

Read the text quickly and say what the pictures show.

The Chinese State Circus



Have you ever been to the Chinese State Circus? It's like no other circus! It's an exciting and colorful display of acrobatics, music and dance by men and women from China. You can see excellent martial arts such as Kung Fu. You can see people juggling, people dancing in lion costumes and even Chinese ballet and opera. It's a traditional show, but the technology of the lights and the special effects is amazing.

Acrobatics has been an important part of Chinese history for a very long time. We know this because there are paintings of acrobats on old pots and plates. Some of these pots are more than two thousand years old. The Chinese State Circus began in the 1990s. This was when a director called Philip Gandey saw a group of Chinese acrobats performing. He loved what they were doing and decided to create the circus. The circus has performed in theatres in more than a hundred different countries since then.



The Shaolin Warriors are a famous part of the show. They perform at different times, before and after the acrobats. They are very strong and can break wood and bricks with their hands and feet. This is a kind of martial art. In most circuses, clowns come on between the acts. In the Chinese State Circus, the Monkey King appears. The Monkey King is a character from a Chinese story. In the story, he has magic powers and can control the wind and water. During the circus he makes everybody laugh. He sometimes asks people watching to come onto the stage.

The Chinese State Circus is a brilliant night out. There is something for everyone in the show: children, parents and grandparents. Everyone loves it and comes out smiling.

Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. The circus performers are all:
 - a. Chinese
 - b. men
 - c. acrobats
2. The performers sometimes:
 - a. do dances from other countries
 - b. wear modern clothes
 - c. dress up as animals
3. What is true about acrobatics in China?
 - a. People have been doing it for many years
 - b. The acrobats use pots and plates
 - c. The acrobats sometimes do paintings
4. The Chinese State Circus started:
 - a. two thousand years ago
 - b. about thirty years ago
 - c. one hundred years ago
5. The Shaolin Warriors:
 - a. are a type of acrobat
 - b. do martial arts
 - c. usually appear once