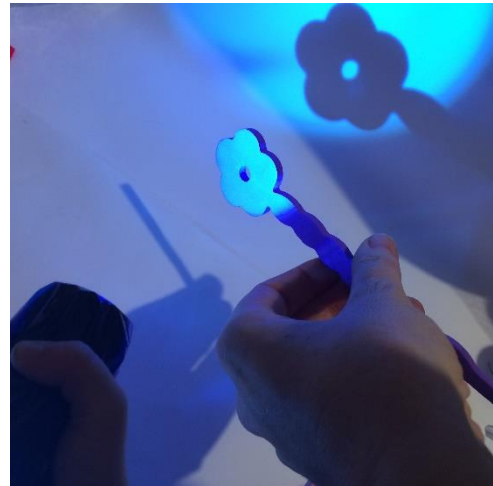


Shadow Puppets

Materials

- Cardboard or wooden shapes
 - Tape
 - Flat sticks or rulers
 - Darkened room or tent
 - LED torch
- (single LED torches give the best shadows, with well-defined edges)



Instructions

1. Make, find or buy cardboard or wooden shapes that will make interesting shadows, for example: animals, plants, fairy tale characters, stars and moons.
2. Use tape to attach the shapes to flat sticks or rulers.
3. Hold up each shape and use the torch to make a shadow on a wall.

What happens?

Light from the torch is blocked by the shapes, creating shadows on the wall. Light travels in a straight line, so the shape of the shadow matches the shape of the shadow puppet. Changing the distance between the torch and the shape can change the size of the shadow as the angles of the rays of light change.

Related activities

- Cover torches with cellophane to make coloured light and experiment with how coloured light mixes.
- Make shadow puppets to sing a song or tell a story, for example, *The Cow Jumped Over the Moon* (cat, fiddle, cow, moon, dog, dish and spoon).
- Find hand-shadow puppet shapes on the internet, such as:
<http://drama4kids.com/activities/31-how-to-make-hand-shadow-puppets>



Image credit: Hedgehog83

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