

1 READING

a Read the article once and answer the questions.

- 1 Which event attracted the largest audience?
- 2 In which event did the organizers lose a large amount of money?



THE BIGGEST MUSIC EVENTS IN HISTORY

Music festivals are huge these days – both in size and in popularity. However, the events attracting the largest crowds occurred when many of us had not even been born. Read on to find out more about four of the biggest concerts of all time.

A WOODSTOCK, 1969

The Woodstock Music & Art Fair changed the history of rock and roll for ever. It was the first time such a large crowd of music fans had gathered in one place. Around 400,000 people, many of them hippies, arrived on 15 August at a dairy farm in Bethel, New York to enjoy 'three days of peace and music'. The first to arrive had purchased tickets, but the temporary fences were cut the day before the festival started, allowing thousands more to enter without paying. Legendary artists like Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Santana, and The Who were just a few of the 32 acts that appeared on stage that weekend. Others were prevented from performing, including John Lennon, who was refused an entry visa to the US, and Bob Dylan, who was in hospital with one of his children.

B ISLE OF WIGHT, 1970

Although Glastonbury is generally recognized as the biggest music festival in the UK (the Glastonbury Festival in 2013 attracted 135,000 visitors), this event was even bigger. The Isle of Wight Festival started in 1968, and it takes place annually on an island off the south coast of England. Around 10,000 people attended the first festival, which was quite modest compared to the crowd of 600,000 that turned up two years later. Some of them had tickets, but many people watched the event free from the large hill overlooking the site. The main attraction was the impressive line-up: Jimi Hendrix and The Who again, accompanied this time by Joni Mitchell, The Doors, Chicago, and Miles Davis, among others. Unfortunately, the unexpectedly high attendance led to the Isle of Wight Act of 1971, which banned gatherings of more than 5,000 people on the island. However, in 2002 the festival was revived and it has been expanding ever since.

b Read the article again. Answer the questions with A, B, C, or D.

Which festival...

- 1 was not allowed to be held for a number of years? —
- 2 had the greatest influence on the future of rock music? —
- 3 was used by some bands and singers to make a lot of money? —
- 4 was sponsored by a singer? —
- 5 included singers in the programme who did not play? —
- 6 did not charge an entrance fee? —
- 7 had sixty times more visitors in its third year? —
- 8 was the last one its organizer was involved with? —

C US FESTIVAL, 1983

This event was the second of two festivals organized by Steve Wozniak, one of the co-founders of Apple Computers. The 1983 festival was held in Devore, California from 28 May to 30 May and it featured exhibitions of cutting-edge technology, as well as music. All of the big names were there including U2, The Clash, The Ramones, and David Bowie. Despite attracting around 670,000 people, who each paid \$37.50 for a three-day pass, Wozniak is estimated to have lost nearly \$20 million from the festivals. This is mainly due to the massive fees charged by some of the main acts: David Bowie earned \$1 million for his appearance, and Van Halen received \$1.5 million. In contrast, The Clash refused to play unless the organizers and some of the other bands donated some money to charity.

D NEW YEAR'S CONCERT RIO, 1994

Instead of opting for a traditional venue like a football stadium, of which there are many in Brazil, the Scottish artist Rod Stewart decided to stage this concert on Copacabana Beach. The event was held on 31 December and it was attended by an estimated three and a half million people. The reason why so many people went along was that the concert was completely free. The singer saw it as a gift to the poor people of Rio de Janeiro and as a way of giving something back to his multitude of fans. The best moment of the concert was when the crowd joined in with the superstar to count down the remaining seconds to the start of the New Year. Rod Stewart's 1994 New Year's concert in Rio appears today in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest free concert in history.

2 VOCABULARY live entertainment



a Circle the correct answer.

- 1 Everybody clapped as the basketball players entered the arena / stage.
- 2 The audience / crowd were so moved when the play finished, there was a minute of complete silence.
- 3 The players left the pitch during the interval / half time.
- 4 The spectators / fans went wild when the band came on.
- 5 We were given a plot / programme as we entered the theatre.
- 6 The first performance / scene of the play is set in an old castle.
- 7 The only seats left were upstairs in the stalls / circle.

b Read the definitions and write the words.

- 1 a building where you go and see a play
theatre
- 2 a person who plays against somebody
o
- 3 the place where the tickets for a play are sold
b o
- 4 the number of points that somebody gets in a game
sc
- 5 the piece of cloth that covers the front of the stage
c
- 6 the sound a referee makes that indicates the end of a football match
f wh
- 7 an afternoon performance of a play
m
- 8 an additional playing period at the end of a match
e t
- 9 the pieces of paper that allow you to attend a play or sporting event