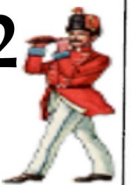


# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

# Activity Pack



Designed for Early Years to Key Stage 2



# **GANDEY'S CIRCUS**

## **Introduction**

**Welcome to your Gandeys circus activity pack, featuring a variety of worksheets designed for early years to key stage 2. This activity pack has been designed to provide resources and activity ideas that can be used in the classroom to support learning.**

**The aim of our pack is to provide educational content whereby children can learn more about the circus world. You don't need to have visited the circus to use these cross-curricular activities that explore circus today and it's history in Britain and beyond.**

**The material contained in this pack can support the teaching of different subjects including maths, literacy, history and art.**

**We love to hear what you think of our activity pack! Please email your feedback to [schools@gandey.com](mailto:schools@gandey.com)**

**All worksheets can be downloaded at [gandeyscircus.com/schools-resources](http://gandeyscircus.com/schools-resources)**

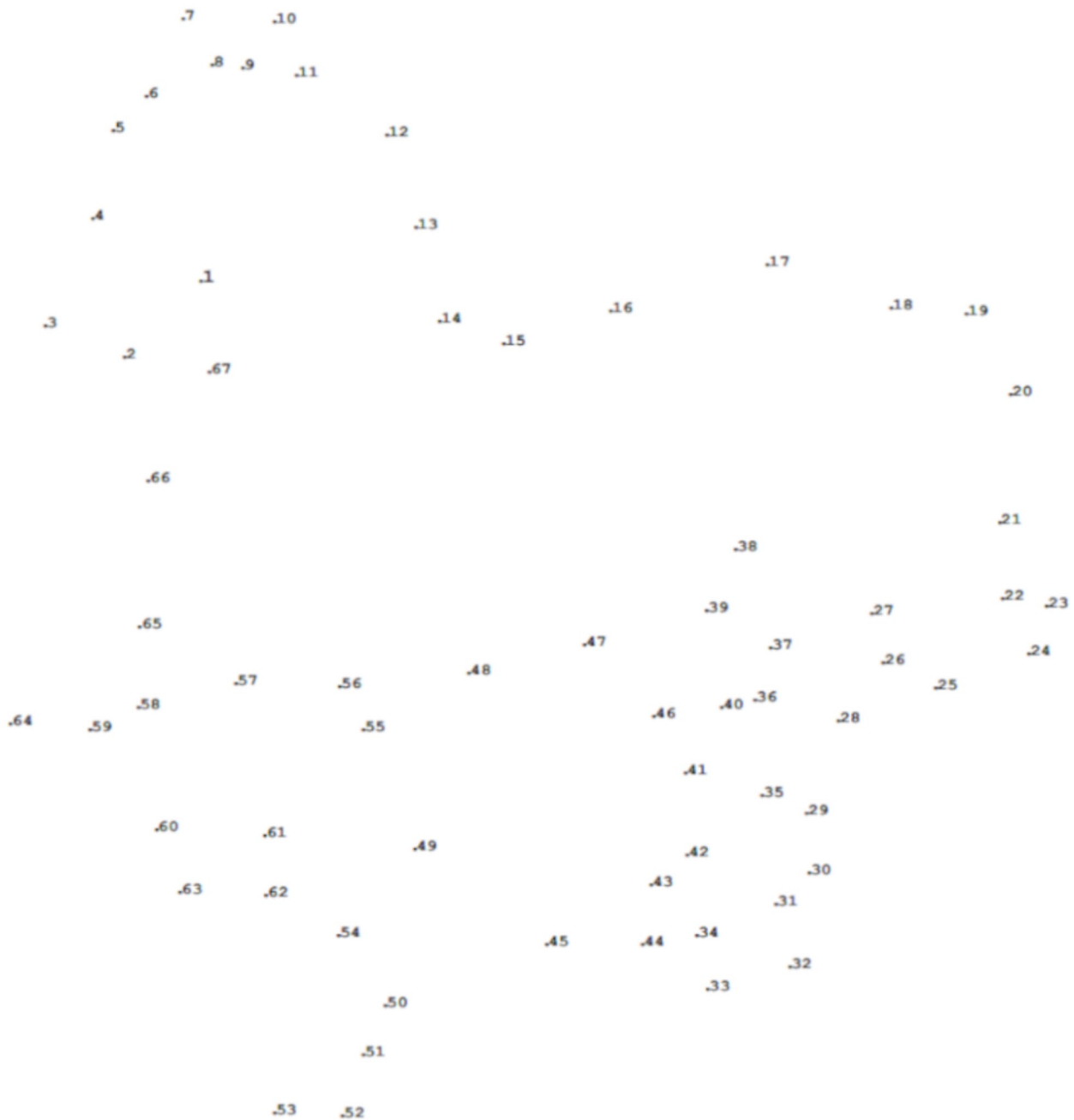


Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

In 1768, Philip Astley from Newcastle-under-Lyme established the first circus in Britain. He would perform tricks with horses in a ring measured 13 metres (42) which is the standard ring size still used today. He later included trapeze artists, acrobats and clowns in his shows.

**Join up the dots below to create a horse, then add features and accessories.**



Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

## Circus words

Use a line to match the circus word with the right definition

Pull down

A tightly-stretched wire above the floor which artists will walk across

Aerialist

A nickname for a clown, named after one of the most famous clowns, Joseph Grimaldi

High wire

A swing attached to the ceiling which acrobats use to perform stunts

Joey

Someone who performs above the ground using silks attached from the ceiling

Rola bola

When the circus big top is taken down and packed away ready for the next place

Trapeze

A balancing act where the performer will stand on a cylinder



Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

Can you find all the circus acts in the Gandeys circus wordsearch?

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

Acrobat Trapeze Springboard Ringmaster  
Rolling Globe Juggler Unicycle Tightrope Clown



Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

## A timeline of circus History

Put the facts in chronological order by using a line to match them with the correct date.



1768

The iconic circus song 'March of the Gladiators' was created by Julius Fucik



1825

One of the most notable circuses to date, Cirque du Soeil was created by Guy Laliberte



1871

Barnum and Bailey and the Ringling Brothers combined shows to make one big American circus



1881

Circuses started to travel by train thanks to William Cameron Coup, who also introduced a second circus ring



1884

Phillip Astley established the first permanent and travelling circus in the UK



1897

One of the most successful circuses of all time, Barnum and Bailey, began

1919

The Ringling Brothers began their circus in the US. All five of the brothers had a different role on stage



1984

Joshua Purdy Brown created the first circus tent that was designed to be set up and packed away quickly



Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

Join the dots to discover the circus act below



Join the dots to discover the circus act below

• 27 • 14  
• 28 • 15

• 26 • 13

• 25 • 12

• 24 • 23 • 22 • 16 • 18

• 30 • 31 • 17

• 21 • 20 • 19

• 32 • 11

• 33 • 10

• 34

• 35 • 9

• 36 • 8

• 41 • 40 • 39 • 7

• 42 • 38

• 43 • 37

• 44 • 6

• 45 • 46 • 51 • 5

• 47 • 48 • 49 • 50

• 52 • 4

• 53

• 54

• 55 • 56 • 57 • 58

• 59 • 3

• 2



Name: ..... Age: .....

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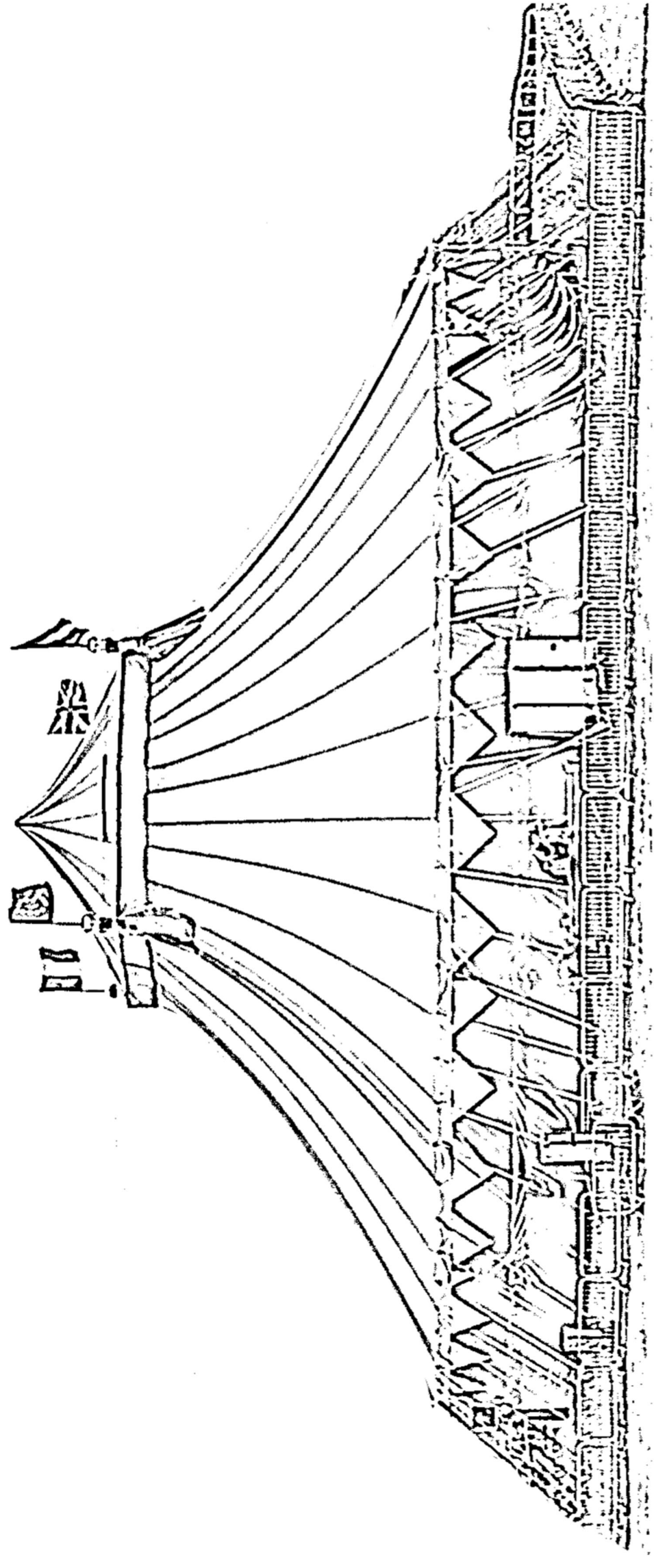




**GANDEYS**  
CIRCUS

Name: ..... Age: .....

Can you colour  
in the Gandeys  
circus Big Top?




Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

## History of British circus

Read the facts below and circle whether you think they are true or false

- |  |  |      |       |   |
|--|--|------|-------|---|
|    | 1. The ringmaster of a circus can only be male   | True | False |    |
|  | 2. Wearing green in a circus ring is thought to bring bad luck                         | True | False |   |
|  | 3. The founder of British circus was from Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire          | True | False |   |
|  | 4. Circuses in the UK no longer exist  | True | False |  |
|  | 5. A clown church service takes place every year in London                             | True | False |   |
|  | 6. Circuses have existed for over 250 years  | True | False |   |
|  | 7. Someone who runs away to join the circus is called a 'jossler'                      | True | False |  |
|  | 8. Circuses have only been held outside in what is known as a 'big top'                | True | False |   |
|  | 9. The word 'circus' came after the invention of the circus itself                     | True | False |   |
|  | 10. In Victorian Britain, it was thought that 15,000 people were working in the circus | True | False |  |

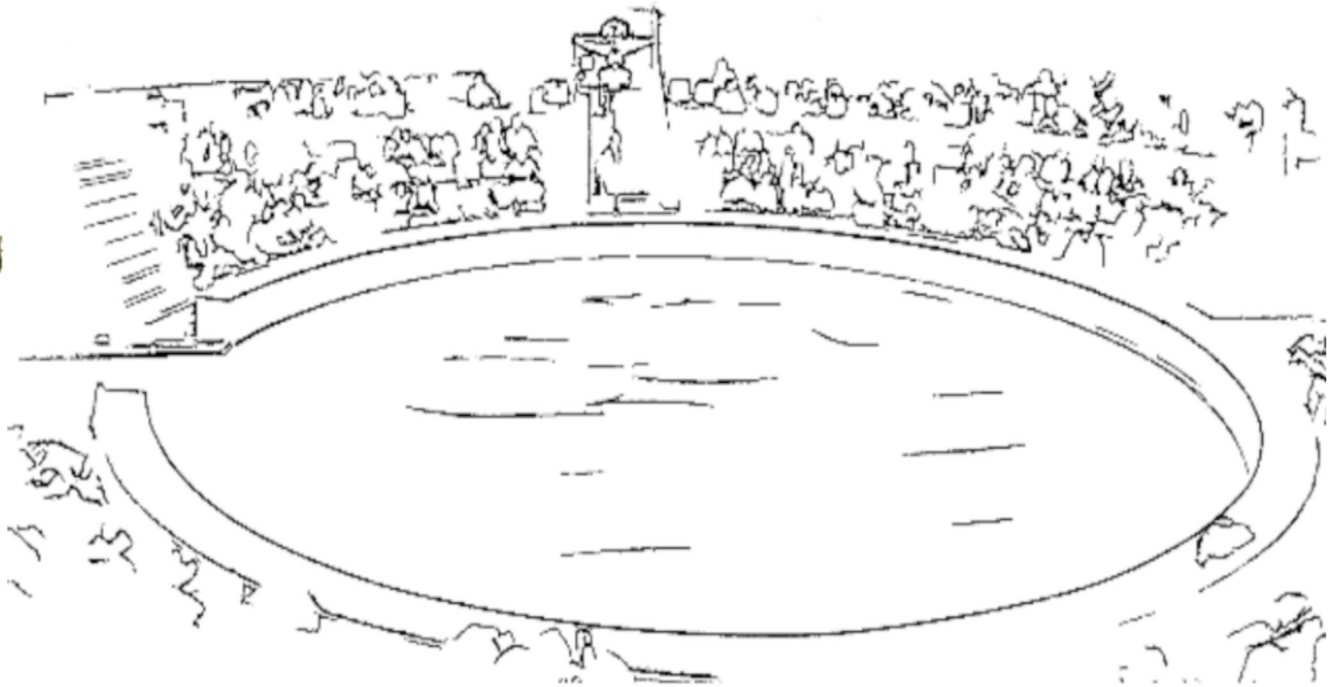


Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

All circus artists perform in a circus ring inside a big top and have done for many years. Philip Astley, the founder of British circus, first used a circus ring back in 1768 when he would perform tricks with horses. Back then, the ring was 42 feet and that exact size is still used for circus rings today. The majority of circuses today do not use animals in their shows.

Draw your own circus act in the ring below



# 10 interesting facts about circus

Roll up roll up and prepare to be amazed! We present to you our 10 interesting facts about circus, accompanied by fun-filled worksheets, bringing the wonder of the circus world to the classroom!

1. A circus is a form of entertainment for adults and children featuring clowns, acrobats, trapeze artists and a ringmaster or ringmistress
2. The word circus dates back from Roman Times when chariots were raced in a stadium known as Circus Maximus
3. The father of modern circus is Phillip Astley. Back in 1768, Astley established the first circus in England
4. Circuses were a lot different to how they are now and used to mainly demonstrate skills with horses
5. The circus acts perform in a circus ring, which is know to be 42 feet or 13 metres
- 6 Most circuses use a large tent known as a Big Top, while some other circuses perform in theatres
7. A 'pull down' is when the circus tent is packed away so it can be taken to it's next location. Circuses don't tend to stay in one place too long
8. Clowns have been around since the 1500s! And are nicknamed 'Joeys' after the early 19th century pantomine star Joseph Grimaldi
9. Leotards worn by acrobats are named after the first star of the flying trapeze, Jules Leotard
10. A 'jossler' is an outsider who joins the circus

Our accompanying downloadable pack is available on our website with printable sheets in relation to the facts above. The age range for the worksheets are from early years to key stage 2.




Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

## Create your own circus act

Draw your circus act on the front of the postcard, on the back explain what your act is. Send your postcard home from school to family or friends.

	
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____

My name is: ..... My act is: .....	



Name: ..... Age: .....

# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

## History of British Circus - answer sheet

1. The ringmaster of a circus can only be male - **False**

**There is no restriction on what men and women can and can't do in the circus world**

2. It was once common for circus elephants to bathe in rivers in the UK - **True**

**Victoria elephant trainer Samuel Lockhart would take his elephants to bathe in the River Ream in Leamington. A slipway down to the river is now known as the 'elephant walk'**

3. The founder of British circus was from Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire - **True**

**Philip Astley, who was born in Newcastle-Under-Lyme in 1742, demonstrated his equestrian skills with horses to crowds, thus resulting in the beginning of circus in Britain**

4. Circuses in the UK no longer exist - **False**

**Circuses still exist in the UK and in the rest of the world. The oldest circus in the world is Circo Atayde, which opened in Mexico in 1888 and still tours today!**

5. A clown church service takes place every year in London - **True**

**Every year on the first Sunday in February, clowns from all over gather at a church service in London to remember Joseph Grimaldi (1778 - 1837) who is known as the father of modern clowning**

6. Circuses have existed for over 250 years - **True**

**2018 was the 250th anniversary of circus. This was celebrated across six cities in the UK - Belfast, Bristol, Norwich & Great Yarmouth, Blackpool, Newcastle-Under-Lyme and London**

7. Someone who runs away to join the circus is called a 'jossler' - **True**

**It was quite common at one time for people to abandon their 'normal' lives and travel with the circus. In fact, this still happens today!**

8. Circuses have only been held outside in what is known as a 'big top' - **False**

**Purpose built structures, known as hippodromes, were put up around the country to host circuses and some still stand today**

9. The word 'circus' came after the invention of the circus itself - **True**

**The term was coined by Philip Astley's competitor, Charles Dibdin who opened The Royal Circus in London in 1772**

10. In Victorian Britain, it was thought that 15,000 people were working in the circus - **True**

**Circuses were particularly popular during the Victorian period At this time they were mainly performed in theatres and featured acts such as jugglers, aerial performers and trapeze artists, all of which are still featured in circuses today**



Name: ..... Age: .....


# GANDEY'S CIRCUS

## Circus words - answer sheet



Pull down

When the circus big top is taken down and packed away ready for the next place




Aerialist

Someone who performs above the ground using silks attached from the ceiling




High wire

A tightly-stretched wire above the floor which artists will walk across




Joey

A nickname for a clown, named after one of the most famous clowns, Joseph Grimaldi




Rola bola

A balancing act where the performer will stand on a cylinder



Trapeze

A swing attached to the ceiling which acrobats use to perform stunts



Name: ..... Age: .....

Can you colour in  
Chico Rico the  
clown?

