

WHAT'S AN ADD-ON PACK?

You can use this resource two ways:



Use the reading passages to supplement your Circus Room Transformation



OR use these reading passages for students to enjoy during your ELA block on a regular day

You don't have to do a room transformation to use this resource. These 10 passages are no-prep and print & go. Use them anytime during your ELA block!

THE CONTENT:

10 high-interest passages & activities in 2 formats: hands-on & no prep!

Hands-On Centers

BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS

Barnum and Bailey Circus was one of the most famous circuses ever, running from 1871 to 2017. It was known for its amazing acts and performers. *The Greatest Showman* was inspired by its incredible history and introduced the circus to new audiences.

P.T. Barnum and James Anthony Bailey years. Their shows featured performing elephant, earning the nickname "The After Barnum and Bailey passed in 1919. The combined show, called " continued for decades. In 1967, the it was sold to Mattel, a toy company repurchased it and kept it running. Despite its success, low attendance ended nearly 150 years of history. popular again. It highlighted the circus it's unlikely to reopen, the Barnum of wonder and excitement. Its name remember its glory.

CIRCUS PUZZLE MAT

Place the puzzle pieces in order here on the mat.

Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4
C. P.T. Barnum and James Anthony Bailey founded the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1871.	F. The circus gained fame with unique performers like the bearded lady and the world's largest elephant, earning the nickname "The Greatest Show on Earth."	H. After Barnum and Bailey passed away, the circus merged with the Ringling Brothers in 1919.	
Event 5	Event 6	Event 7	Event 8

A. The Ringling Brothers sold the circus to Irvin and Ivan Feld in 1967.

B. The Barnum and Bailey Circus closed in 2017 due to low attendance and high costs.

D. Mattel, a toy company, purchased the circus in 1971.

No-Prep Printables

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

First, read the story. Then, put the events in order below from #1 to #8 by writing a number at the top of each box. Put a #1 in the box that comes first and a #8 in the box that comes last.

4 A. The Ringling Brothers sold the circus to Irvin and Ivan Feld in 1967.	7 B. The Barnum and Bailey Circus closed in 2017 due to low attendance and high costs.	1 C. P.T. Barnum and James Anthony Bailey founded the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1871.	5 D. Mattel, a toy company, purchased the circus in 1971.
8 E. <i>The Greatest Showman</i> movie was released soon after, reigniting interest in the circus's history and performers.	2 F. The circus gained fame with unique performers like the bearded lady and the world's largest elephant, earning the nickname "The Greatest Show on Earth."	6 G. The Feld family repurchased the circus in 1981 and ran it under Feld Entertainment.	3 H. After Barnum and Bailey passed away, the circus merged with the Ringling Brothers in 1919.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

With this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete a hands-on center you can laminate and re-use for years to come!

Or in this version, students read the passage. Then, they complete the activity in worksheet form. This version is NO PREP and PRINT & GO! Just as much fun as the hands-on centers!

2 Versions of Every Passage Included for Students

AASHA'S RESCUE

Aasha the Bengal tiger lived in a traveling circus until the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) rescued her. At 9 months old, she weighed only 30 pounds. That's the size of a healthy 3-month-old cub. Starved and weak, Aasha was kept in a cage with a much larger tiger that bullied her. She was too frail to defend herself or escape.

The USDA discovered the circus animals weren't properly cared for. Aasha also had ringworm, a painful skin condition. Her body was covered with bald, white spots, and her skin was cracked and irritated. She also had bite marks from the larger tiger. She was taken to a veterinarian, where she received immediate care.

After eight weeks of treatment, Aasha's fur began growing back, and her health improved. She loved splashing in water, so her caretaker gave her a tub to play in. This helped her stay active. Soon, Aasha grew bigger and stronger. Her veterinarian could no longer sit in her enclosure but kept her entertained by spraying her with a hose.

Aasha was introduced to Smuggler, a male tiger. From the start, Smuggler tried to impress her. Despite being three times her size, their bond was undeniable. They spent more

AASHA'S RESCUE

Aasha the Bengal tiger belonged to a traveling circus until she was rescued by the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture). Even though she was 9 months old, she only weighed 30 pounds. This is what a healthy 3-month-old cub should weigh. Aasha was in terrible condition and desperately needed help.

Not only was she starved, but she also had to share a cage with another, much larger tiger that constantly picked on her. Aasha couldn't defend herself because she was so weak. She was frightened and unable to escape her situation. The USDA inspector discovered that the animals at the circus weren't receiving proper care. But there was also something wrong with Aasha. Later on, they found out that she had ringworm, a painful skin condition.

There were bald, white spots all over her body, and her skin was dry, cracked, and irritated. She also had bite marks from the larger tiger in her cage. Aasha was immediately taken to be treated by a veterinarian, who began to care for her and give her the medical attention she needed. After eight weeks, Aasha's fur started growing back, and her health improved. She loved splashing around in the water, so her caretaker added a tub for her to play in. This made her happy and active.

Before long, Aasha grew bigger and stronger. Her veterinarian couldn't sit in her enclosure anymore. But, she often played with Aasha by spraying her with a hose to keep her entertained. "Within eight months, she looked like a real tiger," her caretaker said. "And it was time to see how she would react to the other tigers."

Aasha was introduced to a male tiger named Smuggler. From the very start, Smuggler was attracted to her and always showed off to impress her. Even though he was three times her size, the bond between the two was undeniable. Aasha and Smuggler got to spend more time together as their interactions were supervised. Eventually, they were ready to live in the same enclosure. They enjoyed splashing around in their tubs and playing games with each other.

Although she had started life as a sickly tiger cub, Aasha grew into a beautiful and strong tiger with a loving mate and a wonderful life in her new home. It's been over 10 years now and she is still doing great!



THE HISTORY OF CLOWNS

Have you ever wondered how "circus clowns" came to be? Not all clowns are meant to be scary. In circuses, clowns are there to make people laugh.

Clowns are performers in the circus who use humor to get the audience to laugh. They wear silly clothing, large footwear, and makeup. The first clowns were seen in 2400 BC. In Egypt, political figures would take on the role of a clown to bring laughter to the royal families. Around the 16th century, in Italy, clowns started to wear masks while they were performing. Clowns back then did look silly and would wear odd clothing to make people laugh.

Two of the most well-known types of clowns are the "boss clown" and a "carpet clown". They are similar in looks and the way they act. However, a boss clown leads clowns around during their act. A carpet clown will pop out of the audience. He's different from a boss clown because he may come through a back door or pop out of a seat to surprise everyone watching something on stage. But, both of these clowns' make people smile.

Joseph Grimaldi created the clown we see now in the early 1800s. Matthew Sully is given credit as one of the first clowns to perform in America. He would tumble and sing. Did you

THE HISTORY OF CLOWNS

Have you ever wondered how "circus clowns" came to be? Not all clowns are meant to be scary. In circuses, clowns are there to make people laugh. Circus clowns have an interesting history and haven't always been well-liked. This article discusses the history of clowns, types of clowns, and some of the most famous clowns in history.

Clowns are performers in the circus who use physical humor to get the audience to laugh and entertain the people who attend the show. They wear silly clothing, large footwear, and over-the-top makeup to try to be humorous. The first clowns we know of were seen in 2400 BC. In Egypt, important political figures would take on the role of a clown to bring laughter to the royal families. Around the 16th century, in Italy, clowns started to wear masks for amusement as well while they were performing. Clowns back then did look silly (on purpose) and would wear odd clothing to make the audience laugh.

Two of the most well-known types of clowns are the "boss clown" and a "carpet clown". They are similar in looks and the way they act. However, a boss clown is normally the clown who is in charge and leads the other clowns around during their act. Meanwhile, a carpet clown will usually pop out of the audience when he first begins. He's

Differentiate and give your students the version best for them!

CENTER 1

Multiple Choice

AASHA'S RESCUE

A Bengal tiger lived in a traveling circus until the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) rescued her. At 9 months old, she weighed only 30 pounds. That's the size of a 3-month-old cub. Starved and weak, Aasha was kept in a cage with a much larger tiger that bullied her. She was too frail to defend herself or escape. The USDA discovered the circus animals weren't properly cared for. Aasha also had ringworms, a painful skin condition. Her body was covered with bald, white spots, and her skin was cracked and irritated. She also had bite marks from the larger tiger. She was taken to a veterinarian, where she received immediate care.

Multiple Choice

Name: _____

1. B	2. C	3. A	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

What does the word "frail" most likely mean in the text?
 A. Cross
 B. Weak
 C. Content
 D. Sturdy



1. What is a synonym for "irritated" as used to describe Aasha's skin?
 A. Annoyed
 B. Soothed
 C. Inflamed
 D. Shiny



2. _____

Hands-On Center:

Students choose A, B, C, or D on each card.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 2

This or That?

THE HISTORY OF CLOWNS

How did the idea of "circus clowns" come to be? Not all clowns are meant to make people laugh. Some clowns are there to make people cry.

Circus performers in the circus who use humor to get the audience to laugh. They wear colorful clothing, large footwear, and makeup. The first clowns were seen in 2400 BC. In Egypt, political figures would take on the role of a clown to bring laughter to the royal families. Around the 16th century, in Italy, clowns started to wear masks while they were performing. Clowns back then did look silly and would wear odd clothing to make people laugh.

Two of the most well-known types of clowns are the "boss clown" and "clown". They are similar in looks and the way they act. However, a boss clown is around during their act. A carpet clown will pop out of the audience. He's boss clown because he may come through a back door or pop out of a seat to surprise everyone watching something on stage. But both of these clowns make people smile.

Joseph Grimaldi created the clown we see now in the early 1800s. Matthew Sully is credit as one of the first clowns to perform in America. He would tumble and sing. Did you know when circuses came to the USA, Americans didn't enjoy the circus at first? They didn't catch on and weren't well attended. A man by the name of Jean Breeschard made circuses popular in 1809 by opening amphitheatres where people could enjoy clowns, horse performers, and other circus acts.

Which line in Paragraph 4 further elaborates on the idea in Paragraph 1 about clowns not being well-liked?	1
Which text structure is being used in Paragraph 2?	2
What is explained in Paragraph 2?	3
Which text structure is being used in Paragraph 3?	4

Hands-On Center:

Students put a checkmark on the side with the correct answer after reading the passage.



No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 3

Pairs Activity

HUMAN CANNONBALL

Have you ever wished you could fly? Humans have invented airplanes and parachutes to experience flight. But becoming a human cannonball is a bold way to soar through the air. This daring act involves being **catapulted** into the sky in a thrilling performance.

A human cannonball is exactly what it sounds like: a person climbs into a specially designed cannon and is shot out like a real cannonball. This **entertaining** show has **regaled** audiences for over a **century**. While popular in circuses, it has always been **perilous**, with a constant risk of injury.

The idea of launching people into the air began in the 1870s, but the first human cannonball act occurred in 1880. A 14-year-old performer for Barnum and Bailey's Circus was hurled into the air as fireworks exploded. **Spectator**s loved this stunt.

How does it work? Instead of gunpowder, special cannons use **bungee** cords or **compressed** air. These **mechanisms** safely propel performers without explosives, though the exact methods were often kept secret. Despite **precautions** like testing with dummies, **mishaps** could still happen, making the act a dangerous challenge.

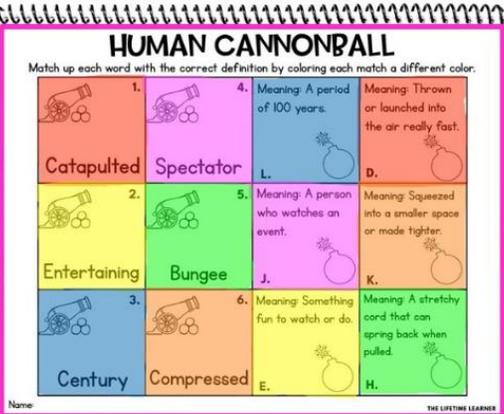
Even with its risks, the human cannonball act remains a favorite. It continues to entertain and amaze audiences today. Would you be **bold** enough to climb into a cannon and experience this once-in-a-lifetime thrill?

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

	1. Meaning: Thrown or launched into the air really fast.
Catapulted D.	
	2. Meaning: Something fun to watch or do.
Entertaining E.	
	3. Meaning: A period of 100 years.
Century L.	

Hands-On Center:

Students put the two sides together to match each word with the correct definition.



HUMAN CANNONBALL

Match up each word with the correct definition by coloring each match a different color.

	1. Catapulted		4. Spectator	Meaning: A period of 100 years.	Meaning: Thrown or launched into the air really fast.
	2. Entertaining		5. Bungee	Meaning: A person who watches an event.	Meaning: Squeezed into a smaller space or made tighter.
	3. Century		6. Compressed	Meaning: Something fun to watch or do.	Meaning: A stretchy cord that can spring back when pulled.
				E.	H.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 4

Sorting Game

TIGHTROPE WALKING

Tightrope walking is a popular circus act, but did you know there are different types? Performers don't just walk on thin wires; they master various techniques.

Tightwire is the most common type seen in circuses. Performers walk on a tightly stretched wire. They use props like umbrellas or balance poles, or go freehand for a challenge. It's performed close to the ground, making it less risky but still impressive.

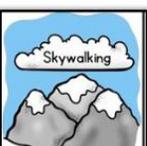
Highwire is like tightwire but performed at heights over 20 feet. Performers use poles for balance as falling could be life-threatening. Highwire acts are the highlight of circus shows for their thrilling nature.

Skywalking pushes the limits even further. It is performed outdoors at extreme heights like between skyscrapers or over waterfalls. It's one of the most dangerous acts and is done in unpredictable conditions like wind or rain.

Slackwire, or slackrope, uses a loose rope. It creates a wobbly surface that shifts every step. This makes it harder to walk on and requires agility and control. Unlike tightwire, modern slacklining uses a bouncy line for tricks like flips or yoga poses.

Tightrope walkers spend many hours mastering balance and focus. Each type of tightrope walking has its own challenges and rewards. This shows the dedication of these skilled performers.

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

	Often performed at lower heights.	Commonly seen in circuses.
B.		J.
	Poles must be used to balance.	Involves greater risk due to the height and can be very dangerous.
F.		G.
	Exposed to unpredictable weather conditions.	Performed outdoors at extreme heights like between buildings or over waterfalls.
C.		M.

Hands-On Center:

Students sort each card onto the correct mat.



TIGHTROPE WALKING

Sort each detail about each type of tightrope walking by coloring each box the right color.

RED TIGHTWIRE	Requires agility and balance as the rope shifts.	Often performed at lower heights.	Exposed to unpredictable weather conditions.	Often performed outdoors.	Uses a loose rope instead of a tightly stretched one.	Poles must be used to balance.
YELLOW HIGHWIRE	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
GREEN SKYWALKING	Involves greater risk due to the height and can be very dangerous.	Walks on a wire tightly stretched between two points.	Also called slackrope.	Commonly seen in circuses.	Often the height of circus performances due to its thrilling nature.	Uses a heavy material that lets performers do tricks.
BLUE SLACKWIRE	G.	H.	I.	J.	K.	L.
PURPLE SLACKLINING	Performed outdoors at extreme heights, like between buildings or over waterfalls.	Modern version of slackwire.	Performed on a wire more than 20 feet above the ground.	Known as one of the most daring acts.	More challenging than tightwire due to the unstable surface.	Can use balancing tools like poles or umbrellas or go freehand.
	M.	N.	O.	P.	Q.	R.

Name: _____

THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 5

Sorting Game

FLEA CIRCUS

You've probably heard of a circus with humans and animals performing cool acts, but have you ever heard of a flea circus? A flea circus is exactly what it sounds like: a circus featuring fleas! These tiny performers have a fascinating history.

Flea circuses began around four hundred years ago when jewelers needed a creative way to showcase their tiny prisms. To demonstrate the scale of their work, they used fleas to highlight how small their creations were. Fleas, being tiny themselves, made the perfect models and added an entertaining element to the presentation.

In the 1830s, an Italian man named Louis Bestalato turned the focus to the fleas themselves. He trained fleas to perform tricks, creating flea circuses that became popular. Crowds flocked to small tents to see fleas pulling miniature carriages, staging sword fights, and even tightrope walking while holding tiny umbrellas. They became a hit.

Over time, flea circuses started to fade. By the 20th century, it became harder to find fleas, as cleaner homes led to a decline in their numbers. Without fleas to train, most flea circuses shut down. By the 1990s, this form of entertainment had nearly vanished. Today, only a few flea circuses remain, but some people are working to bring them back. Perhaps these tiny performers will once again capture the world's imagination!



 <p>MAIN IDEA 1: Flea circuses began as a way to showcase tiny craftsmanship.</p>	 <p>MAIN IDEA 1: Flea circuses began as a way to showcase tiny craftsmanship.</p>	 <p>MAIN IDEA 1: Flea circuses began as a way to showcase tiny craftsmanship.</p>
<p>C. The performances added entertainment to the displays that were created.</p> 	<p>A. Fleas pulled miniature carriages and staged sword fights.</p> 	<p>B. A few flea circuses remain, with efforts to make them popular again.</p> 
<p>E. Fleas were perfect models for jewelers due to their tiny size.</p> 	<p>H. Crowds flocked to these events, making them a big hit.</p> 	<p>D. By the 20th century, it became harder to find fleas.</p> 

Hands-On Center:

Students sort each card onto the correct mat.

FLEA CIRCUS

Color each supporting detail the same color as the main idea it goes with.

<p>MAIN IDEA #1 Flea circuses began as a way to showcase tiny craftsmanship.</p>  red	<p>A. Fleas pulled miniature carriages and staged sword fights.</p> 	<p>B. A few flea circuses remain, with efforts to make them popular again.</p> 	<p>C. The performances added entertainment to the displays that were created.</p> 	<p>D. By the 20th century, it became harder to find fleas.</p> 
<p>MAIN IDEA #2 Louis Bestalato made fleas the stars of flea circuses.</p>  yellow	<p>E. Fleas were perfect models for jewelers due to their tiny size.</p> 	<p>F. Cleaner homes led to fewer fleas for training.</p> 	<p>G. Most flea circuses shut down by the 1990s.</p> 	<p>H. Crowds flocked to these events, making them a big hit.</p> 
<p>MAIN IDEA #3 Flea circuses faded over time but still hold some interest today.</p>  blue	<p>I. Jewelers used fleas to highlight how small their prisms were.</p> 	<p>J. In the 1830s, he trained fleas to perform tricks.</p> 	<p>K. Fleas walked tightropes while holding umbrellas.</p> 	<p>L. This creative idea made jewelers' work stand out.</p> 

Name: _____

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 6

Color by Code

1. What was Zendaya's most challenging scene?



THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Have you ever seen "The Greatest Showman"? This popular movie tells the story of a man who starts his own circus, with amazing performers and breathtaking acts. Behind the story, there are some fun facts about how the movie was made.

Did you know the movie is based on a real-life story? PT Barnum, the originator who created the famous Barnum & Bailey Circus, **was based on an impossible life.**

Many characters in the movie were based on real people who performed in his circus. To make the film feel authentic, **the cast wore costumes inspired by the actual outfits used in the Barnum & Bailey Circus.** **These detailed costumes helped bring the circus's history to life thanks to the costume designers' hard work.**

If you remember the fire scene, here's a wild fact: **Hugh Jackman, who plays P.T. Barnum, had to be rescued.** Luckily, no one was hurt but it added an extra layer of reality to an already stressful moment.

Zendaya, who played Anne Wheeler, the trapeze artist, **did all her own stunts despite having no trapeze experience.** She trained hard to make it look real. **One challenging scene was her act with Zeke Foy.** **She balanced singing, acting, and the trapeze all at once.** With talented actors, stunning performances, and a real-life story at its core, **"The Greatest Showman" is a celebration of creativity and perseverance.** It is loved by fans all over the world!



What were the movie characters based on?



2. Color the answer light blue.

What is the movie "The Greatest Showman" about?



4. Color the answer yellow.

Hands-On Center:

Students use the coloring task card questions to color in answers in the text.

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No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 7

Cut and Paste

THE FIRST CIRCUS
Early Life

Philip was known as the "father of the modern circus." He grew up as an orphan in a small town. His father was a cabinet-maker. When he was 17, he joined a circus. When he was discharged from the army in 1765, he returned to his hometown. He cared for his horses. In 1768, he opened up a riding school where he performed shows in the afternoon. The next year, he brought in acrobatic acts and clowns. In 1773, Philip began building wooden amphitheatres for his group to perform in. He soon gained a rival. Charles Hughes copied Philip's show. But he shut down because neither of them got licenses to perform.

Later Life

Charles left and went on an 8-year-long tour of Europe while Philip got his license. He bought an amphitheater with a roof in 1779. He could hold shows in winter, the evenings, and in bad weather. It was named *Astley's Amphitheater Riding House*. In 1782, Philip opened the first circus in France. He performed in front of the court of Queen Marie-Antoinette. His wide success helped him get a permanent amphitheater in Paris. Philip died when he was 72 years old.

CUT AND PASTE
Glue each text feature where it belongs.

Text Feature #1	Text Feature #2	Text Feature #3	Text Feature #4
Text Feature #5	Text Feature #6	Text Feature #7	Text Feature #8
			bulleted list

timeline	picture		text box
underlined words	italics	title	subtitles

Hands-On Center:

Cut and paste each box where it belongs.

CUT AND PASTE
Glue each text feature where it belongs below.

Text Feature #1	Text Feature #2	Text Feature #3	Text Feature #4
title	picture	timeline	italics
Text Feature #5	Text Feature #6	Text Feature #7	Text Feature #8
text box	underlined words	subtitles	bulleted list

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER 8

Write a Sentence

SOFIE DOSSI

You have heard of circus performers who leap from trapezes or while unicycling. But 18-year-old Sofie Dossi takes it to another level. Sofie is a contortionist. This means she bends and twists her body in ways most people cannot. She can shoot a bow and arrow with her feet, walk on her hands with her feet balanced on her head, and perform stunts that are impossible for most people. Sofie gained fame in 2016 on *America's Got Talent*. She performed a stunt that earned her the golden buzzer, sending her straight to the next round. Since then, she has traveled the globe to perform for millions of people. Her family plays a big role in her success. Her dad builds custom props for her to use in her stunts for her YouTube channel. Fans eagerly await her next performance. Amazingly, Sofie is entirely self-taught. She started practicing as a child and has mastered moves while creating her own stunts for her YouTube channel. She would like to perform at the top of the Eiffel Tower. She proves that hard work and dedication can make dreams come true. As she travels the world doing what she loves, she is inspiring others to chase their dreams.

SOFIE DOSSI

- A contortionist is someone who can bend and twist their body in ways most people cannot.
- Sofie's mom homeschools her, her dad builds custom props for her performances, and her brother films her stunts for her YouTube channel.
- Sofie gained fame in 2016 when her performance on America's Got Talent earned her the golden buzzer, sending her straight to the next round.
- Sofie's self-taught skills are inspiring because they show her dedication and determination.
- Performing at the Eiffel Tower is significant because it combines her unique talent with one of the world's most famous landmarks.
- Sofie's story shows the importance of passion and determination because she started practicing as a child, taught herself contortion, and never gave up on her goals.

Write the answers to the questions in each box in complete sentences.

Hands-On Center:

Students write the answer to each prompt on the lines.

SOFIE DOSSI

- What is a contortionist, and how does Sofie Dossi demonstrate her contortion skills?
A contortionist is someone who can bend and twist their body in ways most people cannot. Sofie demonstrates her contortion skills by shooting a bow and arrow with her feet, walking on her hands with her feet balanced on her head, and performing stunts that amaze audiences.
- How did Sofie's family help her succeed in her career?
Sofie's mom homeschools her, her dad builds custom props for her performances, and her brother films her stunts for her YouTube channel. Each family member plays an important role in supporting her success.
- What moment launched Sofie Dossi's fame, and how did it impact her career?
Sofie gained fame in 2016 when her performance on *America's Got Talent* earned her the golden buzzer, sending her straight to the next round. This moment made her famous and allowed her to travel the globe and share her moves online with millions of people.
- Why do you think Sofie's ability to teach herself contortion is so inspiring?
Sofie's self-taught skills are inspiring because they show her dedication and determination. She practiced as a child, mastered challenging moves, and even created her own, proving that hard work and passion can lead to success.
- Sofie's dream is to perform at the top of the Eiffel Tower. Why might this be significant to her?
Performing at the Eiffel Tower is significant because it combines her unique talent with one of the world's most famous landmarks. This dream shows that Sofie is creative and always aiming to do something extraordinary.
- How does Sofie's story show the importance of passion and determination?
Sofie's story shows the importance of passion and determination because she started practicing as a child, taught herself contortion, and never gave up on her goals. Her achievements, including her performances and global popularity, demonstrate how dedication can turn dreams into reality.

Write the answers to the questions in each box in complete sentences.

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

9

Sequencing Puzzles

BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS

Barnum and Bailey Circus was one of the most famous circuses ever, running from 1871 to 1907. It was known for its amazing acts and performers. *The Greatest Showman* movie was inspired by its incredible history and introduced the circus to new audiences.

P.T. Barnum and James Anthony Bailey were the most famous circus performers of their time. Their shows featured performing elephants, earning the nickname "The Greatest Show on Earth." After Barnum and Bailey passed away, the circus merged with the Ringling Brothers in 1919. The combined show, called "The Greatest Show on Earth," continued for decades. In 1967, the circus was sold to Mattel, a toy company, and kept it running. Despite its success, low attendance ended nearly 150 years of history. It's unlikely to reopen, but the circus of wonder and excitement. Its name will always remember its glory.

CIRCUS PUZZLE MAT

Place the puzzle pieces in order here on the mat.

Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4
C. P.T. Barnum and James Anthony Bailey founded the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1871.	F. The circus gained fame with unique performers like the bearded lady and the world's largest elephant, earning the nickname "The Greatest Show on Earth."	H. After Barnum and Bailey passed away, the circus merged with the Ringling Brothers in 1919.	

A. The Ringling Brothers sold the circus to Irvin and Ivan Feld in 1967.

B. The Barnum and Bailey Circus closed in 2017 due to low attendance and high costs.

D. Mattel, a toy company, purchased the circus in 1971.

Hands-On Center:

Students put the puzzle pieces in chronological order.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

First read the story. Then, put the events in order below from #1 to #8 by writing a number at the top of each box. Put a #1 in the box that comes first and a #8 in the box that comes last.

4 A. The Ringling Brothers sold the circus to Irvin and Ivan Feld in 1967.	7 B. The Barnum and Bailey Circus closed in 2017 due to low attendance and high costs.	1 C. P.T. Barnum and James Anthony Bailey founded the Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1871.	5 D. Mattel, a toy company, purchased the circus in 1971.
8 E. <i>The Greatest Showman</i> movie was released soon after, reigniting interest in the circus's history and performers.	2 F. The circus gained fame with unique performers like the bearded lady and the world's largest elephant, earning the nickname "The Greatest Show on Earth."	6 G. The Feld family repurchased the circus in 1981 and ran it under Feld Entertainment.	3 H. After Barnum and Bailey passed away, the circus merged with the Ringling Brothers in 1919.

Name: _____ THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

CENTER

10

Fill in the Blank

CIRCUS PERFORMER'S LIFE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel with the circus? Surrounded by acrobats, animals, and clowns, it sounds like a dream, doesn't it? For many circus workers, it's their everyday life. Romy Bauer, an aerialist, is one such performer whose flexibility and daring stunts captivate audiences.

Romy grew up in the circus, starting to perform with her family at just 3 years old. She's improved with lots of practice. Aerial tricks are risky since they are done high in the air. For her, it's all worth it when she sees the smiles of the audience.

Her day begins early, with hours of _____ to perfect her routine and stay strong. The effort pays off when Romy and her teammates perform for amazed fans. Many are in awe of her _____ and her breathtaking aerial stunts.

Romy is also involved with Circus Starr, a non-profit _____ that gives underprivileged children the chance to enjoy circus shows. For children with autism, the app provides a preview of the show to help them prepare. For blind children, the circus offers hands-on experiences, such as feeling costumes before the show. During the _____, an audio narrator describes the action for those who cannot see.

Romy finds her life in the circus incredibly _____. "There's no reason for me to look anywhere else since everything I've needed is here." For Romy, the circus isn't just a job; it's her home and her _____.

WORD BANK:

Use the word bank to fill in the missing words from the passage.

- fulfilling
- flexibility
- organization
- passion
- audience
- performance
- aerial
- preparation

Hands-On Center:

Students read the passage and use words from the word bank to fill in the blanks as they read.

A CIRCUS PERFORMER'S LIFE

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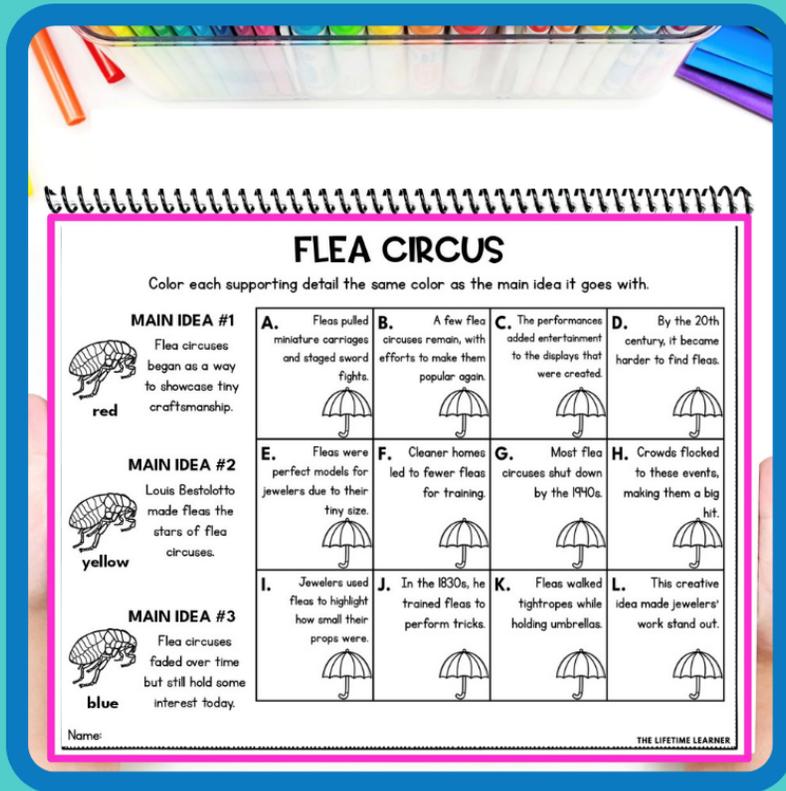
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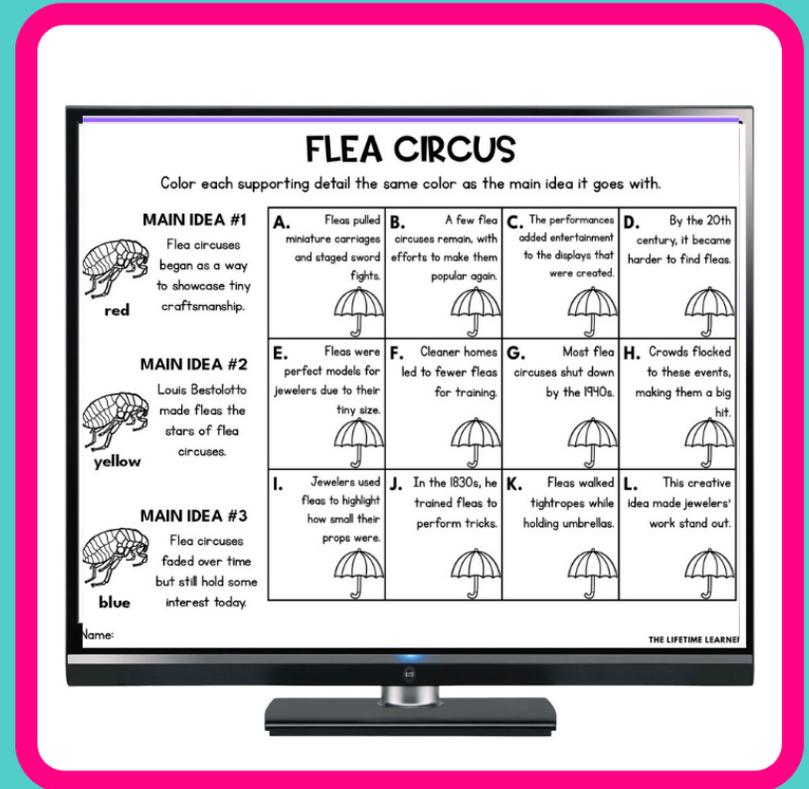
Name: _____ THE LIFETIME LEARNER

No Prep Printable Worksheet!

PRINT & DIGITAL



Print & Go



Google Slides

Choose the format that works best for you!

HOW TO USE THIS:

Ideas for Implementation:

- pick and choose the centers you want to use: do what works best for your class!
- give less than 10 centers to students if you are short on time
- give students the whole day to complete all 10 centers/activities OR spread the room transformation out over a couple of days
- use the hands-on centers during your room transformation and the no-prep printables as a review during your reading block

FLEA CIRCUS

You've probably heard of a circus with humans and animals performing cool acts, but have you ever heard of a flea circus? A flea circus is exactly what it sounds like: a circus featuring fleas! These tiny performers have a fascinating history.

Flea circuses began around four hundred years ago when jewelers needed a creative way to showcase their tiny props. To demonstrate the scale of their work, they used fleas to highlight how small their creations were. Fleas, being tiny themselves, made the perfect models and added an entertaining element to the presentation.

In the 1830s, an Italian man named Louis Bestolotto turned the focus to the fleas themselves. He trained fleas to perform tricks, creating flea circuses that became popular. Crowds flocked to small tents to see fleas pulling miniature carriages, staging sword fights, and even tightrope walking while holding tiny umbrellas. They became a hit.

Over time, flea circuses started to fade. By the 20th century, it became harder to find fleas, as cleaner homes led to a decline in their numbers. Without fleas to train, most flea circuses shut down. By the 1940s, this form of entertainment had nearly vanished. Today, only a few flea circuses remain, but some people are working to bring them back. Perhaps these tiny performers will once again capture the world's imagination!

MAIN IDEA 1:
Flea circuses began as a way to showcase tiny craftsmanship.

A. Fleas pulled miniature carriages and staged sword fights.

B. A few flea circuses remain, with efforts to make them popular again.

C. The performances added entertainment to the displays that were created.

D. By the 20th century, it became harder to find fleas.

E. Fleas were perfect models for jewelers due to their tiny size.

F. Flea circuses began as a way to showcase tiny craftsmanship.

G. Fleas pulled miniature carriages and staged sword fights.

H. Crowds flocked to these events, making them a big hit.

What Skills are Included?

Nonfiction Skills:

- Text Evidence
- Text Features
- Text Structures
- Compare & Contrast
- Point of View
- Main Idea
- Context Clues
- Sequencing
- Pages Reviewing
- Multiple Skills

FLEA CIRCUS

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FLEA CIRCUS

Color each supporting detail the same color as the main idea it goes with.

MAIN IDEA #1



Flea circuses began as a way

A. Fleas pulled miniature carriages and staged sword fights.	B. A few flea circuses remain, with efforts to make them popular again.	C. The performances added entertainment to the displays that were created.	D. By the 20th century, it became harder to find fleas.
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TIGHTROPE WALKING

Tightrope walking is a popular circus act, but did you know there are different types? Performers don't just walk on thin wires; they master various techniques.

Tightwire is the most common type seen in circuses. Performers walk on a tightly stretched wire. They use props like umbrellas or balance poles, or go freehand for a

TIGHTROPE WALKING

Sort each detail about each type of tightrope walking by coloring each box the right color.

RED TIGHTWIRE



YELLOW HIGHWIRE



GREEN SKYWALKING

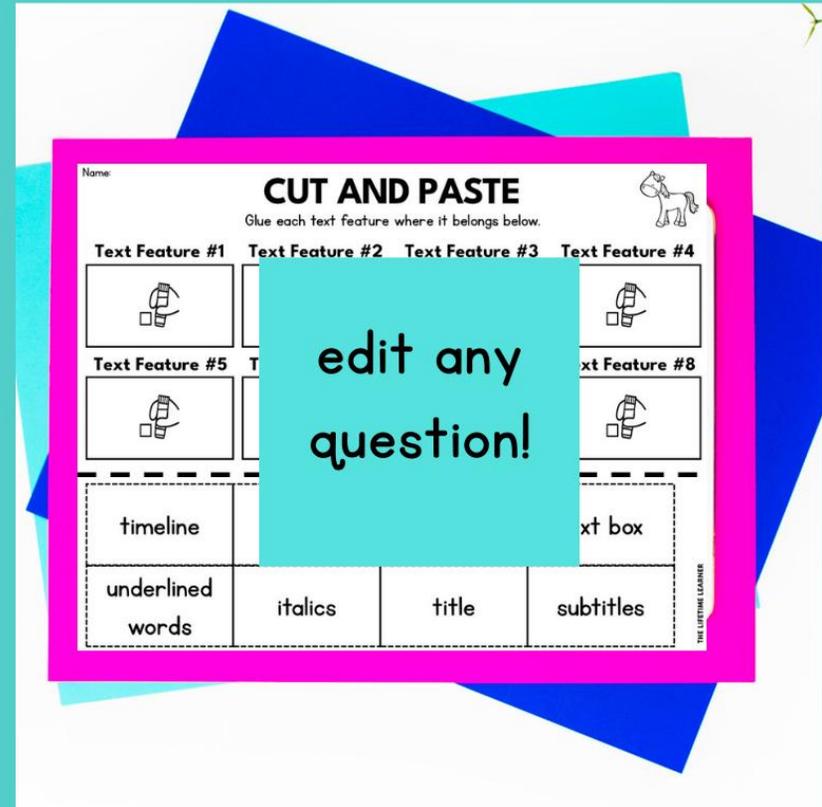
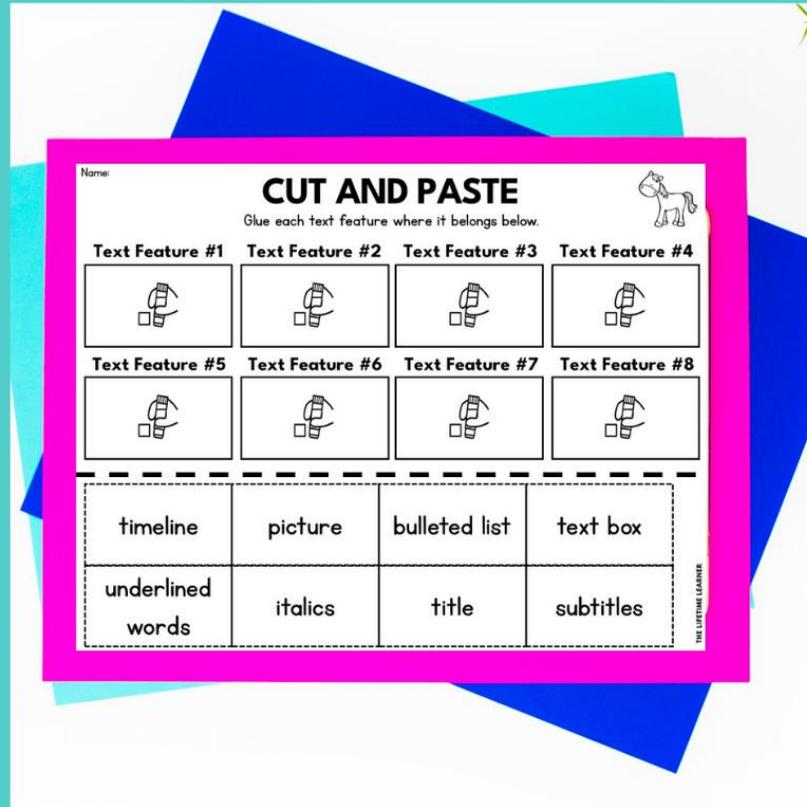


BLUE SLACKWIRE



Requires agility and balance as the rope shifts.	Often performed at lower heights.	Exposed to unpredictable weather conditions.	Often performed outdoors.	Uses a loose rope instead of a tightly stretched one.	Poles must be used to balance.
A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
Involves greater risk due to the height and can be very dangerous.	Walks on a wire tightly stretched between two points.	Also called slackrope.	Commonly seen in circuses.	Often the highlight of circus performances due to its thrilling nature.	Uses a bouncy material that lets performers do tricks.
G.	H.	I.	J.	K.	L.
Performed outdoors at	Modern version of	Performed on a wire more than	Known as one of the most	More challenging than tightwire	Can use balancing tools

The no prep printable questions are **100% editable!**



10 Pre-Made
Centers
(Print & Go)

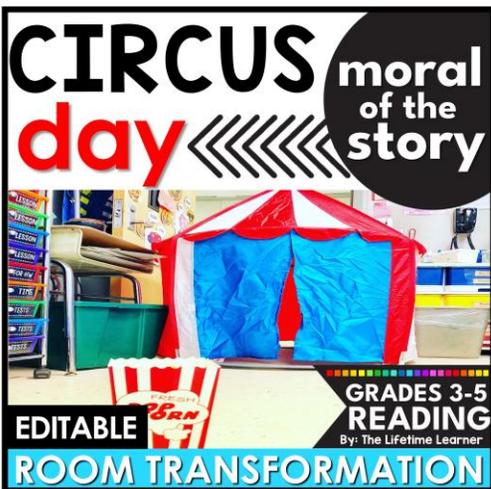
10 Pre-Made
Centers:
Editable Version

2 Versions Included

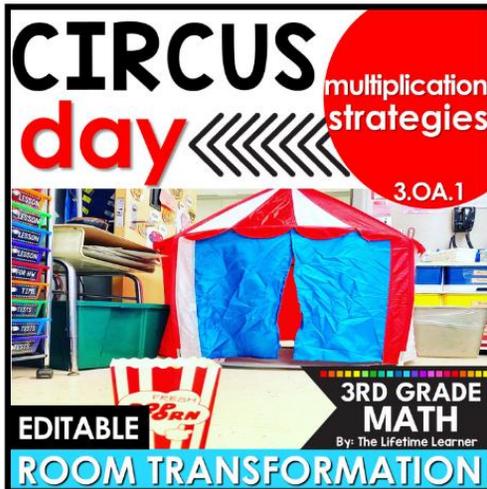
other resources this pairs well with:

Grab the 3-5 reading room transformation for additional passages!

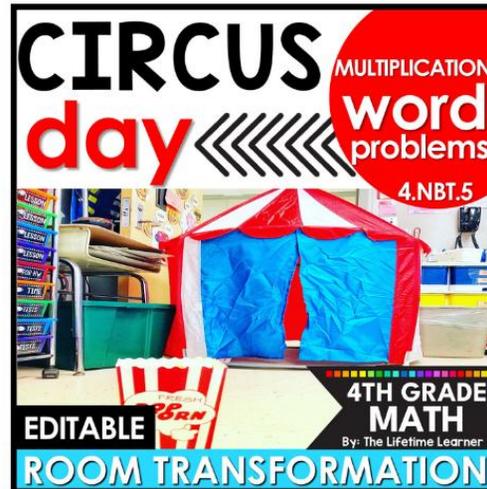
Or, add in some math to your themed learning day!



CIRCUS day moral of the story
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
GRADES 3-5 READING
By: The Lifetime Learner



CIRCUS day multiplication strategies
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
3RD GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner



CIRCUS day MULTIPLICATION word problems
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
4TH GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner

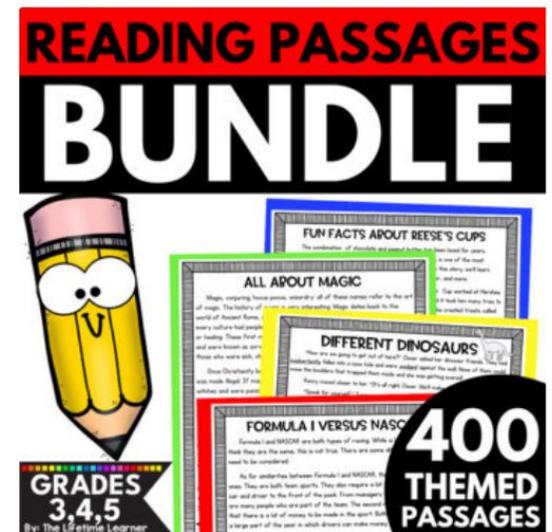


CIRCUS day multiplication as scaling
EDITABLE ROOM TRANSFORMATION
5TH GRADE MATH
By: The Lifetime Learner



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classroom transformations

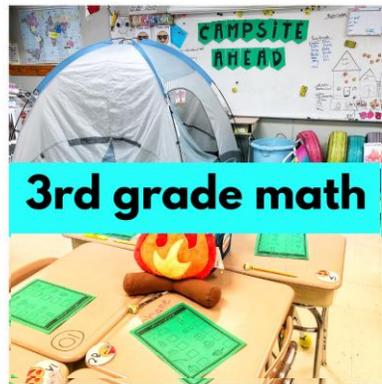
low prep, fun, and engaging!



1st grade math



2nd grade math



3rd grade math



4th grade math



5th grade math



kindergarten math

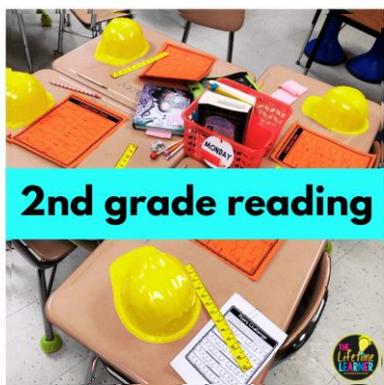
K-5 MATH & READING



kindergarten reading



1st grade reading



2nd grade reading



GR 3-5 reading comprehension



3-5 reading add-on packs



alphabet letters

Please Note:

- **This is not a stand-alone room transformation.**
- **There are no decorations included.**
- **There are 10 reading passages and activities provided.**
- **The questions are editable. The passages are not.**
- **The digital version is provided in Google Slides.**
- **This Add on Pack aligns with my math & reading classroom transformations.**
- **Let me know if you have ANY questions! You can email me at lindsaythelifetimelearner@gmail.com**