

Reading

- 1 ★★ The people (1-4) are all looking for an environmental festival to attend this summer. Read their descriptions, then read the adverts for the festivals (A-F). Which is the most suitable festival for each person?



1

Judith is keen on starting a new hobby – so she'd like to attend a festival where she can get an introduction to one and pick up any necessary equipment to take home. She won't be able to attend events on weekdays, though.



3

Stan's interested in spending a couple of days at a festival where he can do creative activities as part of a group. He'd also like to get involved in a contest – but would prefer not to spend much money.



2

Nathan wants to attend a festival with his young children where they can learn about an environmental issue in a fun way. He'd also like the chance to get them involved in a long-term environmental scheme.



4

Laura wants to attend an event with her teenage children where they can actively help the environment as well as enjoy some live entertainment. She doesn't have much free time, though, so a long event is out of the question.

Festivals

A Earth's Garden

D The Rubbish Festival

B The Enviro-Art Festival

E The Green Power Festival

C Organorama

F The Endangered Animals Festival

Green Festivals

A

Earth's Garden is a huge celebration of organic farming which takes place over the first weekend in June. There are workshops for both professionals and beginners where experts share tips on how to grow organic crops in small gardens. You'll also find stalls selling seeds and gardening tools. If you've got green fingers, you'll love this festival!

B

The Enviro-Art Festival is a 3-day event which combines environmentalism with art! You can join workshops and learn how to create beautiful works of art from recyclable materials. There are also art competitions with separate categories for adults, teens and kids. Entry is free – just make sure to bring along clean tins and plastic bottles to work with!

C

Organorama is the world's leading organic food festival. It takes place over the first week in July and gives visitors the chance to sample delicious organic dishes from around the world. There are also scientific talks on the benefits of eating organic produce, as well as an organic cooking competition. Entry is £10 per person.

D

The Rubbish Festival is a free family-friendly event which highlights the problem of overflowing rubbish tips. It takes place on the first Saturday in May close to Landsbury Beach. During the festival, you can join a clean-up team on the beach, enjoy music by local bands, and listen to talks by leading environmentalists.

E

The Green Power Festival is a week-long event which celebrates renewable energy. The festival is powered entirely by portable solar panels, and throughout the week there are presentations about the pros of green energy. There's also live music, fun activities for kids and food stalls.

F

The Endangered Animals Festival is a 5-day event which focuses on endangered species and how we can help them. The festival has dozens of educational booths for both young and old, and there is a parade of life-sized endangered animal puppets! You can also meet representatives from nature reserves and sign up to adopt an endangered animal! Admission is £5 per person for the entire week.

2 Read the text and decide if each sentence is *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 At one stage, Natalia was one of the top 50 players in the world.
- 2 Her first goal in table tennis was to become better than her sister.
- 3 She won her first world title when she was 10 years old.
- 4 She became the youngest ever Paralympic medalist in 2000.
- 5 She has won the Paralympic gold medal four times in a row.
- 6 Nobody else has appeared in both the Paralympics and the Olympics.
- 7 In the London Olympics, she finished in last place.
- 8 She never uses her disability as an excuse when she plays.
- 9 When serving, she throws the ball up using her bat hand.
- 10 She gets upset when people don't talk about her achievements.

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NATALIA PARTYKA

An Inspirational Athlete



Natalia Partyka is a Polish table tennis player who was born in 1989. So far in her career, she has competed in three Olympics games and reached a world ranking of 48. But what makes Natalia's achievements so incredible is that she was born without a right hand.

Natalia started playing table tennis aged seven, when she followed her older sister to a sports hall in Gdansk. At first, Natalia's motivation was to beat her sister - and that didn't take very long! In fact, just three years after she started playing, aged just 10, she won the World Championship for disabled players! Then, a year later, she competed in her first Paralympics in Sydney in 2000 - becoming the youngest ever Paralympic athlete. She didn't win a medal on that occasion, but at the next

Paralympics in Athens in 2004, she won the gold medal in the Class 10 category (for disabled athletes who don't use a wheelchair). Since then, she has won gold in every Paralympics - in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

But that's not all. Natalia is one of very few athletes who have competed in both the Paralympic Games and the Olympic Games. She has done this three times - in 2008, 2012 and 2016 - and the London Olympics in 2012 was the highlight of her career so far. There, competing against the best able-bodied players in the world, she reached the last 32 of the women's singles competition.

Natalia never expects special treatment because of her disability - and always claims that she doesn't have any

disadvantages against able-bodied players. She does have to do some things differently, though. To start a point in table tennis, players must serve by throwing the ball up from the palm of their free hand. Instead, Natalia has to balance the ball at the end of her elbow and throw it up before hitting it with her bat.

All in all, Natalia is a modest person who doesn't look for attention - but she realises how important her success is to athletes with disabilities. "If I'm an inspiration, I can't complain", she said.