



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

★ OCT 12TH-16TH ★ 2026 ★



ACTIVITY GUIDE



A SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our 2026 National
School Lunch Week Ambassadors!

To our NSLW Ambassadors
THANK YOU

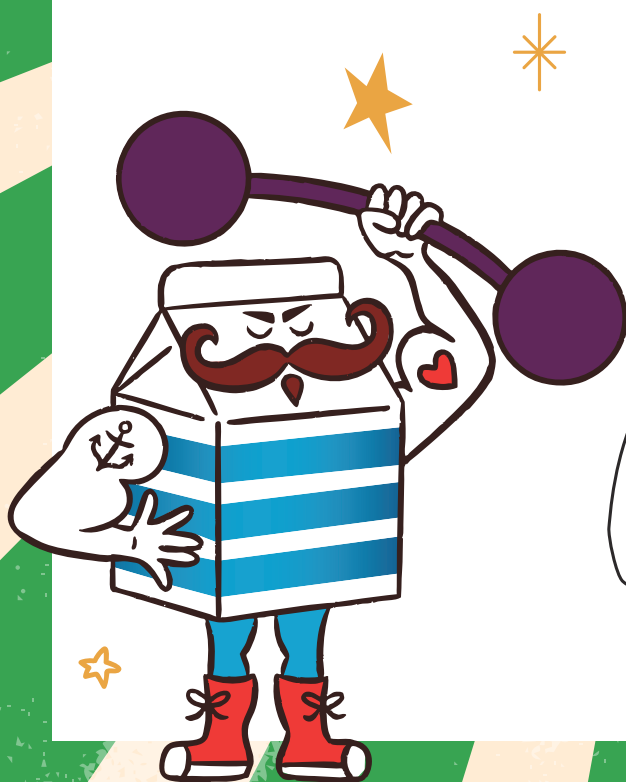
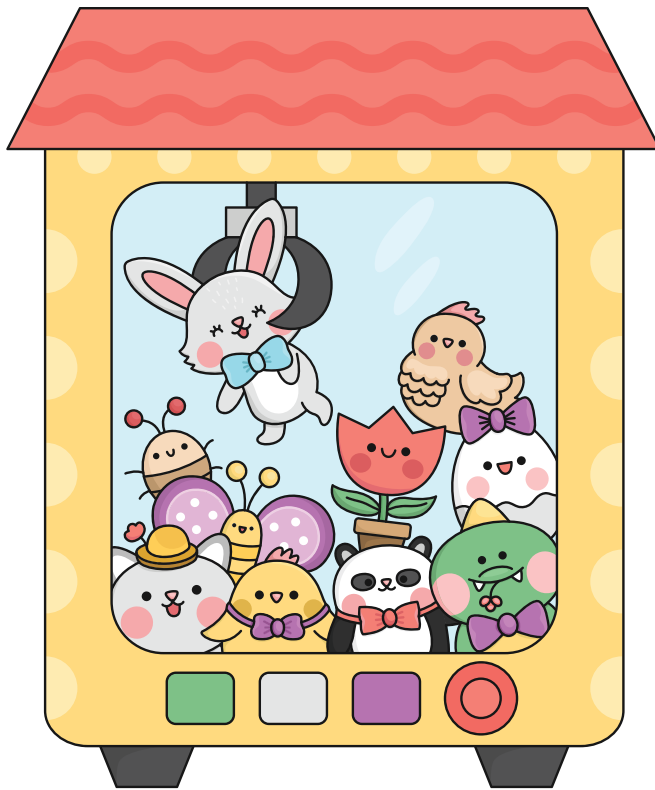


Our National School Lunch Week Ambassadors support essential School Nutrition Programs around the country and help fuel the mission of school nutrition that ensures we can continue to offer valuable tools, training, and resources to the dedicated professionals in our network



FIND THE DIFFERENCES

Find the ten differences in these two carnival prize games!



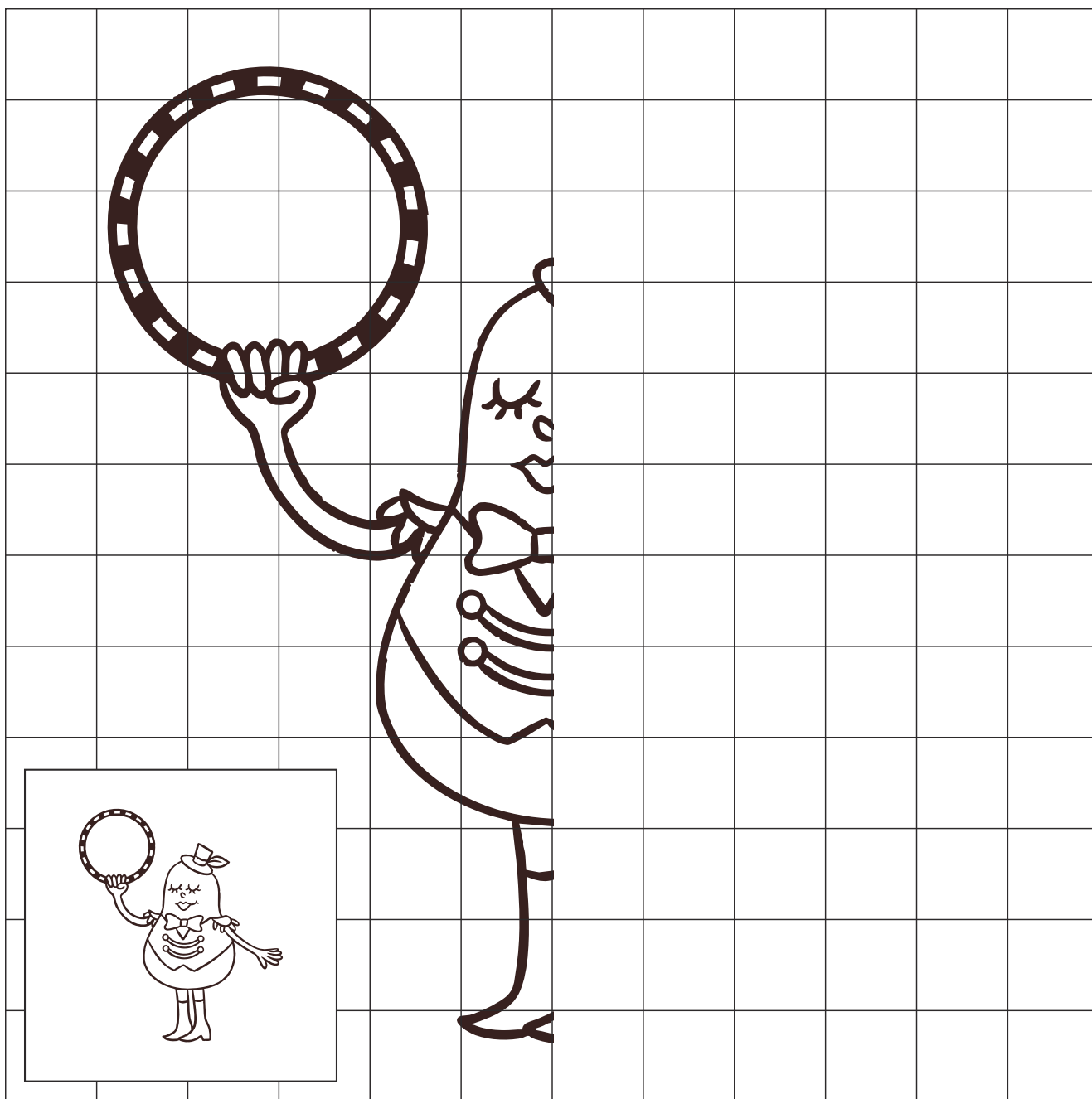
COLOR YOUR OWN
CARNIVAL PRIZE!

Color by numbers
with the colors
provided or add in
your favorite color!



LET'S DRAW!

Complete the drawing below to match the example,
or come up with your own design!





WORD SEARCH



Search the puzzle to find all the words in the word bank below!



O	A	T	A	I	R	E	T	E	F	A	C	O	O
S	E	L	B	A	T	E	G	E	V	M	G	N	U
I	R	E	Z	O	L	L	U	N	C	H	O	T	I
L	E	Z	R	I	N	G	L	E	A	D	E	R	E
C	I	C	C	I	G	P	O	P	C	O	R	N	B
P	R	E	D	A	R	A	P	R	A	T	R	F	R
L	R	E	B	T	R	G	L	S	U	E	E	R	O
I	P	C	A	J	O	R	N	T	T	O	L	U	C
E	R	L	T	R	T	I	O	R	A	E	P	I	C
L	O	O	E	R	A	P	R	T	R	S	R	T	O
G	T	W	R	R	O	I	C	I	R	C	U	S	L
G	E	N	G	T	E	N	T	G	N	L	R	O	I
U	I	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	N	N	E	O	E
J	N	Z	C	A	P	G	L	M	I	L	K	A	A

CAFETERIA
BROCCOLI
GRAINS
PARADE
PIZZA

CIRCUS
PEAR
MILK
BALLOON
CARROT

RINGLEADER
VEGETABLES
LUNCH
POPCORN
TENT

JUGGLE
PROTEIN
CLOWN
FRUIT



UNSCRAMBLE THE BIG TOP!

Unscramble all of the cafeteria circus words below!

1. WONCL _____

2. CUSIRC _____

3. NETT _____

4. MARGNSEITR _____

5. GELJURG _____

6. BACROTA _____

7. ADAPER _____

8. TUMESCO _____

9. TICKTE _____

10. LOONBAL _____

11. TILGSPHOT _____

12. ZEPETRA _____

13. MORFREPER _____

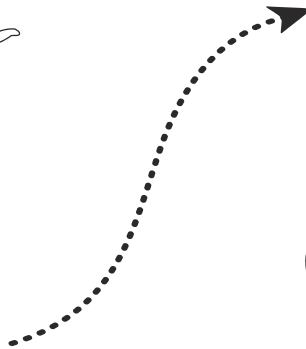
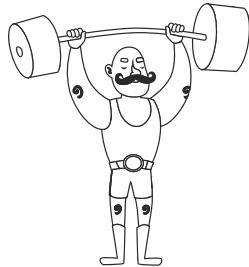
14. CROPNOP _____

15. VARNICLA _____



CIRCUS SHADOW MATCHING

Connect the circus characters to their respective shadows below.





SILLY STORIES

Fill in the Madlib blanks before reading the story aloud.
Then get ready for the show!

A person's name: _____

An adjective: _____

A food: _____

A color: _____

A circus performer: _____

One sunny day, _____ decided to visit the _____
Name Adjective
Cafeteria Circus!

As they walked through the big-top entrance, they spotted a giant
_____ flag waving in the _____ sky. Suddenly, a
Food Color
_____ jumped into the ring and shouted, " _____!"
Circus performer Silly sound

The show was just getting started!

First came the _____ juggling act. The performer tossed
Fruit or vegetable
_____ pieces of produce into the air and managed to
Number
_____ them all without dropping a single one!
Verb
Next, _____ headed to the lunch line, where they found their
Name
favorite _____ waiting for them. Even a _____ had
School lunch item Animal
come to enjoy the show!

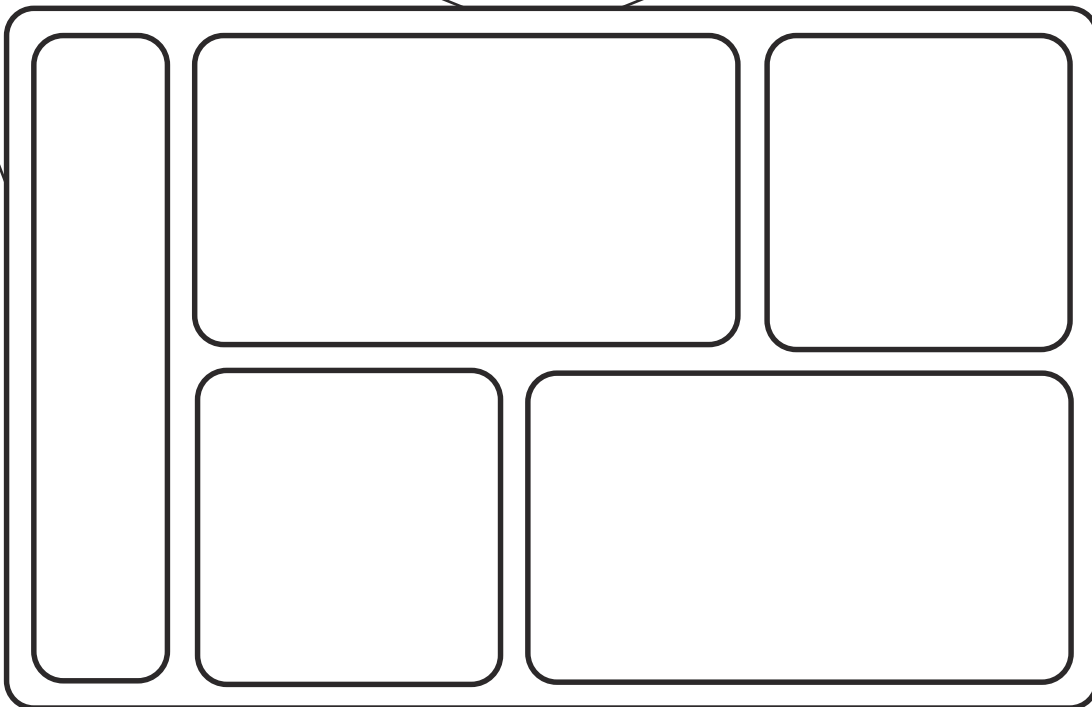
By the end of the day, _____ had discovered that the
Name
Cafeteria Circus was full of _____ surprises, delicious food,
Adjective
and plenty of fun.

As they headed home, they smiled and said: "That was the greatest
lunch show on Earth!"



FUEL UP FOR THE SHOW!

Draw a Lunch Tray to Fuel Your
Grand Performance!



Pick delicious lunch options to draw from the list below, or add your
favorite lunch items to draw.

PROTEIN

TURKEY
CHICKEN
TUNA
HUMMUS
BOILED EGG
NUT BUTTER
TOFU
BLACK BEANS
PUMPKIN SEEDS
ALMONDS

FRUIT

APPLE SLICES
ORANGE WEDGES
BANANA
PEAR
GRAPES
BERRIES
PEACHES
MELON
APPLESAUCE
DRIED FRUIT

VEGETABLES

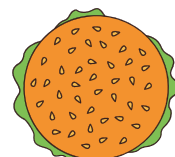
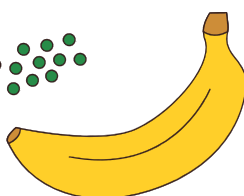
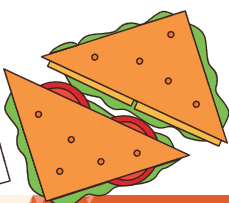
CARROT STICKS
CUCUMBERS
BELL PEPPERS
SNAP PEAS
SPINACH/LETTUCE
BROCCOLI
CAULIFLOWER
SALSA
TOMATOES

DAIRY

GREEK YOGURT
CREAM CHEESE
CHEESE STICK
CHEDDAR CHEESE
MILK
COTTAGE CHEESE
CUSTARD
DAIRY SMOOTHIE
FROZEN YOGURT

GRAINS

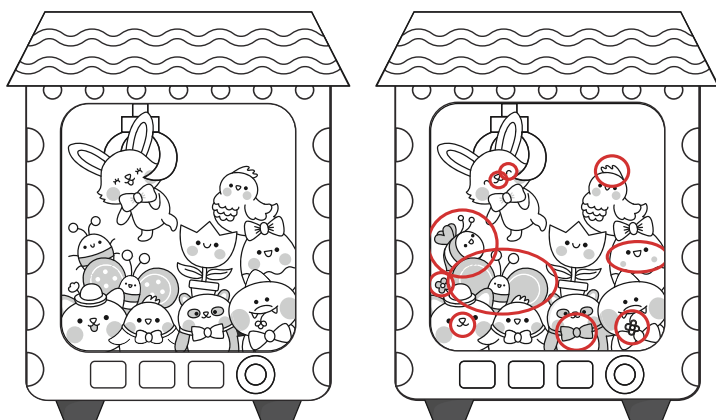
PRETZELS
PITA POCKET
BREAD ROLL
RICE
PASTA
TORTILLA
CRACKERS
GRANOLA
TORTILLA CHIPS
PITA CHIPS



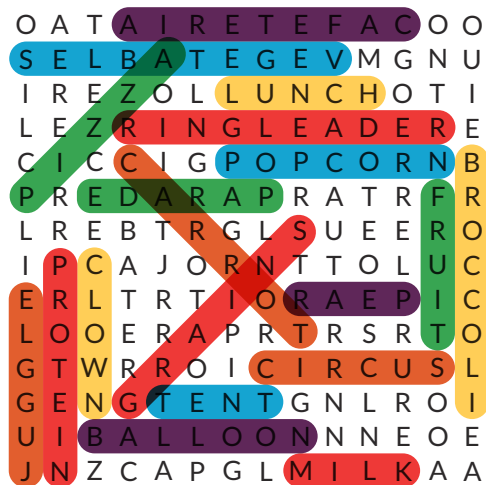
ANSWER KEY



FIND THE DIFFERENCES

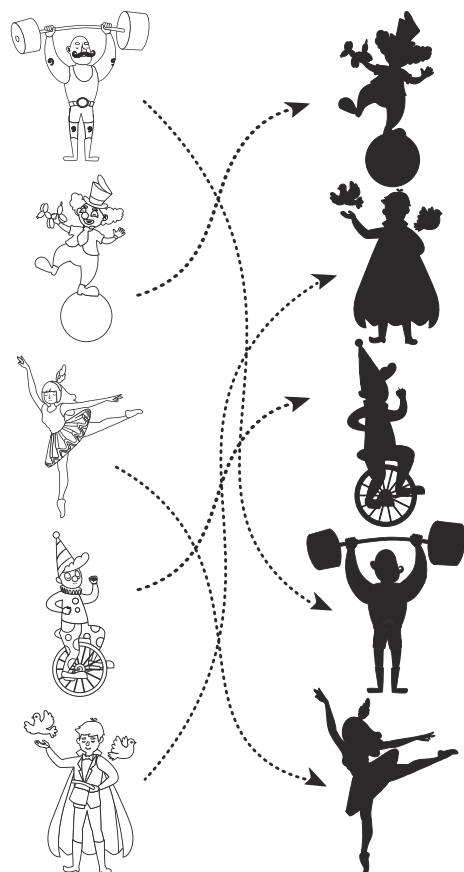


WORD SEARCH



UNSCRAMBLE GAME

1. CLOWN
2. CIRCUS
3. TENT
4. RINGMASTER
5. JUGGLER
6. ACROBAT
7. PARADE
8. COSTUME
9. TICKET
10. BALLOON
11. SPOTLIGHT
12. TRAPEZE
13. PERFORMER
14. POPCORN
15. CARNIVAL



FOLLOW THE PATH

