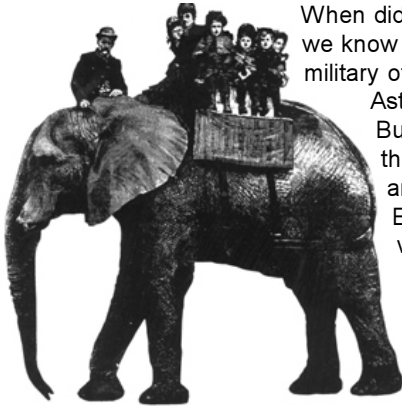


# KIDS' PAGE

DISCOVER NEW AND EXCITING STUFF FROM THE ROYAL BC MUSEUM

## CIRCUS



When did circuses begin? No one is really sure. We do know that the modern circus - the circus as we know it today - originated in London, England, in 1770. Philip Astley, a horse rider and one-time military officer, developed a show in which acrobats and riders on horseback did tricks in a ring. Astley's show became so successful that he later added tightrope walkers and dancing dogs. But many entertainment events that took place centuries before Astley's circus, contained acts that you might see in modern-day circuses. For example, about 4,000 years ago, clowns amused the court of the Chinese emperor. Two thousand years ago, citizens of the Roman Empire watched jugglers, clowns, trick horse-riders, chariot races and gladiator matches with wild animals at the Circus Maximus. During the Middle Ages, some men worked as jesters and others as tumblers in royal courts, at fairs and in marketplaces. In the 1500s, Italian troupes of jesters and jugglers toured England and Russia. Music, dancing, clownery, juggling, acrobatics, fine horsemanship, performing animals, tricks and daring feats, - all these traditional forms of entertainment have been bought together at the circus.

### CIRCUS JARGON

Over hundreds of years, circus performers and workers have made up or altered words and expressions for convenience and daily use. These words reflect the rich history of the circus, and the contributions of many cultures and languages. Circus jargon is used by everyone involved in the circus, from kinkers (acrobats and other performers) to roustabouts (labourers and workmen). Some words and expressions have even become part of our common language. Try to match up these circus terms with their definitions.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Alfalfa     | a) Toilet  |
| 2. Butcher     | b) Circus musicians  |
| 3. Doniker     | c) Man   |
| 4. Homy        | d) Wardrobe trunk  |
| 5. Funambulist | e) Paper Money   |
| 6. Kiester     | f) Stories about tall tales about the circus                             |
| 7. Windjammers | g) Tightrope walker  |
| 8. Jackpots    | h) Concessionaire who carries and sells his or her wares in the audience |



### CLOWN EGGS

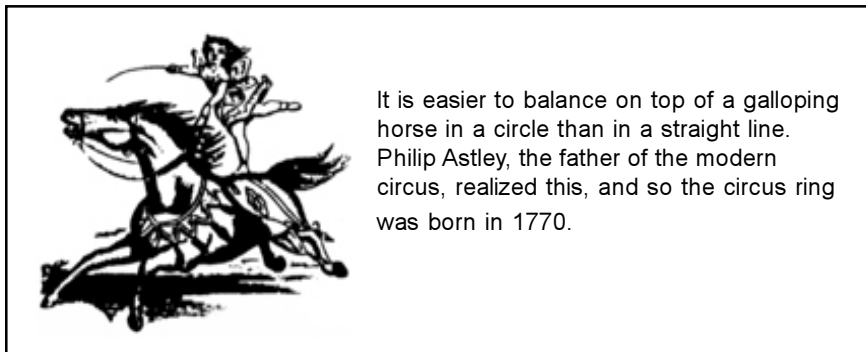
When a clown wanted to record his make-up, he would paint it on an egg-shell. These eggs were preserved, and no other clown could copy a make-up once it had been registered on an egg.



### Make your own clown egg

You will need: an egg, a pin, a bowl, a pencil, paints, colourless varnish and a tissue.

1. Take a large, smooth egg and make a small hole in each end with a pin.
2. Hold the egg over a bowl and blow into one hole. The inside of the egg will pour out the other end.
3. Wash the egg carefully and leave it in an upright position to drain on a tissue.
4. Lightly mark out the face with a pencil then paint it. Be careful not to hold the eggshell too tightly, or it might crack.
5. When the paint is dry you can seal it with a clear varnish, like colourless nail varnish.



It is easier to balance on top of a galloping horse in a circle than in a straight line. Philip Astley, the father of the modern circus, realized this, and so the circus ring was born in 1770.

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

### CIRCUS WORD SEARCH

- Acrobats
- Big Top
- Circus
- Clowns
- Doniker
- Funambulists
- Jugglers
- Kiester
- Magic
- Ringmaster
- Tricks
- Windjammers

