



Movement game

Students make some animal shapes using their hands.

**Where and why are shadows formed?**

A shadow is formed when an opaque body lies in the path of a beam of light. The image of the shadow appears on a surface, or in the space behind a body which is being illuminated by a light source, such as the Sun, a lamp, a street lamp or a torch.

**What decides the shape and size of a shadow?**

The shadow corresponds with the shape of the object that is in the light beam's path. The size of the shadow's image can be changed by varying the distance between a given object or body, the light source and the screen.

**Do objects made of plastic, wood, metal or glass cast the same shadow? Does a light directed onto a clear plastic bag produce a shadow?**

No. Transparent objects, such as glass or a plastic bag, cast a fainter shadow. Opaque objects on the other hand, such as those made of wood, metal and opaque plastic, cast a strong and distinct shadow. This happens because the beams of light pass through transparent objects while opaque ones stop the light. This is how a distinct shadow is formed.



Video/ Slide show

Watch the film: Shadow puppet play.

**What role does light play in the theater?**

In its most basic form, stage lighting functions to make the actors and their surroundings visible to the audience. But it can also be used for the following purposes:

- Evoke the appropriate mood,
- Indicate the time of day and location,
- Shift emphasis from one stage area to another,
- Reinforce the style of the production,
- Make objects on stage appear flat or three dimensional.

**Are shadows capable of performing a play in the way real actors do?**

A shadow play, also known as shadow puppetry, uses flat articulated figures (shadow puppets) to create cut-out figures, which are held between a source of light and a translucent screen. Various effects can be achieved by moving both the puppets and the light source. A talented puppeteer can make the figures appear to walk, dance, fight, nod and laugh.