

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Circus Cloze

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank above.

The modern circus was invented \_\_\_\_\_ England by Philip Astley (1742-1814), a former Sergeant-Major turned showman. The son of a cabinet maker and veneer cutter, Astley had served during the Seven-Year War (the \_\_\_\_\_ and Indian War) in Colonel Eliotts Fifteenth Light Dragoon Regiment, where he displayed an outstanding talent as a horse breaker and trainer.

Upon his discharge, Astley chose to imitate the trick-riders who exhibited with increasing success all over Europe. Jacob Bates, an English equestrian based in the German \_\_\_\_\_ who performed as far as Russia (1764-65) and America (1772-73), \_\_\_\_\_ the first of these new showmen to make his mark. Bates' emulators, Price, Johnson, Balp, Coningham, Faulkes, Old Sampson, and many others, had become fixtures of Londons pleasure gardens and inspired Philip Astley.

In 1768, Astley settled in \_\_\_\_\_ and opened a riding-school near Westminster Bridge, where he taught in the morning and performed his feats of horsemanship in the afternoon. The place featured a circular arena that Astley called circle, or circus, which would later \_\_\_\_\_ known as the ring. The circus ring however was not Astleys invention; it had been devised earlier by trick-riders.

\_\_\_\_\_ allowing the audience to keep the riders in sight during their performance (not an easy task when they dashed \_\_\_\_\_ and forth in open fields at full gallop), the ring also proved \_\_\_\_\_ through the generating of centrifugal force, in helping riders \_\_\_\_\_ balance while they stood \_\_\_\_\_ the back of their galloping horses. \_\_\_\_\_ original ring was about 62 feet in diameter. He eventually settled the diameter at 42 feet, which has since \_\_\_\_\_ the international standard for all circus rings.

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**Word Bank :** in,become,States,back,keep,Beside,their,French,ideal,,London,be,was,Astleys,on