



# THE BLACKPOOL TOWER TEACHER'S TOOLKIT



A plan for an inspirational and educational visit to  
The Blackpool Tower Circus.



[www.theblackpooltower.com](http://www.theblackpooltower.com)

# DEAR TEACHER

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

No preparation is required; all resources are provided in this handy document which can be downloaded prior to your 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 are visiting the Eye or the Ballroom too, you can download our full toolkit with activities for all our attractions!

If you've not yet booked your visit, head online to [www.theblackpooltower.com](http://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@merlinentertainments.biz](mailto:guestservices.theblackpooltower@merlinentertainments.biz)

The worksheets are included at the end of this document. 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!

The following activities have been created in collaboration with the award-winning education agency [Shapes For Schools](http://www.shapesforschools.com).

[www.shapesforschools.com](http://www.shapesforschools.com)



# 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 Cairolì? **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:

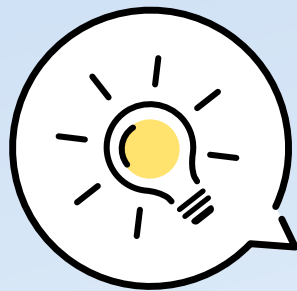
Take some time in the interval and at the end of the show to use the Wordbank provided to try to extend your vocabulary as you describe your sensory experience of the circus. These words will help you write a descriptive piece when you return to the classroom.



## 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.

I CAN SMELL...

I CAN TASTE...

I CAN SEE...

I CAN TOUCH...

I CAN HEAR...



## 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





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The Blackpool Tower  
*Ballroom*



 THE  
BLACKPOOL  
TOWER

Visiting the Tower Eye or Ballroom too? Download  
our full toolkit for all the attractions online!



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