

The History of the CIRCUS

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Philip Astley started the first modern circus in London in about

- 1 **1782.** **1830.** **1870.** **1770.**

He gave horse displays accompanied by acrobats, musicians and a

- 2 **comedian.** **comic.** **clown.** **choir.**

Charles Hughes first used the word

- 3 **circus** **circle** **circular** **concentric**

in 1782. The American circus first saw

- 4 **a giraffe** **a lion** **a tiger** **an elephant**

in 1796. Aaron Turner had the first circus tent called a

- 5 **marquee** **large tent** **small bottom** **big top**

in 1830. In 1871 Barnum's 'Greatest Show on Eath' was the first circus to travel by

- 6 **lorry** **bus** **train** **plane**

as it was much easier than using horse drawn transport. Other American circuses soon followed this idea.

Section B

- 1 Where does the word 'circus' come from?

- 2 Why did Philip Astley hold his performances in a ring?

- 3 Who was the first man to put his head inside a lion's mouth?

- 4 What is a menagerie?

- 5 Why do you think P.T. Barnum called his circus 'The Greatest Show on Earth'?

- 6 What does the word 'mime' mean? Why did most clowns mime?

- 7 What does a traditional circus programme usually include?

- 8 Why do you think 'wild animal acts are less popular than they once were'?

- 9 Why do you think 'audiences were startled by the Zacchini Family's human cannonball act'?

Section C

Write a short newspaper report describing to your readers exactly what happened to 'Jumbo the Circus Elephant'.