**Scavenger Hunt**

**Background:** Traveling circuses were a big part of nineteenth and twentieth century American culture. These traveling circuses moved around the country via the new and emerging railroad system, bringing traveling circus acts, oddities, and animals to all of the United States.

**Time:** 10-20 min

**Vocabulary:**

Circus - a company of performers who put on diverse entertainment shows that may include clowns, acrobats, trained animals, trapeze acts, musicians, dancers, hoopers, tightrope walkers, jugglers, magicians, unicyclists, as well as other object manipulation and stunt-oriented artists

Performer - a person who entertains an audience, these people often have an act that they do and may wear a costume

Barnum - P.T. Barnum was an American showman, politician, and businessman remembered for promoting celebrated hoaxes and for founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus

**Procedure:**

1. Ask your students if they have ever been to a circus or know anything about them.
2. Open the online exhibit Beneath White Tents.
3. Ask your students to look through the website and find certain objects.
   1. Suggested search items: Tiger, lion, performer, costume, Barnum, circus, poster
4. Ask your students what they saw.