

**THEME: The Circus is in Town!**



Roll up, roll up! The circus is coming to town.

The circus has a rich history: Paintings of twirling acrobats adorned the walls of Egyptian tombs dating to 1250 B.C., the excitement of the 'entertainment' of the Circus Maximus in Ancient Rome, and the feats of ropewalkers in medieval Europe were believed to be acts of sorcery and banned by the Church.

The circus, as it is known today, can be traced to 1768, when trick rider Philip Astley discovered that when his horse galloped in a circle, the centrifugal and centripetal forces allowed him to balance on its back. He built a ring, hired a clown, and the modern circus was born!

**Parent/Carer Note:** Please ensure you child is appropriately supervised using the internet on this topic as some images may not be suitable for young children. Some children may suffer from coulrophobia (fear of clowns) so please check an activity or internet search results are suitable for your child.

**Whole Family**



Clowns make us laugh, smile, giggle – all happy things. Find out more about them here:

**10 Fun Facts about clowns** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clb7tnP755Q>



**UKS1/KS2**

Have a go at finding out about circus vocabulary in French/German/Spanish - or even all three! There are sheets for each language. Don't forget that by typing the foreign word into Google: <https://translate.google.co.uk/> you can click on the loudspeaker icon to find out how to pronounce it.

**Whole Family**

Why not have some fun looking for circus words using either the Circus Wordsearch (KS1) or Circus Crossword (KS2) documents? Did you know you can create your own wordsearches – have a look here to find out how <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp> – see what you can make for yourself – it could be another circus one – harder or easier depending on how big you make it – or you could make one based on your favourite hobby.

**EYFS and KS1**

There's science in EVERYTHING we do in life – just living is science! Have a look at the idea below for some cool circus -related science.

Lots of circus acts are based around balance (this is physics folks!!) See if you can create a clown that will balance on your fingertips! Have a look at the document at the bottom of the page (called 'balancing clown') to find the activity and a template.

**KS2**

There's science in EVERYTHING we do in life – just living is science! Have a look at the idea below for some cool circus -related science.

Balloons are a part of every circus act and sometimes magic is too – try your own bit of balloon magic here: <https://happybrownhouse.com/magic-light-bulb-balloon-science-experiment/>

**Whole Family:**

The history of the Circus is fascinating. The Romans used to have ‘entertainment’ in the circus Maximus in Ancient Rome. If you are interested in this further, use the following website to add to your knowledge of The Romans.

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Circus\\_Maximus](https://kids.kiddle.co/Circus_Maximus)

To learn about the history of the Circus, have a look at the following website:

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Circus#History>

The travelling circus in the USA was also very impressive. If you would like to find out more, this video gives you some insight into what life on ‘the circus train’ is really like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDeqYCRE9S0&feature=youtu.be>

You might want to plan your own travelling circus from the past or present day. What acts would you have? What would your Big Top look like? How would you travel around? How much would you charge? What food would you provide? Have a look at the Purple Mash activity of creating your own poster!

**Upper KS2:** The Greatest Showman is a great movie but how much of it was based on fact and how much was made up for Hollywood? If you are interested in seeing which characters and events really lived and happened in the past, use the following links as a starting point to give you more information. Perhaps you can find out more about your favourite character or scene from the movie and research ‘the truth behind them.’

<https://www.historyvshollywood.com/reelfaces/greatest-showman/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_4fljgEp\\_c&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_4fljgEp_c&feature=youtu.be)

<https://youtu.be/7xrkFsEG6wk>

**Whole Family**

It is believed that in 1825 Joshua Purdy Brown became the first person to use a large canvas tent instead of a permanent building for a circus show. As travelling circuses got bigger the tent sizes grew to make space for more rings for different acts. The tent that housed numerous rings and stages became known as ‘The Big Top.’



This week we are challenging you and your family to try and make your own Big Top. This does not need to be a large creation; it could be a small model. Use whatever materials you can find at home to help you create the Big Top. Maybe you could use lollipop sticks, straws, sticks from the garden or even pencils!

**Whole Family**

Why not try circus skills with everyday objects you might have at home including...

*Drrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrum-roll*

- Plastic Bag Balancing
- Toothbrush Spinning
- Cushion Padiddling
- Beanbag Juggling
- Sock Poi Twirling



Video tutorials and helpful hints can be found at <https://twistedorbitcircus.com/2018/02/23/five-fun-free-circus-skills-kids-try-home/>.

Please ensure all activities are supervised by an adult and that you have enough space around you to attempt these skills safely without breaking anything or harming yourself or others.

Learning a new skill takes a can-do attitude, resilience and lots of practice. Good luck.

### YR/KS1 – Purple Mash

Try these circus themed Purple Mash activities on your tablet or computer.

**Trapeze Artist or Clown 2Dos** – Get creative with your digital art to draw who is swinging on the trapezes or finish the clowns face.

**Circus Ringmaster 2Do** – Use the MashCam to put yourself in role as a Circus Ringmaster. Write a sentence to show your thoughts and character in the speech bubble remembering finger spaces (space bar), capital letters (shift key) and full stops.

Use the sound buttons   to record your voice reading your own writing!

### KS2 – Purple Mash

**Circus Poster** - There's a circus coming to a town near you! Create a poster. Use the word box to help you include all the information your poster needs.

This work will be added to a Purple Mash Circus Display Board so you can share your work with your friends. Let your teacher know in the comments box when you hand your work in if you don't want it to be shared.

### Whole Family.

People go to the circus to be entertained and laugh. Laughing is essential for your wellbeing and happiness. Watch the clown performing a mime

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3T9Pdve4Uk>

Have a go at miming something to your family and see if they can guess what you are doing? This process usually makes someone laugh! What can you do this week which will make you smile or laugh? It might be a 'family talent show' with acts which will make you giggle, tell some jokes, write some jokes, watch a funny movie or just remember and share with your family what made you laugh at the end of each day.



### Family Challenge Blog

If you would like to share any of your work or photos, we would love to see them on the Family Challenge Blog in Purple Mash. This is a private Wicklewood Primary School community blog. You must get parent/carer approval before posting or commenting.

To access the blog, login to Purple Mash and select the sharing tab at the top of the screen. Then select the shared blogs tab and the Family Challenge Blog.

To add a new post, use the green + button or to add kind and positive comments on existing posts use the post comment button. All posts and comments need teacher approval before they are added so please be patient!



