

Read

B. Read the text quickly and match the headings a-g with the paragraphs 1-5. There are two extra headings which you do not need to use.

- a. The gathering that became a legend
- b. Hip hop goes global
- c. Popular bands of today*
- d. Hip-hop culture begins to develop
- e. Cool nights in the city
- f. Rapping techniques
- g. The message spreads across the nation

MORE THAN JUST BEATS AND RHYMES

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HIP HOP

Hip hop is commonly known as a type of music. However, where did it begin?

1

If you asked someone who Clive Campbell is, they probably wouldn't know. Yet, without him, there would be no hip hop. The **roots** of hip hop go back to Jamaican **immigrants** in New York City in the 1960s. Young people there grew up listening to the rhythms of funk and soul. This music was great for social events that needed a DJ*, who chose and played popular songs. There was also an MC*, who entertained **guests** between songs by telling jokes and inventing rhymes.

2

Hip hop was born on a Friday night in 1973 at 1520 Sedgwick Ave., an apartment block in the Bronx. Clive, aka* 'Herc', who was the DJ at a gathering there noticed that the guests liked it when there was an instrumental break in a song. So he decided to make the breaks longer by playing the same **section** of drumbeat over and over again. He also played two records at once and mixed the two rhythms together. People loved it! In fact, so many people came that the party had to be moved outside to Cedar Park. Herc had helped invent a new kind of popular music.

3

After his debut, 'Herc' became 'Kool Herc', the most famous DJ of the **era** known as the 'Old School'. The early DJs also came up with techniques that many hip hop artists would use in the future, such as scratching. This involves moving a vinyl record back and forth while it is playing. Meanwhile, MCs were turning their rhymes into spoken word poetry, or rap. DJ Afrika Bambaataa gave the musical movement the name 'hip hop' after the nonsense words used by MCs. During this period other elements of hip hop evolved, like graffiti and breaking. Breakdancers would entertain crowds at these gatherings. The dances could be very competitive, as two **rivals** tried to **outdo** each other on the floor.

4

In the 80s and 90s, hip hop became popular across the USA. Bands such as *Public Enemy* had hits with songs that **protested** against different issues. Many hip-hop artists today still rap about issues such as **poverty** and violence. On the west coast of the USA, hip hop became known in cities like San Francisco. Hit rappers such as *Ice-T* and *Dr. Dre* developed their own style and helped make the music popular across the country.

5

Hip hop has come a long way since the block parties in the Bronx. Today, if you travel to any country in the world, you will find a local hip-hop culture. But one thing hasn't changed: fans still can't get enough of those beats and rhymes!

* DJ: disc jockey

* MC: master of ceremonies

* aka: also known as

C. Read again and write T for True or F for False.

1. When organising gatherings, both a DJ and an MC were needed.
2. Herc began his career as an MC.
3. Herc came up with hip hop when he realised people didn't like the music he was playing.
4. The first hip-hop party spread to a park.
5. Hip hop got its name from the lyrics of a song.
6. At parties, breakdancers competed against each other.
7. Lots of hip-hop songs which had to do with social issues became hits.

D. Look at the highlighted words in the text and try to guess what they mean. Then match them with the meanings 1-9 below.

1. the state of being poor: _____
2. the place or culture where somebody / something comes from, the origin: _____
3. a period of history: _____
4. part of something: _____
5. a person that competes with another: _____
6. do or say something publicly because you disagree: _____
7. do better than somebody else: _____
8. a person who has come to live in a country they are not from: _____
9. a person invited to a house or an event: _____

Listen 

A. Listen to Stephanie talking to her friend Ian and answer the questions.

1. Who is Monica?
2. What are Stephanie and Ian talking about?

B. Listen again and write T for True or F for False.

1. The party was a disaster because nobody turned up on time.
2. The party was arranged to be held at Monica's house.
3. Monica refused to answer Stephanie's calls after the party.
4. Ian had a similar experience to Monica's.
5. Ian suggests that Stephanie calls Monica the next day.
6. Stephanie thinks that Ian should call Monica.
7. Monica calls Stephanie in the end.

