



The Strobbridge Lithographing Company (American, 1867 - 1960), *Ringling Brothers: Flying Trapeze Act*, 1917. Ink on paper, 19 x 30 in. Tibbals Circus Collection. ht2001399

Today, you get to make your own trapeze artist to flip and spin high above the circus crowd. A trapeze is a short bar that is hung by ropes and a trapeze artist is the performer that hangs from the bar to do their daring tricks. This act was popular in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus and can be seen in many different forms in the Tibbals Learning Center, here at The Ringling.

Trapeze artists have a deep understanding of physics and forces such as gravity, momentum, and deceleration. They have plenty of first-hand experience with these forces and need to know all about physics in order to perform their daring stunts safely. What other forces do you think trapeze artists contend with during their performance?

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

TRAPEZE ARTIST TEMPLATE ON THE NEXT PAGE, CRAYONS, TAPE, STRING, SMOOTHIE STRAW

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

SIMPLE

DIRECTIONS

1. Print the trapeze artist template on the next page, or make your own trapeze artist using bold lines to create the outline. What dazzling outfits can you create?
2. Color your trapeze artist's outfit. The circus is full of bright, bold colors, so have fun with it! Cut out your trapeze artists.
3. Next, thread your string all the way through the straw and tie the ends together. Now you have your trapeze!
4. Tape the trapeze artist to the straw by their hands or feet. See what kind of tricks you can do by flipping or spinning the straw and string.

STANDARDS:

VA.2.S.1.3

SC.5.P.13.1

