



Circus Lingo - Crossword

Grade Levels 4-6

This classroom activity is based on The “Big Top” Show Goes On: An Oral History of Occupations Inside and Outside the Canvas Circus Tent. It is provided courtesy of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program (OOHRP) at the Oklahoma State University Library.

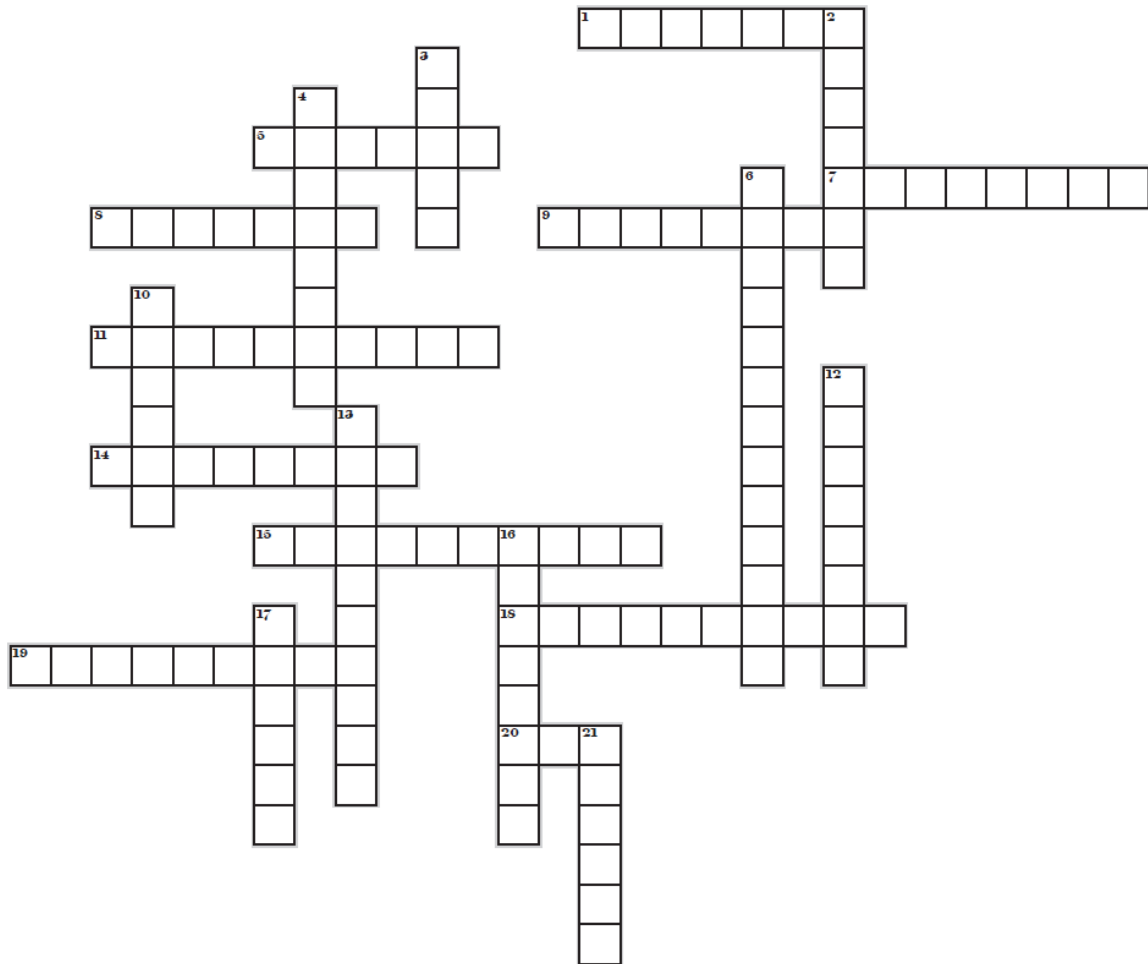
Formally established in 2007, the OOHRP has collected and preserved firsthand accounts from individuals who have witnessed historic moments. The program explores the lives and contributions of Oklahomans from all walks of life.

The “Big Top” Show Goes On is one of many projects undertaken by the OOHRP. This oral history project aims to preserve the voices and experiences of those involved with the work culture associated with Hugo, Oklahoma’s tent circus tradition. Many circuses have called Hugo home through the years, but only three currently remain. As the number of traditional tent circuses dwindles, their continued existence in Oklahoma is a testament to the dedication this circus community has for providing a magical experience to be shared by people of all ages. Made possible by a 2011 Archie Green Fellowship from the American Folklife Center, oral history transcripts, recordings, and images from this project are available not only at the OSU Library in Stillwater but also the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

The OOHRP invites you to explore the website (www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/circus) and learn more about Hugo, Oklahoma’s connection to the circus.

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Grade Levels 4-6



Across

1. Striking a pose while performing
5. The location the actual show takes place (2 words)
7. A person who entertains the audience using magic tricks
8. Someone who sells things at the circus
9. An old fashioned musical instrument
11. Someone who hangs advertisements for the show (2 words)
14. Where preparations are made for the show (2 words)
15. Person who oversees the operation (2 words)
18. The visible leader of the circus
19. Person that swings through the air
20. Performances within the circus

Down

2. Someone who makes sure the animals look nice
3. The jokester of the circus
4. Performances before and after the main show (2 words)
6. Person who is extremely flexible
10. Where one would find concession stands and rides
12. A portable toilet
13. The best seats in the tent.
16. Riding style with no saddle
17. A mobile convenient store (2 words)
21. People not involved with the circus

Answer Key

Across

1. **STYLING**—Striking a pose while performing
5. **BIGTOP**—The location where the actual show takes place (2 words)
7. **MAGICIAN**—A person who entertains the audience using magic tricks.
8. **BUTCHER**—Someone who sells things at the circus
9. **CALLIOPE**—An old fashioned musical instrument
11. **BILLPOSTER**—Someone who hangs advertisements for the show. (2 words)
14. **BACKYARD**—Where preparations are made for the show. (2 words)
15. **CANVASBOSS**—Person who oversees the operation. (2 words)
18. **RINGMASTER**—The visible leader of the circus
19. **AERIALIST**—Person that swings through the air
20. **ACT**—Performances within the circus

Down

2. **GROOMER**—Someone who makes sure the animals look nice
3. **CLOWN**—The jokester of the circus
4. **SIDESHOW**—Performances before and after the main show (2 words)
6. **CONTORTIONIST**—Person who is extremely flexible
10. **MIDWAY**—Where one would find concession stands and rides
12. **DONNIKER**—A portable toilet
13. **GRANDSTAND**—The best seats in the tent.
16. **BAREBACK**—Riding style with no saddle
17. **PIECAR**—a mobile convenient store (2 words)
21. **TOWNER**—People not involved with the circus