Who went to listen at Peterloo?

- The crowd at Peterloo was made up of families
- They carried banners and were dressed in their best clothes
- Henry Hunt’s speech called for working people to be given the vote
- Almost 60,000 people attended, many walked from as far away as Liverpool, Preston and Bolton

The Meeting

- The main speakers, including Henry Hunt arrived at 1:20pm
- Magistrates were concerned at the size of the growing crowd
- By 1:30pm the Magistrates decided the town was in great danger and ordered the Hunt and the other leaders should be arrested

The Army goes in…

- On orders from the Magistrates, the army entered St. Peter’s Field by a path cleared by Special Constables
- Members of the crowd linked arms to stop Hunt being arrested
- The soldiers started to use their sabres to cut through the crowd
- By 2pm most of the crowd had fled
- 15 people were dead, 600 more had been wounded, some had had their hands or arms cut off in the process or their heads chopped at by swords

What happened after Peterloo?

- The Home Secretary wrote a letter to the Manchester Magistrates, to congratulate them for the action they had taken
- Parliament did nothing to give the vote to the ordinary people
- Instead they passed 6 acts to try to ensure that reforms meetings like Peterloo couldn’t happen again