

Learning with the Circus – Learning activities for use with Great British Circus Books and DVDs – Outline Plan 1

Key Stage 1 & 2 – Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

Maths is Everywhere! Present children with varying scenarios associated with problem solving.

Topic	Learning Objective	Activity	Age
Addition/Subtraction	Know addition and subtraction facts	The children can work out the number of people in the audience over several performances i.e. the total of people visiting the circus over one week of performances. See Appendix 2 for sample statistics. An easier exercise can be counting the number of people or animals in the ring at any one time and then re-calculate when some of them leave the circus ring.	5 - 9
Data handling	Sort, classify and organise information in a simple way	Talk about the types of animals that the children see at the circus. Encourage the children to count how many they can see of each type of big cat, or camels or llamas. You can help your child to record this information and then create a bar chart to represent what has been recorded.	5 - 7
Money	Children learn about the coins we use and their every day context. Estimate the cost and value of items.	Use the information in Appendix 1 to find out about ticket costs and then use the findings to work out how much the circus might earn from a)one show b) A week. Using the suggestions in Appendix 3, pretend that you are selling some circus souvenirs. Ask the pupils to suggest a price for each item and work out how much money will be taken for selling various quantities of each?	5 - 9
Telling the Time	To understand, ask and answer questions about telling the time	The circus show must run for 2 hours. You can ask the children to work out how long each act will take and then to work out how long the show must then be so that all the	5 - 9

		acts can be included. Allow a 10 minute interval half-way.	
Shape, Space & Measure	Use one or more shapes to make, describe and continue repeating patterns	<p>Encourage the children to describe the shapes that they see, these can be in the patterns of the circus tent and the beautiful markings on the animals.</p> <p>They can then reproduce these in a variety of ways for example with material scraps to produce a collage, or with different coloured papers or pasta.</p>	5 - 7

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Appendix 1 Sample statistics - Seat Prices:

	Side seats	Grandstand seats	Ringside Seats
ADULT	£4	£5	£7
CHILD	£3	£4	£5

Appendix 2 Sample statistics – Tickets sold:

	Side seats	Grandstand seats	Ringside Seats
Monday	45	60	47
Tuesday	54	92	43
Wednesday	77	103	49
Thursday	102	330	42
Friday	150	350	50
Saturday	150	399	50
Sunday	150	400	50

Appendix 3 Sample statistics – Souvenirs:

Circus DVDs, Circus Badge, Circus Keyring, Spinning Plate, Clown Mask, Circus Balloon, Circus Sticker Book