



Read the food passage. Classify each statement as FACT or OPINION and explain your answer.

Food facts: history, ingredients, production numbers. Food opinions: taste, rankings, what foods are "best" or "most popular."

Sushi: A Taste of Japan

Sushi, a beloved Japanese dish, has a rich history that dates back centuries. Originally, it was a method for preserving fish in fermented rice, first developed in Southeast Asia and later introduced to Japan around the 8th century. The word "sushi" actually refers to the vinegared rice, not the raw fish itself. Early forms of sushi involved fermenting fish with rice for months, then discarding the rice and eating only the fish.



The modern style of sushi, known as nigiri-zushi, became popular in Edo (now Tokyo) during the 19th century. A chef named Hanaya Yohei is often credited with inventing this fast-food version, which could be eaten quickly by hand. Today, Japan produces an estimated 1.2 million tons of seafood for sushi annually, and there are over 50,000 sushi restaurants worldwide. Many chefs believe that the art of making sushi is the most delicate culinary skill to master.

Sushi's popularity exploded globally in the late 20th century. A survey by the International Food Institute in 2023 found that sushi was ranked among the top five most popular international cuisines in North America and Europe. Food critic Anya Sharma once wrote, "Every bite of fresh sushi is a tiny, perfect masterpiece, a symphony of flavors and textures."

While often associated with raw fish, not all sushi contains it. Vegetarian sushi, like cucumber rolls, is also very popular. Some people argue that the best sushi experience



requires eating it fresh from a master chef's hands, but others enjoy making it at home. The global sushi market is projected to reach \$15 billion by 2027, showing its continued growth and appeal.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- (1) "The word 'sushi' actually refers to the vinegared rice, not the raw fish itself." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**? 🍣
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (2) "Many chefs believe that the art of making sushi is the most delicate culinary skill to master." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**? 🍣
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (3) "Japan produces an estimated 1.2 million tons of seafood for sushi annually." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**? 🍣
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (4) "Every bite of fresh sushi is a tiny, perfect masterpiece, a symphony of flavors and textures." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**? 🍣
 (A) Fact (B) Opinion

- (5) Food critic Anya Sharma once wrote, 'Every bite of fresh sushi is a tiny, perfect masterpiece, a symphony of flavors and textures.' Explain in one sentence why this is an opinion, not a fact. 🍣



(6) Write one original **FACT** and one original **OPINION** about sushi, based on the passage.



