

Sneaky Shadow Session plan/ideas

<https://primarylibrary.crestawards.org/all-star-challenges/61746949/52>

In this activity, children will think about shadows, make their own shadow puppet and use it to perform a story.

Plan

1. Introduce the activity by reading out the story on the activity card.
2. Ask the children what they think they'll be investigating based on the story.
3. Discuss how a shadow is made, demo with a torch/sunlight.
4. In low light, allow children some time to explore making shadows with the torches and answer questions e.g. can shadows be different sizes, colours, shapes etc?
5. Discuss what children found out.
6. Explain and demo that in the next activity they will make a shadow puppet and as a group will make up and perform a story using the shadow theatre.
7. Ask children to choose a picture, cut it out and tape it to a stick to create their puppet. Use the torches to practice making a shadow with their puppet.
8. In groups ask the children to come up with and practise their story. Meanwhile, set up the shadow theatre with the lamp.
9. Invite groups to practice using the theatre.
10. As a class, watch each group's performance.
11. Discuss what they've learnt. Why was Cosmic's shadow missing in the story?
12. Suggest/discuss occupations and situations that might require the skills/knowledge they've developed e.g.
 - a. Architect
 - b. Film/stage crew
13. Discuss related activities they could do (at home).
14. Give out stickers/stamps for their passport.

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Tips and safety

- Remind children not to touch the bulb of the torch/lamp as they can get hot, or to shine the light into people's eyes.

Additional ideas/extension/home activities

- If it's sunny explore shadows outside (don't look directly at the sun).
- Try shining more than one light source onto an object to make multiple shadows.
- Try shining a light source through something translucent or through coloured acetate/liquid.
- Learn more about shadows with this video: https://youtu.be/6FFMr_1DisA
- Check out this activity to make shadow sticks and a sundial:
 - <https://www.abingdonsciencepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Shadow-sticks-and-sundials.pdf>
- Learn why animals in the ocean need to know about shadows and how some, like a squid, use light to survive:
<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/cool-jobs-world-aglow>
- Watch this amazing human body shadow show: https://youtu.be/j_YwSgDRksw

Sneaky Shadow

Today we are thinking about **SHADOWS**



Are there any shadows in the **classroom**?

Can shadows be different **sizes**?

Can shadows **move**?

Can shadows be different **shapes**?

Can shadows be different **colours**?

Can something have **more than one** shadow?

Are shadows **always** there?

Do people's shadows have **faces**?

Sneaky Shadow

Draw or write about the story you made with your shadow puppets.