

How to make... moving shadow puppets

Suitable for ages 7-11

You will need:

- Thin cardboard (a cereal box works well)
- A pencil
- Split pins
- A hole punch
- Scissors
- Bamboo skewers or drinking straws
- Tape
- Paper
- Greaseproof or tracing paper (optional)

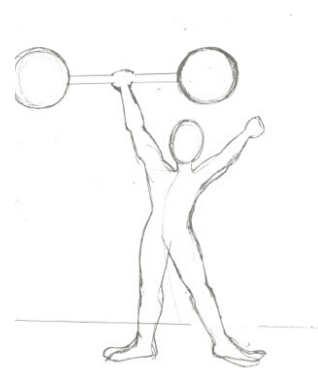


Take your shadow puppets to the next level and make them move! This activity sheet includes a template you can print out and use, or you can draw your own characters.

Instructions:

Step 1:

Draw your character on a sheet of paper. Remember with shadow puppets we just need to focus on the silhouettes of our characters. So just draw an outline.

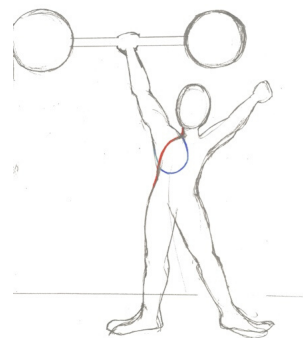


Step 2:

Decide which part of your character you would like to move. On this character we are going to make the arm move so he can lift weights up and down.

Step 3:

You need to lengthen the arm to overlap the joint. In the picture, the blue line is the shape for the bottom of the arm and the red line is the shape of the body. You can see how the new pieces will overlap each other.



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Step 4:

You need to transfer these two separate pieces on to card. If you have tracing paper or greaseproof paper, here is a little artist trick for you. If you don't have tracing paper you could draw them freehand.



Step 5:

Cover your drawing with greaseproof paper and trace around it, following the full body outline and the red line over the shoulder, ignoring all of the second arm.



Step 6:

Repeat with the arm, following the new blue line to finish the shape.

Step 7:

Turn your piece of greaseproof paper over and place it on your cardboard. Scribble all over your sheet of greaseproof paper where your drawing is. Make sure your greaseproof paper doesn't slip as you go.



Step 8:

Peel back your sheet of greaseproof paper and you will see that your drawing has transferred on to the card.



Step 9:

Repeat this process with your arm piece.



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Step 10:

Cut out your pieces.



Step 11:

Punch a hole where the two pieces will meet.



Step 12:

Join them together by pushing a split pin through both holes and folding the pins back in opposite directions. If you don't have a split pin you could use a pipe cleaner.



Step 13:

Now it's time to add the controlling sticks. Cut yourself two small strips of paper and fold them in half.



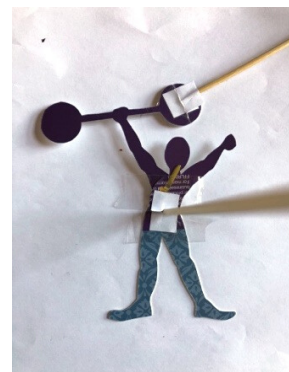
Step 14:

Make sure your pieces of paper are opening out in opposite directions. Put glue on the top halves and sandwich them together with a bamboo skewer or straw in the middle.



Step 15:

Tape this onto the back of your shadow puppet, with the bottom halves of the paper facing down. Remember you will need one stick on the body and one on the moving part, so you can control it.



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What next?

Now you know how to make one moving shadow puppet, be adventurous and see how creative you can be making other characters.

Here are a few ideas:

- You could make a cartwheeling acrobat and put the joint at the waist.
- You could make a clown, and then on a separate circle of tracing or greaseproof paper add little circles of card to make a circle of juggling balls. When you spin your circle it will look like the clown is juggling.

On the next page there are templates for these characters you could print and cut out. Or, you can design your own!

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Templates:

