinner at The Rainforest Café, without leaving the building.

405 Feeling a little tired? A new store will sell you a nap for 70 cents a minute. (Yes, the Mall has it all!)  
428 The store is called MinneNAPoils, and is aimed at those who need a nap after a long flight and don’t want to  
450 book a hotel room. The store’s sound-proof rooms allow for a quiet rest.

463 Do you desire a **unique** wedding? The Mall of America can meet those needs too. In the last ten  
482 years, more than 4,000 couples have been married at the Chapel of Love.

495 The mega-mall continues to attract mega-visitors and generate mega-dollars. Over 42 million people  
511 visit the Mall of America each year. Annual sales in 2001 were nearly 900 million dollars. The Mall of  
530 America is a mega-success.

535

Level 8.0

## Understanding

1. Who built the Mall of America? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was that construction team selected? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the word **unique** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The Mall of America boasts some of the nation’s “largest” and “firsts”. What are they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the word **mega** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In a sentence, how would you describe the Mall of America? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why was the proposed Mall of America site considered prime real estate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How were the skeptics proved wrong? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: Write about a visit you’ve made to the Mall of America.

Option C: What does the Mall of America represent? How is it reflective of culture in the U.S.?

---

---

---

---

---