

CIRCUSES AROUND THE WORLD

Overview:

In this lesson, learners will explore six different circuses from around the world. They will compare and contrast what they learn about international circuses to what they already know about circuses in the U.S.

What You Need:

- Internet access for research purposes
- Books about the circus
- Chart paper
- Globe or world map

Teaching Strategy:

- In this lesson, learners can research independently or use material presented to them. Evaluate your class's abilities in preparing for this lesson. If necessary, locate resources for learners and allow them to read and present to the class. This can be done by executing a simple internet search and printing out articles for learners to read.

What to Do:

- Divide the class into six groups and assign each group an international circus. Learners in each group will be responsible to present information to their classmates. The six circuses are:
 - Moscow Circus (Russia)
 - Kinoshita Circus (Japan)

- Brian Boswell's Circus (South Africa)
- Circo Para Todos (Colombia)
- Silver's Circus (Australia)
- Cirque d'hiver Bouglione (France)

- Give each group time to learn about what its circus looks like and some of its history. As they conduct research, have learners fill out the study sheet so they will be prepared to present. Learners should be able to share important and unique facts about the assigned circus with the rest of the class.
- Each small group will present what it learned to the class. Learners should put a sticky note with the name of their circus on its location on the map or globe.
- As learners draw comparisons between international and U.S. circuses, it may be useful to note their ideas on chart paper in two columns or a U.S./International Venn diagram.

Extensions:

- Design circus posters and advertisements for the international circuses based on the information learners find.
- Learners can create their own world circus by combining elements from the different circuses they studied.