

# Reading



1 **READ** Read the text and match the headings to the paragraphs. There is one extra heading.

1

In the middle of the 19th century more and more people in England were moving out of the countryside to find work in the cities. These people felt they needed a green space in the city to relax and make them think of beautiful towns and villages away from the big city. The first **urban** park that was created was Phillips Park in Manchester. Another park that was created was Hyde Park in central London. It has since become the best known park in England.

2

Hyde Park offers a number of interesting things to see. Firstly, it has two **spectacular** arches, Marble Arch and Wellington Arch, both constructed in the 1820s. It also has a number of monuments including a statue of the **fictional** character Peter Pan and a fountain remembering Diana, Princess of Wales.

3

Perhaps the most famous feature of Hyde Park is Speakers' Corner. This is a **unique** area where citizens are allowed to speak to the public. Many fascinating public speakers can be seen talking to crowds about their political and philosophical ideas.

4

The Park is also well known for its music. Some of the most popular rock bands in the world have held concerts in Hyde Park. In 2005 it held a Live 8 concert that was part of a massive charity campaign. Other things that take place in the park include a swimming race on the Serpentine named the Peter Pan Cup. It is held on Christmas morning every year for people who are brave enough to swim in the freezing cold water.

5

Hyde Park is a place for people to relax and hang out. Some **wander** around the park with their dogs and others jog on the paths. There are also sports areas where people can play informal games of football or cricket. A short distance away from Hyde Park there are many things to enjoy, such as an IMAX cinema as well as interesting museums and important landmarks, like Kensington Palace. The area offers something for everyone!

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A Park events              | D A place to spend your time       |
| B The history of Hyde Park | E A place to exchange views        |
| C Park attractions         | F The beginnings of the urban park |

2 Choose the correct answer.

- Urban parks were created because people wanted ...
  - more green areas in the city.
  - somewhere to go to after work.
  - a place where they could meet their friends.
  - a place that reminded them of the countryside.
- Hyde Park ...
  - is located in central Manchester.
  - is located just outside London.
  - is known all around the world.
  - is the most famous park in England.
- Speakers' Corner is an area where ...
  - people read about politics and philosophy.

- people talk to each other about their opinions.
  - tourists get information about local attractions.
  - citizens ask politicians questions.
- In Hyde Park you can ...
    - watch professional sports games.
    - see swimming races all year round.
    - go to live music performances.
    - visit the Science Museum.

3 Match the words in bold to their meanings.

- walk slowly: .....
- one of a kind: .....
- of the city: .....
- amazing: .....
- not real: .....