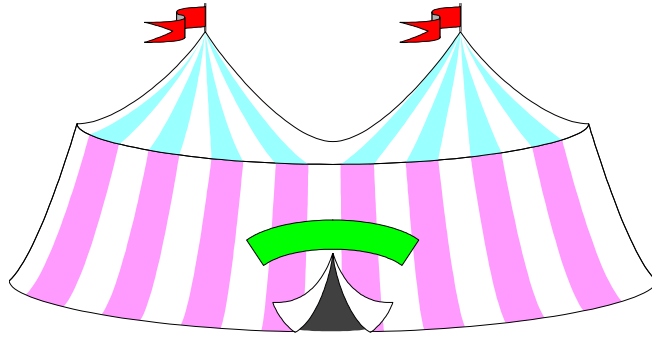


# Roly's Circus comes to Town



"Roll up! Roll up!" shouted Roly the ringmaster. "Come to the best circus in town. We've got so much to see; crazy clowns, perky penguins, elegant elephants, dancing horses and lots lots more."

"Come on mum, come on dad," pleaded Charlie and Emma. "We can't miss this chance, the circus only visits once a year."

"Oh alright then," sighed their parents as they joined the back of the long queue. Eventually the family were in their seats waiting for the show to begin.

The family were all sitting in a row. Emma was sitting in seat number 11. What could Charlie's seat number be?

The lights went out and the music began. The audience clapped and cheered as Coco the clown cart-wheeled onto the stage in his brightly coloured coat and enormous shoes.



Charlie nudged Emma. "Look at Coco's jacket! His buttons have all popped off and they're all on the floor." Roly the Ringmaster spotted this too and quickly picked up the six buttons before Eliza the elephant crushed them.

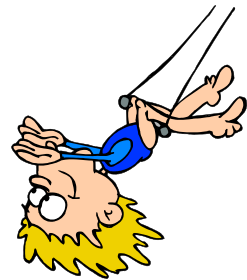
Two of the buttons were red, three were blue and one was green. Can you help Coco the clown put the buttons back on his jacket? There are lots of patterns you could make. (Try to use coloured cubes or counters to help you design your patterns).



The next act was the P-P-P-Perky Penguin family. Paul Penguin, Priscilla Penguin and Peter Penguin waddled in flapping their wings from side to side. They took up their positions opposite Roly the Ringmaster who was holding a big bucket full of fish. He threw a fish high up into the air, all the penguins leapt up, but only one of them managed to catch it.

Roly had twelve fish in his bucket at the start of the act and all of them were caught by the penguins. How many fish did each penguin catch? How many ways can you solve this problem? (Try acting, drawing a picture or using apparatus to help you.)

Tanya the Trapeze artist was so busy somersaulting in the air that she didn't notice how high she was swinging. As she went down the rope-ladder at the end of her act, she didn't notice the swing catch hold of the bunting and pull it to the floor. Roly looked on in dismay as his circus tent no longer looked bright and colourful.



Mrs Roly was secretly pleased as she thought the bunting was beginning to get a bit tatty. She went back to her caravan and got out her sewing machine and box of material. When she opened the box of material, she was disappointed to find that she only had red material left. She knew that Roly's favourite shape was a triangle but she didn't want all the triangles to be the same size and shape. How many different sorts of red triangles can you make to help Mrs Roly?



The last act before the interval was Desdemona the dancing horse. She trotted in time to the music looking beautiful and elegant, her mane and plaited tail gleaming in the spotlight.

Maurice the Musician was getting tired of playing the same old tune every evening. Maurice invented a tune that had beats from a drum, clashes from a cymbal and tings from a triangle. Can you work out the tune Maurice could be playing? Can you work out a way of writing this down so Maurice doesn't forget it?

Sharon ran in with her shaker asking if she could join in too. Can you make up a tune that includes shakes from Sharon's shaker?

The lights blazed on at the beginning of the interval and Carl the Candyfloss man wheeled in his squeaky trolley. Charlie scrambled down the stairs clutching some coins in his hand. He paid for his candyfloss using one silver coin and two copper coins.



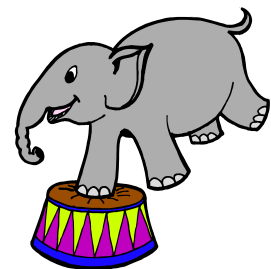
How much could the candyfloss have cost? (Can you find more than one answer?) How much would it cost for two sticks of candyfloss?

Charlie and Emma licked their sticky lips as they settled down in their seats for the second half of the show.



The first act was Sidney the Strongman. Charlie and Emma held their breath as he lifted the enormous weights above his head. He lifted sixteen weights altogether, how many could have been on each side of the bar?

Next came the balancing elephants. They paraded around the ring while the audience clapped. Roly the ringmaster snapped his fingers and all the elephants stepped onto their platforms. There was a loud drum roll and the elephants performed their balancing trick to see how many of them could balance on one platform.



Daddy elephant weighs 4 ellos, mummy elephants weighs 2 ellos and baby elephants weigh 1 ello. The platform can take the weight of ten ellos. Can you find a group of elephants that weigh ten ellos? There is more than one answer. How many different groups can you find?

The show was coming to a close. All the animals and performers marched into the ring to take a bow. The audience stood up and cheered. Charlie and Emma talked about their favourite acts all the way home in the car and couldn't wait for the circus to visit again next year.

Try and design a circus problem of your own for your friend to solve.