

BEHOLD THE BIG TOP
JEAN LEROY'S
CIRCUS PARADE

FEB. 4 - MAY 10
2020

Circus Math
Grades 1 to 3



Jean has \$5.00 to spend at the circus. He would like to buy popcorn (\$3 each) and cotton candy (\$2 each). Does he have enough money to buy both of those items? If he does have enough money, how much change will he receive?

Lisa's dad gave her \$20 to buy popcorn for her family. If each bucket is \$5, how many buckets of popcorn can she buy?

Sarah has a coupon for a \$1.00 discount on popcorn. How much will she pay if the popcorn is normally \$3.00?

There are 8 elephants and 3 lions in the circus act. How many total animals are in the act?

Each dog in the circus act needs 2 balls—one to stand on and one to balance on its nose. There are 3 dogs in the act. How many total balls are needed for the seals' circus act?

The circus performance starts at 4:00 p.m. and lasts for 2 hours. What time will the performance end?

Each clown has 2 suitcases to load on the train. If there are 3 clowns, how many suitcases will they have total?

There are six clowns in the circus. Three of the clowns begin to train as acrobats. How many clowns are there now?

Each circus wagon has 4 wheels. If a wagon breaks a wheel, how many wheels will remain working?

Name three things at the circus that are round (circles).



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Circus Math
Grades 4 to 7



Jean has \$6.00 to spend at the circus. He would like to buy popcorn (\$3.50 each) and cotton candy (\$1.75 each). Does he have enough money to buy both of those items? If he does have enough money, how much change will he receive?

Lisa's dad gave her \$20 to buy popcorn for the whole family. If each bucket is \$3.50, how many buckets of popcorn can she buy? How much money will she have left over?

Sarah has a coupon for a 25% discount off the price of popcorn. How much will she pay if the popcorn is normally \$3.50?

There are 8 elephants, 5 camels, and 3 lions in the circus. How many elephant legs are there? How many lion legs are there? How many total legs are there for all the animals combined?

Each dog in the circus act needs 2 balls—one to stand on and one to balance on its nose. There are 12 dogs in the act. How many total balls are needed for the seals' circus act?

Each acrobat in the circus makes \$300 each week. How much money would an acrobat earn in one month? How much money would a family of 4 acrobats make in a month?

Each clown has 2 suitcases to load on the train. If there are 11 clowns, how many suitcases will they have total?

There are eight clowns in the circus. The ringmaster hires four new clowns. Three of the old clowns begin to train as acrobats. How many clowns are there now?

Each circus wagon has 4 wheels and there are 9 wagons in the parade. How many wheels are there total?



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Circus Writing
Prompts

Write a story using one of the following prompts:

“If I worked in the circus I would be a . . .”

“This place is circus. Look at all these clowns.”

“The circus of the future will have . . .”

Write a description of a memory of visiting a circus using all five senses.

A circus animal shows up at your school. Write a story to describe what happened.

Write an acrostic poem using the word “CIRCUS” or the word “CLOWN.”

Write a haiku about a circus consisting of 17 syllables in three phrases of 5, 7, and 5.

Would you rather join the circus or live in the zoo? Explain your choice.

If you ran the circus, what music would you include? Make a playlist of the songs you would use.

Write a blog post about whether you believe animals should be part of a circus.

Compose a diary entry from the perspective of a circus performer.

Design and draw a comic book about a circus.

Write a story or poem including these words: parade, clown, train, and tent.

Draft a catalog style description of a circus costume.

Create a menu of all the foods you would eat at the circus.

Write from the perspective of an inanimate object associated with the circus like a wagon, tent, or suitcase.

Make a list of all the things you would pack in your suitcase if you were traveling with a circus.

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**Circus Word
Search**

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CIRCUS WORD SEARCH

U V X G E S V L H N I K N M P
J T V N A Z R A T B G B R M A
U N A I O C E E H M V T Y N F
G A U L N C R P M V F S T U Z
G H L G J A L O A R H B R B B
L P T N S H C N B R O J W X U
E E I I X D W Y E A T F Q U A
R L N R U O W E Z J T M R A D
S E G V L T L O K K O Z E E J
H T D C R C A R N I V A L S P
A V U O Y I N P H D N Y L W V
A H U C C R I N G M A S T E R
G P I G C F L K V M U N R A B
E N M R Q Q A L E S U O R A C
U M F C T I C K E T W K J Q A

CLOWN
ACROBAT
TRAPEZE
TROUPE
RINGMASTER
ELEPHANT
UNICYCLE
CARNIVAL
CAROUSEL
BARNUM
RINGLING
PERFORMERS
JUGGLERS
TICKET
VAULTING

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**Circus-Related
Reading List**

ABC is for Circus, Patrick Hruby

Ballet of the Elephants, Leda Schubert

Be A Clown: Techniques from a Real Clown, Ron Burgess

Cats that Roar, Kimberly Weinberger

Circus, Roxie Munro

Circus, Jack Prelutsky

The Circus, Lindsey Michael Miller

The Circus Alphabet, Linda Bronson

Circus! Circus!, Lee Bennett Hopkins

Circus Family Dog, Andrew Clements

Circus Fun, Margaret Hillert

Circus in a Suitcase, Reg Bolton

The Circus is Coming, Hilary Knight

Circus Mirandus, Cassie Beasley

Circus Smirkus, Rob Mermin

Clifford at the Circus, Norman Bridwell

The Day the Circus Came to Town, Melody Carlson & Ned Butterfield

Emeline at the Circus, Marjorie Priceman

Gaston Joins the Circus, James Rice

The Girl Who Walked on Air, Emma Carroll

The Greatest Show on Earth, John Prater

If I Ran The Circus, Dr. Seuss

Jumbo, Rhoda Blumberg

Last Night I Dreamed a Circus, Maya Gottfried

Mirette on the Highwire, Emily Arnold McCully

Miss Bindergarten Plans a Circus with Kindergarten, Joseph Slate

Morris and Boris at the Circus, Bernard Wiseman

My Mother's Secret Life, Rebecca Emberley

Oliver, Syd Hoff

Olivia Saves the Circus, Ian Falconer

Peter Spier's Circus, Peter Spiers

Pippi Goes to the Circus, Astrid Lindgren

The Saggy Baggy Elephant, K. & B. Jackson

Starring Mirette and Bellini, Emily Arnold McCully

The World's Greatest Elephant, Ralph Hefner

This is My Trunk, Stephen Michael Harris

To the Big Top, Jill Esbaum

Twenty-One Elephants, Phil Bildner

Up Goes the Big Top, Bernard Barbutt

A Very Young Circus Flyer, Jill Krementz

Who Put the B in Ballyhoo?, Carlyn Beccia

Who was P.T. Barnum?, Kristen Anderson

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**Additional
Circus-Related
Activities**

Science

Discover what riggers and circus performers need to know about physics to keep the equipment and the acts safe.

Place a line of masking tape on the floor and pretend it is a tight wire. What kinds of movements or routines are possible? Experiment with center of balance and center of gravity.

Consider the physics of circus acts. Do the performers move because of a push or a pull? What types of motion are used the trapeze or tight-rope acts?

Study generators as a source of energy for the traveling circus.

Study the science of lighting and color in performances.

Study electricity, circuits, and wiring by diagramming a circus site for a show.

Study the rate of speed at which objects fall (juggling balls, clubs, people). What are the fundamental skills and objectives involved in juggling objects?

Physical Education

Practice tumbling.

Strengthen hand-eye coordination through juggling.

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of stretching prior to performance.

Encourage students to create acrobatic or dance routines set to music.

Art

Recreate a circus wagon or circus tent in miniature.

Design and produce tickets for the upcoming circus show.

Explore circus poster art and lithographs. Create posters for a circus show.

Make a puppet circus using stick, hand, or finger puppets. Create figures and acts for a circus show.