

Shadow puppets

Make some shadow puppets and find out more about light and shadows.

227 Shadow hands

1. Shine a bright lamp directly at a wall in a dark room. (Shadows are easier to see on a plain, pale wall.)

2. Put your hands in the position shown below, in front of the light, to make a bird shadow on the wall.

3. You could experiment with hand positions to make other animals, such as a rabbit...



4. ...a deer



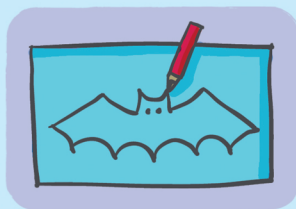
5. ...or an elephant.



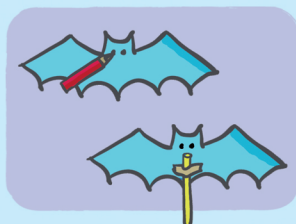
Shadows are the absence of light. Light travels in straight lines, so when you hold up your hands in front of the light, you block out the light in the same shape as your hands. This makes the shadow appear.

228 Bright eyes

1. Draw a bat with eyes on a piece of thin card. Cut it out.



2. Make eye holes by pushing a pencil through the card. Tape on a straw to make a handle.



3. Hold the bat between a lamp and a wall. Can you see the eyes in its shadow?



The bat shape blocks out the light, but the holes allow light to pass through, creating gaps in the shadow.