In the 1870s, P. T. Barnum and other circus owners began using trains to reach their customers. Before then, circuses had to travel on dirt roads using wagons. That was slow and difficult. The growing railroad system allowed circuses to go to many more towns. Trains could be loaded with lots of heavy equipment like huge tents and band wagons. Plus trains could carry animals, performers, and all the workers needed to set up and run a circus. As a result, the shows became much, much bigger. The arrival of a circus train with decorated train cars was very exciting for people to see!
Going to the circus was one way to see unusual animals during the 1800s. Can you find pictures of these animals painted onto the sides of the train cars in the poster? Some are easier to find than others. Circle the animal in the picture and circle the word below when you find it.

- Lion
- Rhinoceros
- Elephant
- Tiger
- Hippopotamus
- Wild Boar
- Cheetah
- Polar Bear
- Seal
- Giraffe
- Camel
- Zebra

Today we don’t need to wait until the circus comes to town to see animals like this. Where can we see these animals now? _______________________________

There are many fun things to see on the Four Special Trains poster! The list below will help you take a close look. For each item, keep a tally of tick marks. When you are done, count the tick marks and write the total in the blank next to the item. Here are examples of tick marks and how to total them: III = 3 and IIV = 7.

Count the Number of:

1. Train Engines
2. Animal Wagons
3. Circus Tents
4. American Flags
5. Small Flags
6. Clouds of Coal Smoke

How Many?

1. 3
2. 27
3. 2
4. 7
5. 5
6. 6

13. 27 3. 7 4. 7 5. 5 6. 6