

The History of Circuses

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17 put on shows. They often perform in large
25 tents and travel from place to place with
32 their acts. The acts often include clowns,
39 jugglers, tight rope walkers and horse riding.

47 Philip Astley created one of the first modern
55 circuses in 1768. His circus only had trick
62 riders until 1777. Then, he added other
67 acts. These included musicians, acrobats
75 and a clown called Mr Merryman. The circus
82 grew in popularity. Astley opened a wooden
89 building for the circus called the Royal
92 Amphitheatre in 1795.

98 Travelling circuses became popular in the
105 early 19th century. Circus groups began to
113 use large canvas tents known as 'big tops'.
120 They soon became popular in many places
127 around the world. enjoy going the the
129 circus today.

Questions



1. Who created one of the first circuses?



2. What does the word **popular** mean?



3. Why do you think circuses started to travel from place to place?



4. Number these facts from 1-3 to show the order that they appear in the text.

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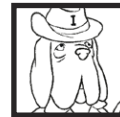
Answers



1. Who created one of the first circuses?
Philip Astley created one of the first circuses.



2. What does the word **popular** mean?
The word 'popular' means something that is well liked by a lot of people.



3. Why do you think circuses started to travel from place to place?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that circuses started to travel so more people could see the show.



4. Number these facts from 1-3 to show the order that they appear in the text.
- 3** Circus groups started to use large canvas tents.
 - 1** Philip Astley's circus began with only trick riders.
 - 2** Astley opened a wooden building for the circus called the Royal Amphitheatre.