

THE BLACKPOOL TOWER TEACHER'S TOOLKIT



A PLAN FOR AN INSPIRATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
VISIT TO THE BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS



BLACKPOOL
TOURISM LTD

DEAR TEACHER

We have created this Teacher's Toolkit to inspire students during their visit to The Blackpool Circus.

No preparation is required; all resources are provided in this handy document which can be downloaded prior to your visit.

Whether you have opted for a visit to The Blackpool Tower Eye and Ballroom or a fun trip to see the Circus, there's plenty of activities here for your students to complete during their visit. Included are suggested conversation topics and lessons for your classroom to prepare for the trip and continue the learning after.

The resources are designed for Key Stage 2, covering a range of subjects, however they are easily adaptable to Key Stage 1 learning with a few tweaks to suit your class level.

If you've not yet booked your visit, head online to www.theblackpooltower.com to see the trip options available, prices and booking options.

Once you have booked, if you have any questions regarding the toolkit activities or the logistics of your visit please email The Blackpool Tower: guestservices.theblackpooltower@blackpooltourism.com

If you are unable to print the student's worksheets prior to the visit, we'd be happy to print these for you on arrival.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your class soon!



EXPERIENCE A FEAST FOR THE SENSES AT THE BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS



SUBJECTS: LITERACY, DRAMA

Topics covered:

Sensory Description; Descriptive and Creative Writing; Finding Inspiration.

Curriculum objectives:

Students will...

- Record their sensory experiences of The Blackpool Tower Circus.
- Extend their vocabulary for descriptive writing.
- Use sensory description to create a poem or piece of prose inspired by the Circus.

SUGGESTED PRE-VISIT DISCUSSION POINTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Research the evolution of advertising posters for The Blackpool Tower Circus. Which are your favourites? Why? How have the posters changed over time? Create your own posters advertising the present-day circus.
- Consider what examples of forces and motion you might see at the circus. For example, how do the acrobats swing across the stage on a swinging trapeze?
- As a class, come up with a list of circus acts that you might expect to see on your visit.



DURING YOUR VISIT



PART ONE: BECOME A CIRCUS DETECTIVE

Look around... what can you see? Answer the questions below.

Teachers can choose to hand out the Circus Detective worksheet with the questions on, or ask the questions to create a group discussion. All these answers can be found on the walls of the Circus queue area.

- When did the circus first open? **Answer: 14th May 1894**
- Who created the present interior of the circus?
Answer: Frank Matcham
- What is unique about the spectacular Blackpool Tower Circus finale?
Answer: It features water.
- When did wild animals stop performing in the ring? **Answer 1990**
- How many generations has there been of Mooky the clown?
Answer: 3 generations
- Who was Charlie Cairoli?
Answer: A clown who performed at The Blackpool Tower Circus from 1939 - 1979
- Where were the circus elephants often 'frequently spotted' during the main season? **Answer: Blackpool Beach**



PART TWO: COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY

Download the accompanying worksheets.

GET STARTED:

Your trip to the circus is going to be a feast for the senses. While you queue to enter the circus, discuss what this means with a classmate. Can you name the five senses together?

TASK 1:

Look at the accompanying Blackpool Tower Circus worksheet. On this worksheet you will find five sensory circles for you to record your sensory experience of the circus. Fill in the five circles as you watch (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell) - using the prompts to help you.

TASK 2:

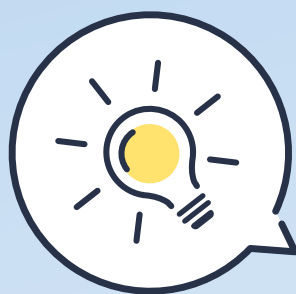
Take some time in the interval and at the end of the show to use the Wordbank provided to try to extend your vocabulary as you describe your sensory experience of the circus. These words will help you write a descriptive piece when you return to the classroom.



SUGGESTED POST-VISIT DISCUSSION POINTS AND ACTIVITIES



- Write a diary entry in-role as Mooky the clown. What do you think his daily activities might be?
- Create a list of all the different performers in the circus and note down their jobs. You could even act out a series of 'mini interviews' with the performers!
- Plan and deliver your very own circus acts. Share them as a class.
- Create a storyboard showing the development of the circus from its opening in 1894 to the present day. What has changed?





THE BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS CIRCUS DETECTIVE WORKSHEET

Look around... what can you see?
Answer the questions below.

WHEN DID THE CIRCUS FIRST OPEN?

WHO CREATED THE PRESENT INTERIOR OF THE CIRCUS?

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE SPECTACULAR BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS FINALE?

WHEN DID WILD ANIMALS STOP PERFORMING IN THE RING?

HOW MANY GENERATIONS HAS THERE BEEN OF MOOKY THE CLOWN?

WHO WAS CHARLIE CAIROLI?

**WHERE WERE THE CIRCUS ELEPHANTS OFTEN 'FREQUENTLY SPOTTED'
DURING THE MAIN SEASON?**

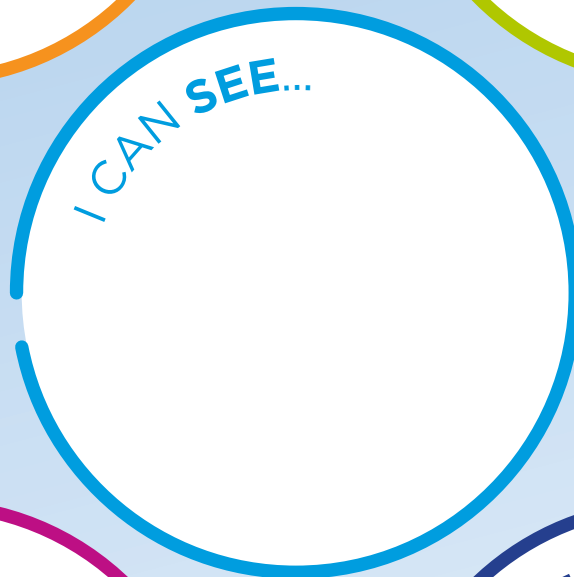


THE BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS

CIRCUS WORKSHEET TASK 1

SENSORY CIRCLES

As you watch the show, make notes in the sensory circles below. What can you see, hear, taste, touch and smell during your visit? Use the prompt questions to give you some ideas.





THE BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS CIRCUS WORKSHEET TASK 2

- Have you bought any confectionary from the sellers, what does it smell/taste like?
- What does it feel like when you take your seat?
- How does the show begin? Are the lights dim or bright?
- Can you hear any music playing? Is it fast or slow, loud or quiet?
- Keep your eyes peeled for the spectacular water finale, what does it look/sound like?

Try to include some interesting vocabulary from the Wordbank to describe your sensory experience.

MAGICAL

MYSTERIOUS

ATMOSPHERIC

SHINY

GLINTING

VIBRANT

BRIGHT

JOYFUL

STICKY

FIZZY

SPECTACULAR

SWEET

SURPRISING

MELODIOUS

EXHILARATING

CHAOTIC

DAZZLING

SIZZLING

SUSPENSEFUL

THRILLING



THE BLACKPOOL TOWER TEACHER'S TOOLKIT



**VISITING THE BALLROOM
OR TOWER TOP TOO?**

**DOWNLOAD OUR FULL TOOLKIT
FOR ALL ATTRACTIONS ONLINE!**

www.theblackpooltower.com



**BLACKPOOL
TOURISM LTD**