

# Oh, Seuss! Off to Great Places™

activity 5

## Under the Big Top




"If I Ran the Circus" things would be quite fancy! Pink feathery dragons would all be quite dance-y, While flying trapez-ers with glittery hair Would jump on the dragons, and soar through the air 'Neath my humongous tent-top of chartreuse and gold! You're making a circus as well, I am told! That's so great! You're so clever! I can't wait to see How amazing *your* very own circus will be!!!  
**So join us today—you're sure to have fun As you make your own circus, look for Ring Number One!**



Exhibition developed by  
**eMOM**  
Children's Museum of Manhattan

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### Did you know?

-  Dr. Seuss often claimed that he couldn't really draw, and that this was the reason that he drew such strange looking animals.
-  A circus tent and all of the other equipment used to operate a circus can usually be set up and taken down within a few hours.
-  The Ringling Brothers Circus operates a retirement facility for elephants! The retired elephants are housed in Florida.

### What you'll need

- Paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- String
- Tape
- Glue
- Cardboard box or poster board
- Other recyclable odds and ends

### Mop up these Resources

Books by Dr. Seuss:  
*If I Ran the Zoo*  
*McElligot's Pool*  
*I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew*  
*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*


Web sites:  
[www.circusnews.com](http://www.circusnews.com)




*"This way! Step right in! This way, ladies and gents! My Side Show starts here in the first of my tents. When you see what goes on, you'll say no other circus is Half the great circus the Circus McGurkus is."*—Dr. Seuss

### Try It!


Dr. Seuss' book, *If I Ran the Circus*, tells about the dreams of a young boy named Morris McGurk who would like to clean up a vacant lot behind the local store and build a circus there. Morris imagines all sorts of amazing acts that will be part of his circus, Circus McGurkus.


 What is a circus? Have you ever been to a circus? At a circus, you can see many wonderful and amazing things, things you might not ever have seen elsewhere.

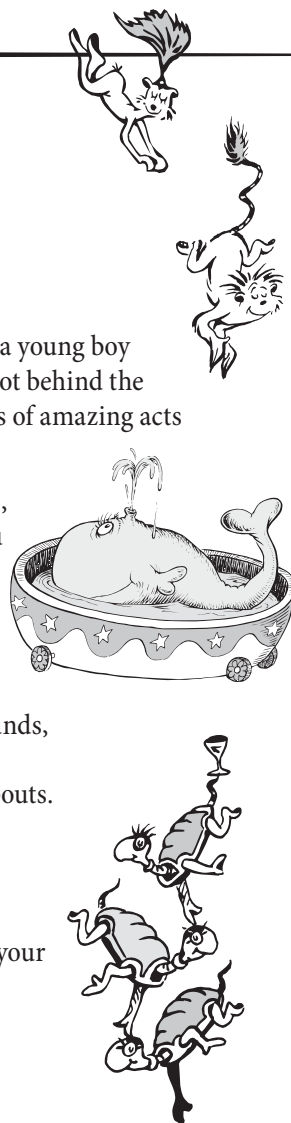
 In Morris McGurkus' Circus, there's:  
A lion who's partly a trout,  
"Wily Walloo who can throw his long tail as a sort of lasso"  
A beast whose teeth are so big that they weigh at least 60 pounds,  
Horn-tooting apes who all play together on a trumpet for 10,  
And whales who hurl people back and forth between their spouts.

### Imagine it!

Your job today is to dream like Morris McGurk did! Design your own circus with all sorts of amazing creatures and tricks. Think about balancing, music-making, twirling and daring. Think about fantasy, feats, and flying. Go wild with your imagination!

 Now that you've imagined your circus, draw a plan. Decide what acts you'll have, who will perform, how will your circus tents be arranged. Or write a book like Dr. Seuss did to illustrate your circus.

 And after you've designed your circus, build a three-dimensional model of your circus using recycled materials. Build your circus on a platform of cardboard so that it is easy to transport. Think about how quickly the circus can usually be set up and taken down. How will you make your circus easy to set up? What will you call your circus?



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