

Handy Creatures

Give yourself a hand!

Materials: Light source, such as a torch, lamp, phone torch etc

Time: 30 minutes

Drama
Activities
for
Year 3-4

Find more resources at [artslive.com](https://www.artslive.com)



Watch

Watch the video [How to make Shadow Puppets with your Hands](#) on YouTube.

Prepare

Create a space to make your shadows.

1. Find a room at home that you can make dark. You might need to shut all the doors and curtains.
2. Find a light source, it could be a lamp or torch, even a phone torch will do.
3. Ask a family member to help you secure the light source so you don't have to hold it.
4. Position the light source so that it is shining up against a wall or other surface.
5. Test by making an open hand on the wall and slowly pulling your hand away from the wall towards your light. Your shadow should appear like magic!

What happens to your shadow when you move your hand closer and further away from the light?

Practice

Watch the video again and have a go at copying some of the shapes. You may have to pause the video to practice the shapes and movements.

Here are the YouTube timestamps for different animals!

- [0:04](#) – Swan
- [0:14](#) – Dog
- [0:26](#) – Bird
- [0:38](#) – Crocodile
- [0:52](#) – Elephant
- [1:05](#) – Swan
- [1:27](#) – Goose
- [1:42](#) – Goat
- [1:51](#) – Turtle
- [2:08](#) - Cow
- [2:24](#) – Chicken
- [2:33](#) – Snail
- [2:48](#) – Crab

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Perform

Create an improvised scene with some the shadow creatures of your choice. Make animal noises to match the characters and their actions.

Explore other movements and sounds that your animal might make, such as:

- Eating
- Moving
- Sleeping
- Yawning
- Talking (if they could!)

Once you're ready, invite a family member into your shadow space and share your shadow puppet performance. Can they guess what animals you are doing?

Explore

Watch [DIY Hand Drawing](#) on ARTS:LIVE.

On paper, see if you can trace and cut out your hand shapes to form new hand shadow creatures!

Create an artwork on a larger piece of paper by using glue to arrange shapes of your hand drawings in a way that you like.