



Circus Trapeze Mobile

Who is daring enough to imagine soaring on the flying trapeze? Children create and color their own circus characters, and then combine them in a mobile to make stunning Circus Trapezes!

Group

Mini Club Med/Ages 4-11

Materials Needed

Colored Pencils Classpack™ Assortment
construction paper
Crayon Classpack™ Assortment
dowel sticks (11" and 18" lengths)
Glitter Glue
Markers
raffia
School Glue
Scissors
white paper

Safety Guidelines

Age recommendation for this craft: 4 years and older

- Close adult supervision is required to ensure children's safety.
- **ATTENTION:** The cutting edges of scissors are sharp and care should be taken whenever cutting or handling. Adult supervision is recommended with all children.
- **⚠ WARNING: CHOKING HAZARD**—Small parts. Not for children younger than 3 years. Not intended for use as face/skin paint.
- By its nature, wood is rough and may contain splinters.

Prepare the Room

1. Choose a book about circuses. Prepare to read it to the children, using voices and gestures that emphasize the story and help children understand any new words and concepts.
2. Create your own Circus Trapeze! Illustrate funny circus characters.



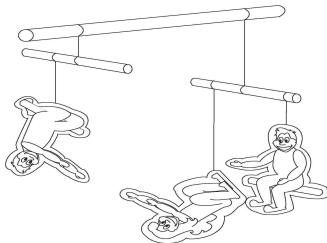
3. Display books and images with circus themes. Set out art materials for children to help themselves.

Set the Scene for Children 8 to 10 minutes

- Read the book. Talk about different roles people play at the circus.
- Has anyone attended the Club Med Circus School? Ask children to share their experience with the group.
- Look at the pictures on display. Show children a sample circus mobile. What figures will they make?
- Remember that for some children, Club Med kids staff may be their very first formal art teachers! Demonstrate or explain art techniques for young artists

Art Directions 30 to 40 minutes

1. With markers, decorate one or more dowel sticks with bright circus colors!
2. Create paper circus characters using exciting colors and details. Cut out characters and glue each onto construction paper. Cut a border of color around each character.
3. Add sparkle to performers' costumes with Glitter Glue! Air-dry the glue.
4. Glue raffia or string to the back of each character.
5. Assemble your mobile. For a balancing challenge, hang two short dowels from a longer dowel. Attach several characters to each "trapeze." See diagram.
6. Balance the act! Watch your performers swing and twirl! Adjust positions as necessary.



After the Project 8 to 10 minutes



- Play circus music while children share their mobiles with each other. Talk about the interesting variations in characters, body positions, colors, and patterns the group came up with.
- Try posing in the various body positions children illustrated in their circus characters. Walk like any animals depicted.



Skill-Level Variations

- Encourage young children to use simple shapes and bright colors.
- To simplify balancing, young children hang all figures from one dowel.

Movement & Music

Play recordings such as these while children decorate their circus trapeze mobiles or after they finish for movement, dancing, and/or singing.

- *Circus Music From the Big Top* by Merle Evans Circus Band
- *Clown and Midway Calliope Music Vol. 1*

Mexico

- *Cinco de Mayo Party Music* by DJ's Choice
- *Fiesta Musical: A Musical Adventure Through Latin America for Children* from Music for Little People
- *Mariachi From Mexico* by Mariachi Lopez Varanga & Los Lobos

Variations by Destination

From face painting to juggling and even performing on the flying trapeze—Club Med Circus School is wildly popular for kids and their families! A variety of gymnastics equipment, such as trampolines, also attracts young athletes. Circus lessons are offered to children as young as 4, at both beginner and advanced levels.

Mexico

One-ring and three-ring traveling circuses are popular in Mexico. Families traditionally have run and performed in Mexican circuses. Although many Mexican circuses include animals, ranging from polar bears to monkeys, the Mexican International Circus is animal-free. It features clowns, contortionists, and acrobats, as well as trapeze and high-wire artists. The Atayde Hermanos Circus, operating since 1888, is the longest-running circus in the country. Mexican circuses may travel within the country as well as around North, Central, and South America.



Books to Keep Kids Reading

Children love books that build on ideas they explore through art. Display these books and have older children read aloud to younger ones as time permits.

Circus by Lois Ehlert

Circus Berzerkus by Jonathan Harlen

Sidewalk Circus by Paul Fleischman and Kevin Hawkes

Star of the Circus: My Little Sister and Me by Michael Sampson, Mary Beth Sampson, and Jose Aruego

The World's Greatest Elephant by Ralph Helfer and Ted Lewin

You See a Circus, I See... by Mike Downs and Anik McGrory

Mexico

Say Hola to Spanish at the Circus by Susan Middleton Elya

More Fun Ideas

Younger children may decorate their mobiles quickly. Hang the projects where all can see them. Then enjoy these easy activities while the other children complete their mobiles.

- Read another story about the circus.
- Cut large paper circles. Make clown faces with crayons or colored pencils.
- Invite children to share their experiences at the circus. What animals and acts did they see? Which acts were favorites?

Surf Crayola.com

Children might enjoy these similar colored pencil projects, all found on Crayola.com. Substitute with craft supplies you have on hand as needed.

- 3-D Circus
- Book Stars
- Retro-delic Designs



Fun Facts About Crayola Colors

Pink lemonade was created accidentally by a circus vendor who used a bucket of water that another performer had used to wash her red tights!

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey performers think the color green is bad luck. Many circus performers consider elephant hair to be extremely good luck, and often make bracelets out of it.

Connect With Families

Under 6: Distribute parent handouts.

Over 6: Use this conversation starter to share information about the activity: Has your child gone to Circus School here at Club Med? Today we made circus mobiles so the whole group is primed to try their hand at clowning! Ask us for details.

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Circus Trapeze Mobile

Mexico

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoy talking about today's exciting activities with your child. This Circus Trapeze Mobile is a great Club Med souvenir of Mexico! Your child will remember the vacation for a long time when you hang it in a prominent place in your home. Encourage your child to talk about it with friends and family, too.

Share a few observations with your child about the unique qualities of this project. Children appreciate detailed comments such as, "Every performer's clothes has a different pattern!" or "These trapeze artists really look like they're flying through the air!"

We have suggestions for more circus resources, especially books that will engage your child's imagination. Just ask us!

Thanks for bringing your child to a Mini Club Med Art Project featuring Crayola® imaginative fun!

Visit www.Crayola.com for these and other cool art activities:

- Circus Centerpiece
- Fish Mobile
- Off-to-the-Circus Magnets
- Rain or Shine Weather Mobile

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