

WORLD CIRCUS DAY
APRIL 16, 2011

World Circus Day is designated to honor and celebrate the circus in all of its many forms, celebrates its continuing popularity and universal appeal of circus as part of our shared cultural heritage. What's more fun than a circus? Learning about the circus can be a fun thing to incorporate into a meeting, or just to prepare for a trip to the Big Top! Putting on their own circus is a delight for parents and girls alike. Get girls interested in the circus and see where their imaginations take them.

DAISY CIRCUS ACTIVITIES

OPENINGS:

Activity #1 - How many beans? – Need: empty glass jar filled with beans
Guess and estimate of the number of beans in the jar.

Activity #2 - Read a circus themed book

- Bach, Alice -- Millicent the Magnificent
- Berenstain, Stan -- C is for Clown
- Brunhoff, Larent de -- Babar's Little Circus Star
- Bushnell, Jack -- Circus of the Wolves
- Chwast, Seymour -- The Twelve Circus Rings
- Collington, Peter -- The Midnight Circus
- DuBois, William Pene -- The Great Geppy
- Ehlert, Lois -- Circus
- Ernest, Lisa Campbell -- Ginger Jumps
- Flack, Marjorie -- Wait for William
- Freeman, Don -- Bearymore
- Garland, Michael -- Circus Girl
- Goennel, Heidi -- The Circus
- Hillert, Margaret -- Circus Fun
- Maestro, Betsy -- Harriet Goes to the Circus
- Manushkin, Fran -- Hocus and Pocus at the Circus
- Mayer, Mercer -- Liverwurst is Missing
- Merveille, David -- Thomas, the Circus Boy
- Ostheeren, Ingrid -- Jonathan Mouse at the Circus
- Peet, Bill -- Randy's Dandy Lions
- Petersham, Maud -- The Circus Baby
- Quackenbush, Robert -- Detective Mole and the Circus Mystery
- Rascal -- Oregon's Journey
- Rounds, Glen -- The Day the Circus Came to Lone tree
- Schulz, Charles -- Life is a Circus, Charlie Brown
- Spier, Peter -- Peter Spier's Circus!
- Stidston, Jo -- Clowns
- Vincent, Gabrielle -- Ernest and Celestine at the Circus
- Wildsmith, Brian -- Brian Wildsmith's Circus

Activity #3 - Sing A Circus Song - *Walking Through The Circus*
(Sung To: "I've Been Working On the Railroad")

I am walking through the circus (walk in place)
Happy as can be (smile real big)
I am walking through the circus (walk in place)
Just to see, what I can see (make binoculars with hands)
I can see the clown laughing (ha, ha, ha)
I can see the elephant, too (make trunk motion)
I can see the lion sleeping (yawn)
Look out (make binoculars with hands)... because he sees you too

CRAFTS:

Cotton Candy

Start at the top of a empty paper towel roll and glue on pink or blue cotton balls. Cover about 3/4 of the roll. (To color cotton balls place in a baggie with powered tempera paint and shake)

Clown Hat

Materials needed: Construction paper, Colored paper, Gift ribbons, White glue or liquid glue, Pompom, Scotch tape, Scissors, Compass (optional)

Directions: Make a Basic Cone Hat with a radius of about 8 to 9 inches. Decorate your hat with bright-colored circles either by painting them on or gluing on circle cut-outs. Cut gift ribbons into 10 to 12-inch long pieces. Curl the ribbons by using a pair of scissors following these instructions. (Hold one end of the ribbon against a scissor's blade while supporting it firmly with your thumb. Pull the blade all the way down to the other end. Release the ribbon to reveal the curls). Tape the ribbons along the inner edge of the hat to make colorful hair. Fifteen to twenty curly ribbons would be sufficient to cover half of the hat's base. Glue a large pompom at the tip of the hat. Play music and let the children dance around and have a clown parade.

Mr & Mrs. Potato Head

Need: one potato or foam egg per girl. Miscellaneous items for decorations (google eyes, beads, yarn)

Directions: Use toothpicks to stick the items into the potato. Name the creatures when done.

Ringmaster Megaphone

Materials needed: black paper construction paper, paint, paper scraps etc.

Directions: Draw a cone shape on the black paper. Have girls decorate the shape, then fold into a megaphone shape. Tape or staple the megaphone closed.

Weightlifter Weights

Supplies needed: several packages of large and small disposable pie tins, glue, black paint, paintbrushes, scissors, paper towel tubes, and large wrapping paper tubes.

Directions: Trace around the end of the tubes onto the pie tins. Then, cut out the holes they have traced. Cover the edges of the holes with masking tape. Paint the cardboard tubes black. While the paint is drying, make the weights by gluing two pie plates of the same size together. Carefully slide the weights onto each end of the tube, glue the edges of the weights to the tube.

GAMES

Penny toss

Need: large tub with water, paper or plastic cereal bowls, Coins or tokens

Directions: try to toss coins into cereal bowls floating in a tub of water

Fish Pond

Need: large box or barrel. Cut out paper fish, large safety pins, glue, dowels, string, magnet

Directions: Fill the box or barrel with fish onto which are attached large safety pins. Try to hook fish with a "fishing pole" (long dowels with a piece of string attached to one end. Attach a magnet to the end of the string).

Bozo buckets

Need: Four large (KFC type buckets) or pails, Ping pong balls

Directions: Place four buckets on a piece of wood (or bench). Give each girl four ping pong balls to throw into bucket number 1, etc. Each bucket is labeled with a number. Add up the points, highest point total wins.

Tin Can "Shoot"

Need: Empty frozen juice cans, construction paper, water guns, water source

Directions: Cover the cans with construction paper and place them on a bench. Use the water guns to knock down empty frozen juice cans.

SNACKS

Cages for the Animals

Items needed: animal crackers, glue, pipe cleaners and foam food trays.

Directions: Glue the animal crackers to the trays (use frosting for glue, if the children will eat the cookies later) Glue pipe cleaners over the animals making sure the pipe cleaners run the length of the tray to resemble a cage. If you incorporate some yarn into the mix, you can string these cages together to look like a little circus caravan.

Clown Snack

Ingredients: Canned pear halves, grated cheese, raisin, cherry

Directions: Place a pear in the middle of a plate. Sprinkle grated cheese on the pear for hair. Add raisin eyes, a raisin mouth, and a cherry nose. Make a ruffle collar from a lettuce leaf.

Ice Cream Clowns

Ingredients: ice cream, ice cream cone (sugar cones), M&M's, chocolate sauce, mini marshmallows

Directions: Place a small scoop of ice cream on a plate, this is the head. Place cone upside down on the ice cream this is his hat. Use whatever you like to decorate. Use blueberries for the eyes or M&Ms. Use chocolate sauce for the hair and marshmallows for a pompom for his hat.

Circus Train

Ingredients: Peanut butter, graham crackers, banana slices, cheese (cut in triangle shape), small cracker

Directions: Spread peanut butter on a graham cracker, add two banana slices for wheels and a triangular piece of cheese for the front of the engine. Use a small cracker for the smoke stack.

CLOSING:

Silly Clowns - Form a circle and repeat the song below. Imitate the actions in the song. Repeat with four, three, two, one. Until all girls have left.

Five silly clowns, jumping all around
Jump so high, then touch the ground
One silly clown said: "I can't stay"
So she turned around and hopped away.

BROWNIE CIRCUS ACTIVITIES

OPENING:

Read A Circus Book – see listing in Daisy Girl Scout Opening Activities

Sing a Circus Song:

Funny Clowns - Sung to: "Frere Jacques"

Funny clowns, funny clowns,
Jump around, jump around.

Sometimes making faces,
Sometimes running races.

Funny clowns, funny clowns.

Funny clowns, funny clowns,
Spin around, spin around.

Sometimes with a big nose,
Sometimes with two big toes.

Funny clowns, funny clowns

Prancing Horses - Sung to: "10 Little Indians"

The children pretend to be circus animals.

Prancing, prancing, prancing horses,

Prancing, prancing, prancing horses,

Prancing, prancing, prancing horses

All around the ring.

Other Verses: Leaping lions, Dancing elephants, Etc...

CRAFTS

Circus Shoes

Materials needed: One pair of old non stretchy shoes (per girl), cardboard, newspaper, masking tape and glue.

Directions: Draw around child's feet (in old shoes) and extend the outline forward making it bigger and wider. Glue onto shoe. Scrunch up a ball of newspaper, tape onto cardboard in front of foot. Papier-mâché a shoe shape around cardboard and ball of newspaper. Use three or four layers over ball attaching it to shoe. Do a few layers over shoe as well. Last layer can be white paper then paint it a clowny color. Shoes will not be waterproof but will be fun!

Elephant Ears Headband

Materials Needed: Construction Paper, Crayons or Markers, Stapler or Tape

Directions: Using the construction paper, cut out a strip of paper about 2 inches thick and long enough to wrap around your fore head (make sure you make it an inch or two longer so you can staple the ends together.) Fold another piece of paper in half and cut out a set of large, floppy ears. Put the bottom edge of each ear up against the strip of paper and staple or tape them in place. Once the ears are attached, staple or tape the ends of the strip together to snugly fit around your fore head.

Temporary Tattoos

Materials: 1 Tbs. cold cream, 2 Tbs. cornstarch, 1 Tbs. water, Food coloring, Clean paint brush

Directions: Mix all ingredients stirring to mix well. Use a thin paintbrush to apply the tattoo.

GAMES

LION TAMER

Set up a hula hoop so it stands up securely. The player tries to throw a small stuffed lion or tiger (or bean bag) through the hoop. Decorate the hoop with colored paper to look like flames.

DRIVING THE SPUDS TO MARKET

Need: potatoes, brooms, masking tape (to make lanes on the floor)

Directions: Divide girls into teams. Each team is given a broom and a potato. Each team must sweep five potatoes from one end of the room to the other using only a household broom. Potatoes must stay within the lane.

MOUSE HOLES

Need: a cardboard box and three golf balls.

Directions: Turn the box, open side down. Cut 3 "mouse holes" on the bottom edge of the box. Use a piece of Tape to mark the starting point. The children roll the balls and attempt to get them into the holes. Cut the holes in various sizes for different skill levels.

CIRCUS ANIMAL PICNIC

Invite the children to bring their favorite stuffed animal. The animal should be one commonly found in a circus. Have a picnic on the floor or outside with each child's favorite animal. You can either pretend to eat, or have snack or lunch picnic style.

SNACKS

LION FACE

Ingredients: Pineapple slice, paper plates, shredded carrots, raisins, cherries

Directions: Place a pineapple slice on a paper plate. Spread shredded carrots around the pineapple for the lion's mane. Add two raisin eyes and cherry nose.

COOKIE CAROUSEL

Need: Oatmeal cookies (2 per carousel) frosting, animal crackers

Directions: Frost the bottom of both oatmeal cookies (you can use craft sticks instead of knives). Stand up animal crackers in a circle around the bottom cookies. Add the other cookie to the top (icing side down). Decorate the top of the cookie carousel with small candy

MONKEY SALAD

Need: bananas, raisins, peanuts, shredded coconut

Directions: Peel and slice bananas into a small dish, alternating with raisins and peanuts. Top off with shredded coconut.

CLOSING: The Hokey Pokey song:

You put your clown foot in
You take your clown foot out
You put your clown foot in
And you shake it all about

You do the hokey pokey
And you turn yourself about
That's what it's all about
You put your monkey tail in

You take your monkey tail out
You put your monkey tail in
And you shake it all about
You do the hokey pokey

And you turn yourself about
That's what it's all about
Continue with: elephant trunk, balancing pole, etc.

JUNIOR CIRCUS ACTIVITIES

OPENING

#1 - Read a Circus book:

Alcock, Vivien -- Travelers By Night
Cross, Gillian -- Great American Elephant Chase
Harvey, Dean -- The Secret Elephant of Harlan Kooter
Hughes, Dean -- Jelly's Circus
Johnson, Lois -- The Runaway Clown
Otis, James -- Toby Tyler, or, Ten Weeks With a Circus
Perl, Lila -- Tybee Trimble's Hard Times
Smucker, Barbara -- Incredible Jumbo: A Novel
York, Carol Beach -- Miss Know It All and the Three-Ring Circus

#2- Learn a Circus poem

The Acrobats By Shel Silverstein

I'll swing
By my ankles,
She'll cling
To your knees
As you hang
By your nose
From a high-up
Trapeze.

But just one thing, please,
As we float through the breeze--
DON'T SNEEZE!!!!

CRAFTS

STILTS

Needed: two empty tin cans per girl, rope, masking tape, tin-can opener

Directions: Punch two holes on either side of each can, near the bottom. Measure a piece of rope so it is the appropriate length for children. Thread one end of the rope into each hole and secure with a knot. To walk on stilts, girls stand on the cans, holding the rope in their hands. It's not easy, they will need practice! (add masking tape to the edge of the can so it is not sharp)

JUGGLING BALLS

What you need: 6 round balloons, 1 bag of lentils (or dry peas), Scissors , Teaspoon

Directions: Cut the necks off each balloon and using your spoon, fill three of the balloons with lentils. Tie the end. Use the other three balloons to stretch over-top the balloons filled with lentils. Tie these ends also. You should have three of your very own juggling balls.

SHELF ELEPHANT

Need: one large Styrofoam ball, one smaller Styrofoam ball, four empty thread spools, one piece of flat Styrofoam (approx 6"x6"), gray paint, paint brush, sandpaper

Directions: Use one large ball to make the body of the elephant. Paint it gray, and at the same time, paint four empty thread spools gray. Glue the large ball onto the four spools to create the legs and body. Glue a smaller, gray Styrofoam ball onto the large ball to make the head. Cut two small slabs of Styrofoam for the ears. Shape these slabs by using sandpaper Cut a "j" shape from the Styrofoam to make the trunk.

GAMES

CIRCUS TRIVIA

1. Place where circus performs
2. Number of rings in a traditional circus
3. Person who goes into the lion's cage
4. Famous cartoon elephant
5. How circuses used to travel
6. Who started the "Greatest Show on Earth"?
7. Snack with caramel or candy coating
8. Another name for a circus tent
9. Elephants love these with the shell on
10. People who fly through the air
11. Performers with great balance
12. Person in charge of the circus
13. Sugary spun treat

answers: 1. Tent, 2. Three, 3. Lion tamer, 4. Dumbo, 5. By train, 6. P.T. Barnum, 7. Apples, 8. Big Top, 9. Peanuts, 10. Acrobats, 11. Tightrope walkers, 12. Ringmaster, 13. Cotton candy

TIGHT ROPE WALKING

Place masking tape on the floor, or tape a piece of yarn onto the floor for the children to walk along, while pretending they are a tight rope walker.

RING OF FIRE

Hang red and orange streamers from a hula hoop. Girls can be lions and tigers as they jump through the ring of fire.

JUGGLING

Pick up one ball and toss it in the air. The ball should rise just a few inches above your head. Keep tossing it in the air until you're able to catch it with the same hand. Pick up a second ball and hold one in each hand. Throw the ball in your right hand in an arc to your left hand. When the first ball is at the highest point of the arc, throw the left ball in an arc from the left hand to the right hand. Catch the first ball in your left hand and the second ball in your right. Try that a few more times until you feel comfortable. Keep a smooth, continuous motion with the two balls so that one is always in the air. Juggling with 3 Balls - Hold two balls in one hand and one ball in the other. Start juggling with two balls. When the second ball is in mid-air, throw the third ball into the air. Watch your arches, don't lose eye contact. Once you get all three balls in motion, you'll be a juggling master in no time.

ACROSTIC POEM

Write an acrostic poem about the circus. Begin each line with a word that starts with the letter on that line.

C _____
I _____
R _____
C _____
U _____
S _____

SNACKS

CANDY APPLES

What you need: 4 apples, 4 popsicle sticks, 1 cup granulated sugar, 1/2 cup water, 1/4 cup corn syrup, 1/4 teaspoon red food coloring, Medium saucepan, Wooden spoon, Wax paper

Directions: Wash the apples, remove the core stem and insert the popsicle stick where the stem used to be. Put the sugar, water, and syrup into the saucepan and cook it on medium heat until the sugar dissolves (about 8-10 minutes). Stir it and bring it to a boil. Keep it at this high temperature for about 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the burner and add the food coloring. Dip each apple into the syrup mixture so that it's fully covered. After you dip each apple, set it on a wax sheet of paper. Let the apples cool for about an hour and then enjoy!

CIRCUS RECIPES

Big Top Recipes for Little People: The Big Apple Circus Official Cookbook for Kids and Would-Be Clowns by Favorite Recipes Press

OLD FASHIONED CRACKER JACKS

Need: 4 quarts of already popped popcorn, 1/2 cup margarine, 1 tablespoon molasses; 1/3 cup honey, peanuts, small toys (optional)

Directions: Melt margarine or butter in a heavy pan. Add to this the molasses and honey. Mix into the popcorn. Add peanuts. Spread mixture in a greased pan and bake for 12 minutes at 350 degrees. Stir once. Let the cracker jacks cool and serve in paper cups. Add a small prize to each if you want

CADETTE, SENIOR & AMBASSADOR CIRCUS ACTIVITIES

1. Common Circus Acts: listed here are many common circus acts. Use these ideas to develop your own circus activities. You may want to present a circus for younger girls.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| - acrobatics | - globe rolling | - knife throwing |
| - gymnastics | - clowns | - magic |
| - tightrope walking | - stunts | - sword swallowing |
| - trapeze | - human cannonball | - strongman |
| - juggling | - fire eating, breathing, and | - lion tamers |
| - plate spinning | dancing | - trained elephant |

2. Investigate clown college. Find out *How to Become a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Clown*.

3. How do you feel about this statement from PETA? "Bears, elephants, tigers, and other animals do not voluntarily ride bicycles, stand on their heads, balance on balls, or jump through rings of fire. They don't perform these and other difficult tricks because they want to; they perform them because they're afraid of what will happen if they don't." Hold a debate in your troop/group examining this issue.

4. Visit the Barnum Museum in Hartford Connecticut. (242 Newbury Street, Hartford CT 06114 860-956-9500 Fax: 860-956-7820). Or take an on-line tour of the Barnum Museum.

5. Circus music is any sort of music that is played to accompany a circus, and music written that emulates its general style. The most well known circus marches are *Entrance of the Gladiators* by Julius Fučík (known to some as *Thunder and Blazes*), and *Barnum and Bailey's Favorite* by Karl King. Also, '*Sobre las Olas*', or '*Over the Waves*', used during trapeze shows. One piece, normally not played is John Philip Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*. It is used in emergencies, such as animals getting loose, to help signify to workers that something is wrong. Listen to these selections & become familiar with circus music.