

That's Entertainment!

Term

Autumn

Year

4



A study on the history, location, content and appeal of a range of entertainment styles

Background

The children will develop their knowledge of how people are entertained and changes that have happened through time. They will look closely at fairgrounds, circuses, theatres, magic, cinemas and the use of animals.

By the end of the unit

The children will:
Learn about the history of fairgrounds and circuses.
Master some circus skills and magic tricks.
Discuss and debate the use of animals for entertainment, be it in zoos, circuses, hunting, racing or shows e.g. Crufts.
Use maps to locate famous theatres around the country, particularly The West End, London.
Identify the traditions, features and content of pantomimes.
Investigate structures to create a Big Top pavilion.



Key dates / events / individuals

1539 First horse racing meeting at Chester Racecourse

1782 Opening of The Royal Circus by Charles Dibdin & Charles Hughes

1843 Theatres Act allowed for the expansion of West End theatres

1897-1902 Barnum & Bailey - Greatest Show on Earth

1891 First Crufts Dog Show

1927 The Moscow Circus School opened

Late 1990s Digital motion pictures took over from 'reel to reel' cinematography

2000 Opening of The Lowry Theatre, Salford

2005 Fox hunting banned in England and Wales

2017 Opening of The Storyhouse Theatre, Chester

Vocabulary

pavillion

a large tent with a peak and used at a show or fair.

tiered seating

Seating where the seats at the back are higher than those at the front.

pantomime

A theatrical performance mainly for children involving jokes and slapstick based on a fairytale or nursery story.

digital cinematography

The process of filming a motion picture rather than using film stock

improvisation

Something that is improvised, performed spontaneously without preparation

conjure

Cause something to appear by means of magic.

legerdemain

Skillful use of one's hands when performing conjouring tricks.

box office

A place at a theatre, cinema etc. where tickets are bought or reserved.

