



Magic, Mysteries and Miracles - Year Three Term 3



Prior knowledge/key knowledge	
Prior knowledge from Years 1 and 2	Study significant individuals to compare aspects of life in different periods. Understand some of the ways we learn about the past and ways in which it is represented.
Roman Circus – 600 AD	The great Roman amphitheatres —called circuses after the Latin word for “circle”—were most often devoted to gladiatorial combats, chariot races, The most spectacular of these arenas, the Circus Maximus , was in operation for more than 1,000 years.
Phillip Astley	Founder of the modern day circus – Phillip Astley invented a horse show with stunts originally, developing a tented arena to house his show. This developed into a stage show which toured with other jugglers, acrobats
Circus Locations	Studying where circuses have originated from. Where are they located now – mapping China, Canada, and America. How did the modern day circus develop? And how did transport develop alongside the circus – for example, the use of horses in the context of the Wider World, as well as alternative travel used to bring the circus to different geographic locations.
Animals in Circuses	Investigating and debating – what's your personal opinion about Animals appearing in circuses?
Phillip Astley	The origin of the modern circus has been attributed to Philip Astley, who was born 1742 in Newcastle-under-Lyme, England. ... In 1770 Astley hired acrobats, tightrope walkers, jugglers and a clown to fill in the pauses between acts
Pablo Fanque	English equestrian performer and circus proprietor, the first recorded non-white British circus owner in Britain. His circus was popular in Victorian Britain for 30 years, a period that is regarded as the golden age of the circus.
Phineas Taylor Barnum	was an American showman, politician, and businessman remembered for promoting celebrated hoaxes and for founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Timeline 2000 BC to Present day

2500 BC	Ancient people perform acts associated with modern circus
600 AD	Roman travelling shows
1768 AD	1768 when Philip Astley , a former sergeant major turned trick rider, found that if he galloped in a circle while standing on his horse's back, centrifugal and centripetal forces helped him to keep his balance.
1793	Circus comes to America
1881	PT Barnum (Greatest Showman) and James Bailey form a circus together
1884	The Ringling Brothers- 5 of them – all had a role in their circus show - form a circus to rival Barnum
1919	The Barnums, Baileys and Ringlings combine to form the Greatest Circus in the World!
1984	Cirque Du Soleil formed in Canada

Vocabulary

Circus	A show or spectacle involving performers
Performer	A person who entertains an audience
Acrobatics	Acrobatic stunts – performing agile stunts and using motor co-ordination
Juggling	Physical skill, performed by a juggler, involving the manipulation of objects for recreation, entertainment, art or sport.
Ringmaster	A ringmaster or ring mistress, or sometimes a ringleader, is a significant performer in the many circuses. Most often seen in traditional circuses, the ringmaster is a master of ceremonies that introduces the circus acts to the audience

Big Questions/Challenging Perceptions:



Should animals be used in the circus?

The circus has changed a lot over time. Do you think the changes have been positive, negative or both?