

Timeline of Key Events.

- 1768 – Philip Astley founded the modern circus in London using horses
- 1782 – Astley opened Paris's first circus
- 1793 – USA opened its first circus
- 1825 – A canvas tent (big top) replaced the traditional wooden circus
- 1835 – Elephants and other animals were introduced to the circus
- 1836 – The idea of the American circus tent was introduced in England
- 1871 – Circus trains to transport the circus around the country were introduced
- 1927 – Moscow Circus School was established
- 1944 – A fire in a circus tent in America was perceived as one of the worst fire disasters in the history of America
- 1984 – Cirque du Soleil was founded
- 2009 – Bolivia was the first country to ban the use of wild and domesticated animals in the circus
- 2011 – Peru was the second country to ban wild animals in the circus
- 2017 – Ireland banned wild animals in the circus
- 2018 – Scotland's ban on wild animals in the circus came into effect
- 2019 – Wales to ban wild animals in the circus
- 2020 – England to ban wild animals in the circus.



Philip Astley

The modern circus was developed in England by the son of a cabinetmaker. In 1768, Astley settled in London and opened a riding-school near Westminster Bridge, where he taught riding in the morning and performed acts on his horse in the afternoon.

Circus Acts - Past and Present



Ringmaster



Clown



Trapeze artist



Lion tamer



Elephant trainer



Magician

Prior Learning

- Creating a timeline in chronological order.
- Comparing the past and present, and recognising similarities and differences.
- Using everyday language relating to time.

Vocabulary Dozen

Performance / performer	The act of presenting a show / The person who entertains the audience.
Entertain / entertainer	To provide amusement or enjoyment / A person whose job it is to provide it.
Audience	A group of people that listen to or watch the performance.
Ringmaster	A person whose job is to introduce the performers and talk to the audience.
Unicycle	A vehicle which has a single wheel and usually pedals.
Tightrope	A rope or wire stretched tight on which an acrobat performs.
Trapeze	A short horizontal bar hung from two parallel ropes and used by acrobats.
Magician	A person skilled in performing tricks or illusions.
Juggler	A person who can throw several objects into the air and catch them.
Acrobat	A person skilful at performing stunts.
Parade	A large number of people or vehicles moving in the same direction
Balance	To maintain a steady position so as not to fall.

Ideas to think about...

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- If you worked in a circus, what act would you like to do? Why?
- Create a new act for the circus.
- Is it right or not that animals are part of a circus? Discuss and share your opinions.
- Learn to do some juggling or a magic trick.