

STAGE A SHADOW PUPPET SHOW

Impress your audience by making all these different animal shadow shapes with your hands.

Wait until it's dark, then shine a spotlight on a wall. Switch off all the other lights in the room.



Hold your hands in front of the light to cast shadows onto the wall.



This bird appears to fly when you flap your hands.



Middle finger, fingers, to the rabbit's ears twitch.



Make a dog appear to bark. Just open and close your little fingers.



Flick your fingers to bend an elephant's trunk.



Snap your hands - or a crocodile's jaws - together.



Two narrow strips of paper between your fingers make a snake's tongue.



Make a fist for a snail's shell.



Use the fingers on your left hand for deer antlers.

NOW... add SCENERY

Cut out shapes from thick paper.



Attach them to straws with tape.

Ask someone to hold them in front of the light to make more shadow shapes.

Shadow play

Some shadow puppeteers use intricate, cut-out figures for puppets, with moveable body parts. According to a Chinese legend, the first such puppet was made over 2,100 years ago when...



Emperor Wu was overcome with grief. Li, the woman he loved was dead.



If only someone could bring her back to life.



Hearing the Emperor's pleas, a magician named Shao Weng made a likeness of Li out of leather and dressed it in her clothes.

Shao Weng hid inside a torchlit tent, ready to perform.



And when darkness fell, Emperor Wu was amazed to see what looked like Li's shadow move again.