



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Maze Benchmark

Grade 8

Student Materials

Name: _____

Date: _____

Practice Passage

Tom goes to a school far from his house. Every morning, he
takes a school _____ to go to school. In the _____, he also
takes a bus home.



Correct: _____


Incorrect: _____

Adjusted Score: _____

The Circus


A circus is a traveling group of skilled performers comprised of jugglers, acrobats, tightrope walkers, equestrians, animal tamers, strongmen, clowns and others. A circus typically moves around a _____ in any single country and sometimes _____ all over the world. Circus performers _____ their acts in the middle of _____ big tent called the Big Top. _____ middle part of the tent is _____ the ring. The Ringmaster is the _____ in charge of all the acts _____ take place in the ring.

The _____ circus was invented by a man _____ Great Britain named Sergeant-Major Philip Astley. _____ was a British military veteran and _____ skilled horse-trainer who had performed equestrian _____ all over Europe. Finally, he settled _____ London, _____ where he opened his own _____. Since the theater had a circular _____ for galloping

Keep going 

horses, it became known a “circus.” To bring in bigger , Astley began to hire rope-walkers, jugglers, acrobats. He also hired clowns to people laugh between the acts. Soon opened another circus in Paris. He found a sure-fire way of attracting thrilling large audiences. Many other circus sprang up all over Europe around same time. Since most of the did not rely on speech for dramatic effect, a circus could move from country to country, bypassing the language barriers.

When the circus concept to the United States early in nineteenth century, it was done in whole different way. Instead of a theater inside a building, the American had a big tent. That was the circuses were

Keep going 

designed to travel wagon all around the country. Also, American imported
elephants and lions from Africa used them to draw larger crowds. the end of
the nineteenth century, traveled mostly by train and they by far the
most popular form entertainment in America.

“Barnum and Bailey” the name of a famous circus began around
that time, featuring large from India and Africa as well three rings
instead of one. A of brothers started their own circus compete with Barnum
and Bailey, calling the Ringling Brothers. Later these brothers
out the Barnum and Bailey Circus. was a lot of work for because they had
to run two . Finally, they made the two circuses one circus and called

Keep going



it the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The combined prospered for many years, but it ran into
problems. A big fire the circus tent at one show the Ringling Brothers a huge
lawsuit. tent was not safe because it not flame proof and the court
the Ringling Brothers to be negligent. cost all the money they made
the next ten years from their to pay the resulting fines. After the circus did
well for many years, but it could not compete the new circuses and new
attractions as Disney World. In the end, Ringling Brothers closed their
famous circus. Nowadays, most people only know what a circus is like from reading books
and watching old movies.

