

Shadow Pals Classroom Starter Kit

A 30-minute introduction to hand shadow puppetry

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What you need

- One bright light source, a clear wall or sheet, and room for students to stand safely.
- Remind students not to look directly into the light and to keep the walkway clear.

Lesson flow

1. Invite students to notice how moving a hand closer to the light changes the shadow.
2. Model one clear shape, then let pairs try it before moving to the next figure.
3. Use Rabbit, Dog, Bird, Cat, and Turtle as five quick wins.
4. Ask each pair to connect two figures with a sound, movement, or one-line story.
5. End with a short share-out and ask what made each silhouette easy to recognize.

Classroom extensions

- Literacy: Make a beginning, middle, and end with three shadows.
- Science: Test how distance changes shadow size and edge sharpness.
- Drama: Add voice, pacing, and a simple audience cue.
- Accessibility: Let students direct, narrate, operate the light with adult support, or perform the hand shape in whatever role works best for them.

Keep going

Find beginner tutorials at shadowpals.com/explore?type=Figures&level=Beginner.

Shadow Pals for iPhone offers camera-guided practice for supported hand figures.