Objective:

1. The students will be able to tell about the life and accomplishments of John Ringling.

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:

SS.A.1.2.1 – SS.A.6.2.3

Vocabulary:

promoter   culture   admired   extensive   donated

indulge   vehicle

Suggested Activities:

1. Before reading the passage, place a large piece of posterboard (cut into the shape of a circus tent) at the front of the classroom. Ask the students to brainstorm all the circus words they can. List the words on the posterboard. Now tell the students that they are going to read about John Ringling, one of five brothers who started the Ringling Brothers Circus, later know as the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

2. Have the students create an I am card for John Ringling. Provide each student with a 9 x 6 piece of construction paper, yarn, and markers or crayons. The students are to draw a picture of John Ringling in the center of the paper (or write his name). Then have them decorate the card with facts about him and illustrations. When the cards are complete, have the students make the cards into necklaces by punching two holes at the top corners and attaching the yarn. The students can wear the I am cards as they tell about the famous Floridian.

3. This passage tells about John Ringling and his life. Explain to the students that books written about people are known biographies. Have them write a biography about another famous person, or maybe a classmate.

4. Have the class put on its own circus, inviting other classrooms from the school to watch the performance.

5. Complete and review FCAT questions.

   (Note: Actual FCAT practice passages are written at the students' independent reading level. These Florida History selections are written at the students' instructional reading level. Therefore, students should not be asked to complete the questions until after receiving class instruction on the vocabulary and content of the passage. Students should also read the Florida History selection independently before answering the FCAT questions and be permitted to return to the selection for rereading as they answer.)