



KS1 Knowledge Organiser: Circus!

Key Vocabulary

The Roman Circus -

Each major Roman city had a circus. It was similar to a race track of today where people would gather to watch horse and chariot races.

Touring Performers - Groups of touring performers travelled around entertaining the local people with trained animals, acrobats and horse riders.

Ring Master- the person in charge of performances in a ring

Acrobat - an entertainer who performs spectacular gymnastic tricks.

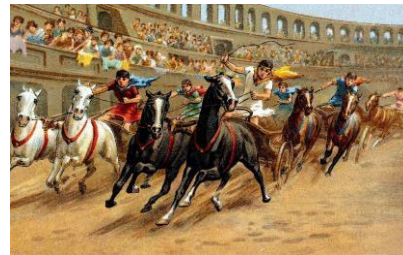
Big Top Tent- A circus is sometimes held in a large, colourful tent. It is called a 'big top'. The performers put their show on in the tent. In the middle of the tent is the ring. This is where they stand to perform. The audience sit in seats around the side

Pictures

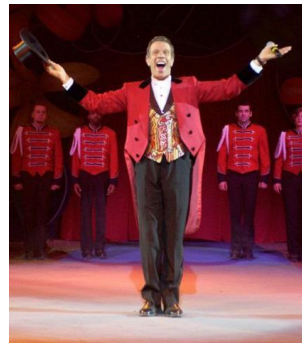
Performers



Acrobats



Ring Master



Horse and Chariot Race



The Roman Circus

What I will know by the end of our topic

What was the circus like in the past?

Circuses have been around for many years. They started in the Roman Empire in 27 BC. During this time people enjoyed watching chariot races that took place in Roman cities.

During the Middle Ages, groups of touring performers travelled around the countryside of many European countries. They would entertain the local people with trained animals, acrobats and horse riders.

Some of the people who made the circus famous!

Philip Astley - an officer in the British Cavalry who toured the country performing riding tricks. He designed a circus ring so that he could perfect his act. Between his riding acts, clowns performed. He started the circus as we know it today in 1768.

John Bill Ricketts – A competitor of Philip Astley who took his circus to America. His performances included riding, comic acts on horseback, comic dancing, tumbling and rope dancing.

Pablo Fanque - His circus was a famous Victorian-era travelling circus, known for its equestrian acts and grand spectacles, which operated from 1841 to the late 1860s.