

FOR THE STUDENT



Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies II (CARS Series II) is a reading series that gives you practice with 12 reading strategies. You will complete four reading lessons. Each lesson has a reading passage and 12 questions about the passage. Each question helps you practise a certain reading strategy.

Once you have completed the four lessons, you will complete a self-assessment. This self-assessment will help you see how well you did.

Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies II will help you become a better reader. You will also better understand what to look for as you read. This will help you get the most from your reading.

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Here is an article that tells about a popular event. Read the article.
Then do Numbers 1 through 12.

The Greatest Show on Earth

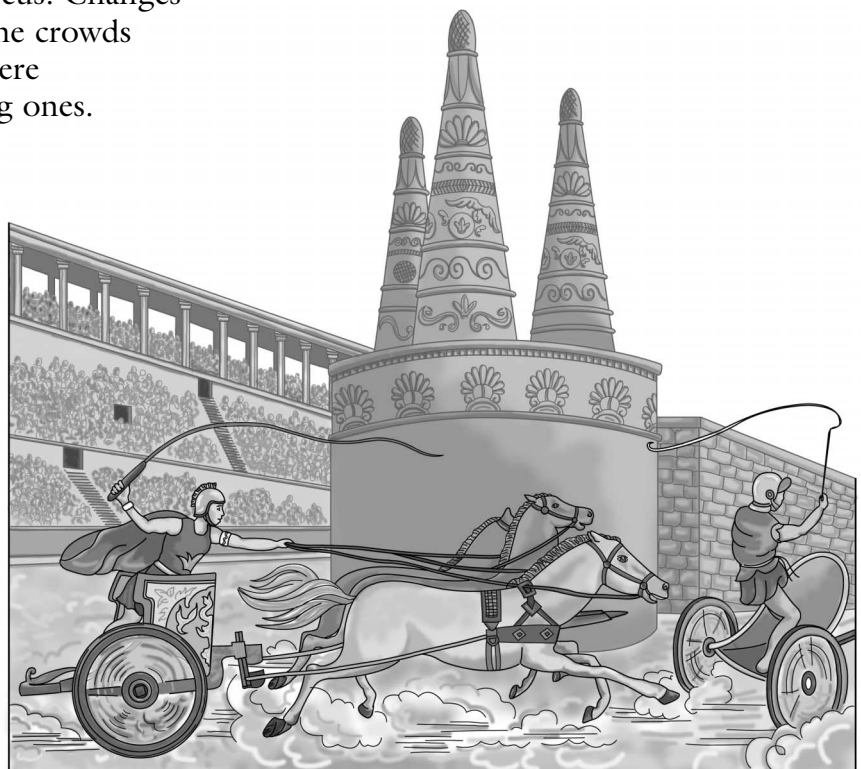
The circus has pleased audiences all over the world for over 2000 years. When most people think of the circus, clowns, popcorn and elephants come to mind. But the first circuses were very different than those today.

The idea for the circus began in Europe and Asia. Many people enjoyed parties, games and animal hunts. They decided to combine these fun events into one. It is believed that the first such event was called the Circus Maximus.

The Circus Maximus was actually the name of a building in Rome. People gathered there to be entertained. The building was shaped like a circle, had no roof and could seat 200,000 people. The name Circus Maximus means 'large circle'.

Chariot races were the most popular game at the Circus Maximus. The chariots were open carts with two wheels. Chariots were drawn by horses. One or two riders stood in the cart and guided the horses. Between races, acrobats, horse riders and tightrope walkers performed for the crowd.

The Circus Maximus remained popular for many years. In time, however, people became bored with the circus. Changes were then made to keep the crowds interested. Many events were replaced with new, exciting ones. Now the circus included animal acts and performers who could do tricks and stunts.





Hundreds of years later in England, Philip Astley created an indoor horse show. People came from all over England to see Astley perform horse tricks. Astley soon decided that he needed more acts in his show. He added tumblers, a clown and performers who did rope acts. Astley's circus quickly became famous. His circus travelled to other countries, including France and Russia.

John Ricketts started the first American circus in 1793. Ricketts's circus was similar to Astley's circus. It included riders, clowns, tumblers and wire walkers. One of the most popular acts was Ricketts himself. He rode a horse that jumped over ten other horses. Even George Washington went to see Ricketts perform. Washington enjoyed the show so much that he presented Ricketts with a horse.

Soon, more and more circuses opened throughout the United States. Circuses needed to travel in order to get new audiences. Travelling long distances with many people and animals was slow and difficult. At that time, the only way to travel was by wagon.

Things changed by 1850. That's when railways were built across the country. Now, circuses could travel by train with ease. They became even more popular, and new ones opened up all over the country. As many as 100 circuses travelled through the United States at one time.

