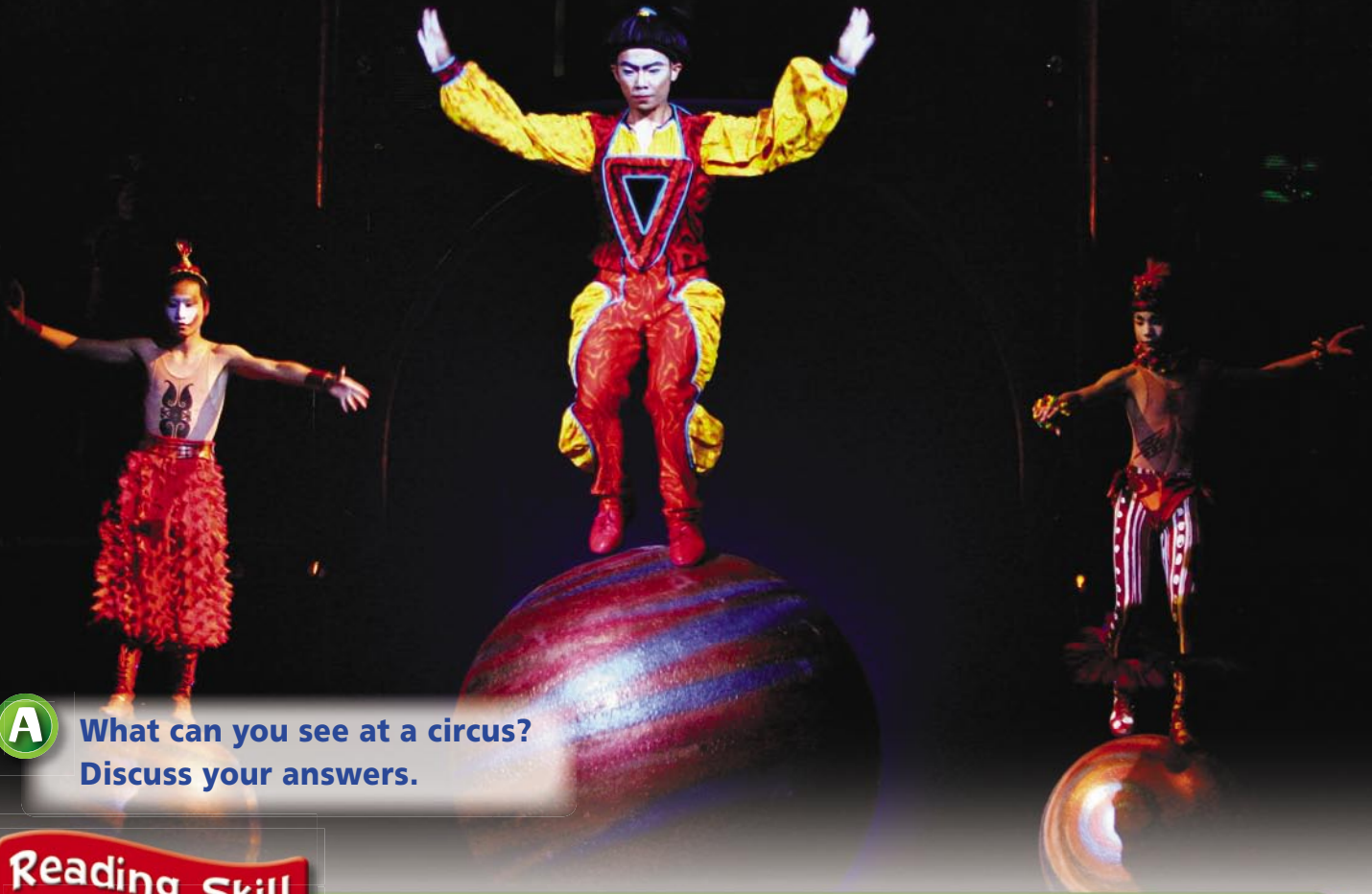


The New Circus

Unit
1



A What can you see at a circus?
Discuss your answers.

Reading Skill

Finding main ideas and details

Main ideas are the most important ideas in a passage. Details give us different kinds of information to support the main ideas.

B Circle the main idea and underline two supporting details.

When you think of a circus, perhaps you think of big tents, funny clowns, acrobats, elephants and brave lion-tamers. Well, Cirque du Soleil (French for "Circus of the Sun") is a different kind of circus. Cirque du Soleil brings together traditional circus acts and new, creative performances. It does not use any animals.

The main idea is how Cirque du Soleil

- a does not use animals.
- b is French for "Circus of the Sun."
- c is a different kind of circus.



2 Read the passage.

A Different Kind of Circus

When you think of a circus, perhaps you think of big tents, funny clowns, acrobats, elephants and brave lion-tamers. Well, Cirque du Soleil (French for “Circus of the Sun”) is a different kind of circus. Cirque du Soleil combines traditional circus acts and new, creative performances. It does not use any animals. It uses ideas from street performances and different kinds of music and dance. People call Cirque du Soleil the “new circus.”



Beginnings

Cirque du Soleil was started in 1984 in Quebec, Canada, by two street performers. It began with a very simple dream. A group of young performers got together to amuse people, see the world and have fun doing it. The circus quickly became famous for its creativity, colorful costumes and exciting performances.



Touring Shows

Cirque du Soleil has created many shows that travel all over the world. Their first show, *Saltimbanco*, celebrated life. *Alegría* is about hope. *Quidam* is set in the imaginary world of a sad and lonely girl. *Dralion* is about eastern and western ways of life. There is even a show that tells the story of The Beatles, called *LOVE*.

D Answer the questions.

- 1 What does “Cirque du Soleil” mean?
- 2 When was Cirque du Soleil started?
- 3 What is *Alegría* about?

Practice

E Write the main idea. Then circle the detail that does *not* support the main idea.

Paragraph 1: _____

- a Cirque du Soleil uses traditional acts and new performances.
- b Cirque du Soleil is French for “Circus of the Sun.”
- c Cirque du Soleil does not use any animals in its shows.
- d People call Cirque du Soleil the “new circus.”

Paragraph 2: _____

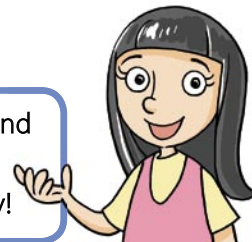
- a Cirque du Soleil was started in 1984 in Quebec, Canada.
- b Cirque du Soleil began with a group of young performers.
- c Cirque du Soleil uses colorful costumes and exciting performances.
- d Cirque du Soleil began with a very simple dream.

Paragraph 3: _____

- a You can see Cirque du Soleil shows all over the world.
- b Cirque du Soleil’s first show celebrated life.
- c *Dralion* is about eastern and western ways of life.
- d There is a show about The Beatles.



Titles, headings and pictures can help you find main ideas quickly!



F Match the word with its definition.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1 amuse | a n clothes that make you look like someone else |
| 2 brave | b n a show of acting, dancing or singing |
| 3 celebrate | c n a wish to do, be or have something |
| 4 combine | d adj showing no fear in a dangerous situation |
| 5 costume | e adj following old methods or ideas |
| 6 dream | f v to make someone laugh or smile |
| 7 performance | g v to mix things together |
| 8 traditional | h v to show that something is important by doing something special |

Integration

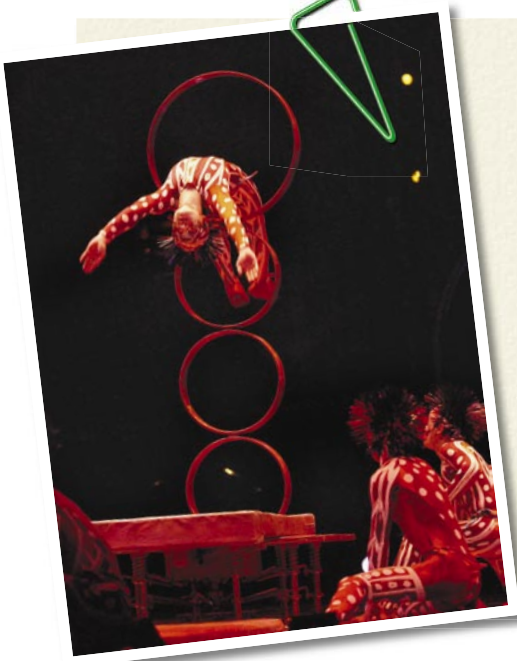


3 Read about *Dralion*.

Dralion by Cirque du Soleil is an interesting combination of eastern and western circus acts. It combines traditional Asian acts with its own modern creativity and color. Even the name “*Dralion*” shows this mix of East and West. People from both eastern and western countries enjoy *Dralion*!



4 Listen and complete the paragraph.



Dralion's mix of (1) performances from the East and West is great to see. There are (2) _____ like “bamboo poles” and “hoop diving,” as well as clowns and juggling. The name of the (3) _____ is actually a combination of “dragon” from the East and “(4) _____” from the West. *Dralion* is very (5) _____ all over Asia, North (6) _____ and Europe.



Work with a classmate. Combine details that are similar from Activities G and H above.

Dralion by Cirque du Soleil is an interesting combination of eastern and western circus acts.

Yes, its mix of performances from the East and West is great to see.