

# Victorian Hats

## Background:

Circuses were a very popular form of entertainment during the Victorian era. A ringmaster or ringmistress, or sometimes a ringleader, is a master of ceremonies that introduces the circus acts to the audience. The traditional ringmaster costume consists of a bright tailcoat, often red with gold trim and with a waistcoat and a black top hat.

## Supplies:

- Paper plate
- Two pieces of paper (a thicker paper like construction paper works best)
- Glue
- Tape
- Paint (or crayons/markers/color pencils)
- Decorative items: buttons, sequins, ribbons, feathers, faux flowers, beads, etc.

## Directions:

1. Cut out a hole in the middle of the paper plate to fit your head, this is the brim of your hat.
2. Tape two pieces of paper together, end to end, to make a longer piece of paper.
3. Roll the paper into a cylinder. Make the cylinder wide enough to snugly fit inside the hole in the brim.
4. Snip tabs into one end of the cylinder, about 2 inches deep
5. Fit the tabbed end of the cylinder through the hole in the paper plate. Bend the tabs back and tape it to the underside of the plate.
6. Color your hat.
7. Decorate using any craft items you have at hand.

If you would like a larger sized hat, here's an alternate version of the craft:

<https://childrensart.info/paper-top-hats/>



## Victorian Days

San Mateo County History Museum

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[www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org)

