

Children's Refuge in London

TASK

In the following article about a London museum there are several words missing. Try to fill in the gaps with the right word.

One of London's newer museums is the **Foundling**² Hospital, which opened in 2003. The hospital was founded in 1) 18th century by a group of artists, musicians and aristocrats to look 2) babies who would otherwise be left to die³.

At the time, London didn't have anywhere to take care of **abandoned**⁴ children. Many hospitals refused to **take in**⁵ children unless their parents could show that they were **legitimate**⁶. As a result, thousands 3) children were left to die on the streets of London each year.

Thomas Coram, a sea captain and **wealthy trader**⁷, campaigned to have a hospital set up to care for them. People at the time thought that setting up an **orphanage**⁸ for unwanted babies would encourage unmarried people to have children. He finally succeeded after 17 years, establishing the Foundling Hospital, which is said to be the world's first organized charity.

A **site**⁹ was bought on Lamb's Conduit Fields in Bloomsbury and the first children arrived 4) 1741, living in a **temporary**¹⁰ house before the hospital was completed. Children were often left with an object, such 5) a **necklace**¹¹ or **pin**¹², with which to identify them if their mothers ever wanted to come and find them. Once they had arrived, the children were given names and taken to **foster**¹³ mothers in the country, where they were looked after for the first few years of their lives. 6) the age of four or five, they returned to the Foundling



Front view of the Foundling Hospital (cca 1705)

Hospital where they lived until the age of sixteen, when they were sent out to work.

The system of caring for children changed in the 1930s, when kids were moved to healthier places 7) the countryside. Some parts of the original site became a children's playground, known as Coram's Fields, and the building next to it became a museum; its **exact**¹⁴ address is 40 Brunswick Square. (To give you an idea of its location, it is not far from British Museum & Library.)

The museum displays many of the objects left with the children and tells some of their stories. 8) of the hospital's best known **benefactors**¹⁵ was the **composer**¹⁶ G. Handel, whose performances of Messiah helped the hospital financially. Also, many painters in England gave their works to the Foundling Hospital to make the inside of the building less depressing. The museum now **doubles**¹⁷ as an art gallery and a popular, **if sobering**¹⁸, London attraction.

Alex Jordan (UK)



The famous English painter William Hogarth (1697–1764), who was childless himself, helped the hospital by donating several of his paintings.

Solution

1) the, 2) after, 3) of, 4) in, 5) as, 6) at, 7) in, 8) one

VOCABULARY

- 1 **refuge** [ˈrefjuːdʒ] – útočiště
 2 **foundling** [ˈfaʊndlɪŋ] – nalezenec
 3 **who would otherwise be left to die** [ˈlʌðəwaɪz] – které by jinak zemřely
 4 **abandoned** [əˈbænd(ə)nd] – opuštěný
 5 **to take in** – poskytnout přístřeší
 6 **legitimate** [lɪˈdʒɪtɪmət] – manželské

- dítě (narozené sezdanému páru manželů)
 7 **wealthy trader** [ˈwelθi] – bohatý obchodník
 8 **orphanage** – sirotčinec
 9 **site** [saɪt] – místo, plocha
 10 **temporary** [ˈtemp(ə)rəri] – dočasný, prozatímní
 11 **necklace** [ˈneɪklɪs] – náhrdelník
 12 **pin** – špendlík, brož

- 13 **foster** [ˈfɒstə] – pěstounský, náhradní
 14 **exact** [ɪɡˈzækt, æg-] – přesný
 15 **benefactor** [ˈbenɪfæktə] – dobrodinec, donátor
 16 **composer** [kəmˈpəʊzə] – skladatel
 17 **doubles (as)** [ˈdʌb(ə)l] – slouží také (jako)
 18 **if sobering** [ˈsəʊəɪŋ] – byť nutící k zamyšlení

LANGUAGE POINT •

The word **hospital** was used more generally until the 19th century. It usually meant a place where people were looked after, referring to "hospitality" (= pohostinnost) to those who needed it.