

How to make a shadow/silhouette for projection art

Working with light and shadow is really fun!

Shadows happen when we block out light, so we can play games with which part of the light we block.

Cutting out paper is one good way of doing this, but you can also stand in front of a light-source, like a lamp or a torch, and play with the shadow made by your own body!

Today we are going to work with paper to block out the light and we may also add colour to parts of our shadow art-work with cellophane.

YOU WILL DEFINITELY NEED:

- Paper
- Pen/texta/marker
- Scissors

YOU MAY ALSO CHOOSE TO USE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

- Colour cellophane or Gel
- Glue stick
- Sticky tape
- Transparency sheet
- Colour markers like sharpies (not texta)
- Precision cutting knife and mat
BUT ONLY IF A BIG PERSON HELPS YOU!

Once you are done, test your shadow work with a torch! Hold up a torch with the shadow between the torch and a white wall. You can even make your shadow MOVE and get bigger and smaller when you move the torch forward and back! How cool!

So.... HOW do we start?? Turn the page to find out!....

Step 1: Draw your design!

Sounds simple right?

It is! But it's a good idea to make your lines connect to each other so you don't cut away a part you want to keep! Here is a picture of a butterfly on a flower. See how I have made sure my lines connect to each other in a frame? This means the piece of paper will stay together when we cut it.

(By the way, your butterfly will be much better than mine because it will be your design – I cheated and traced this one!)



Don't worry if your connecting lines accidentally cut away or break off, you can always use your glue stick or sticky tape to stick them back together or onto on a sheet of transparency!

Sometimes, mistakes make an artwork even more perfect because you have created something unique!

Note: We have wide windows, so your cut-out will look much better if you draw it as a "landscape" frame – the paper looking wide where it looks long .



Step 2. Decide what kind of cut-out you want to make:

1. Do you want lots of light/colour shining through with only a few black lines like my butterfly on a flower?

Then you probably want to cut out AROUND your subject (making sure you have some connecting lines) and maybe cut some decorative shapes inside it.

For our final week, our theme is ME and MY HOME. You might want to print a small picture of yourself looking to the side (this is called a "profile") on a printer and cut out your face to add to your design.



OR.....

2. Do you want lots of black but the light shines through your cool shape?



Then leave most of the paper not cut and just cut the shape out. This is definitely a bit harder, but you can still do it if you like.

Here is one of that type that I made. This is how it looks when we put it on the overhead projector and pass light through it.

And this is a photo of the shadow as a cut out. I cut with scissors from the bottom and then sticky taped it together.

I also accidentally cut off the ear so I just used tape to tape it back together. When we put in on the projector, you can't see the accident.



FUN FACT: This type of shadow has a fancy French name to it: Ombre-Blanche, which translates to "White Shadow". The "shadow" becomes white because we are allowing the light to shine through the part we want people to focus on.

Step 3. Start cutting!

It can be hard to cut into the middle of a piece of paper, so I have two ways you can do this safely. You can either:

1. fold the paper a tiny bit in the place you want to make a hole, make a very small cut with your scissors, then open out the paper again and use your scissors to cut your shape.

OR....

2. Cut into it from the side and use sticky tape to tape it back together again (making sure you then cut away the bits of tape poking out)

If you have transparency sheet and you want to make thin lines with your paper, you can also use a glue stick to stick it gently onto the transparency.

To add colour, you can stick colour cellophane or "gels" from the pack we gave you to your paper design with clear sticky tape.

Another option to decorate your transparency sheet with colour is to colour it in with light coloured waterproof markers like a sharpie (dark colours will block the light though so only light colours should be used). You can also use a black sharpie to add more detailed shadow lines to your work, like I did here for the tree and the sign.

What a shame my sharpie was running out! You can barely see it, but it's another way to pass light through the transparency sheet.



GO COLOUR CRAZY!

Feel free to experiment with colour shapes too! You don't even need to cut out paper, just stick it to other pieces of colour with thin masking tape! Just use the bits of colour gel we gave you in your pack, or cut bits of cellophane into fun shapes and stick them together. The masking tape will block out the light in lines for you and you can send us an organic bit of colour!!! It doesn't even need to look like anything.