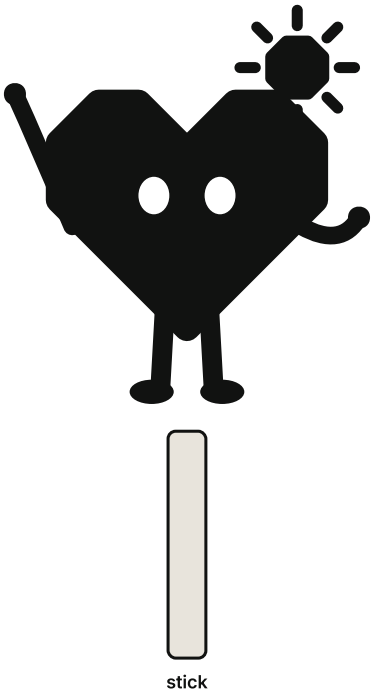
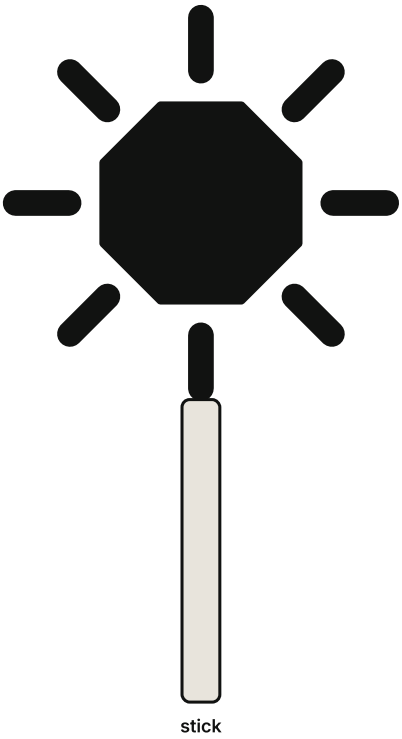
Shadow puppet theatre

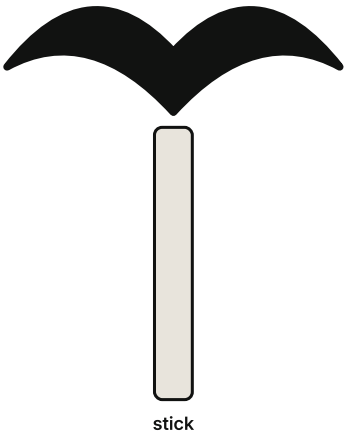
Cut out the black shapes, tape each one to a stick or straw, and make shadows on a wall with a torch. Grown-ups hold the torch. How to put on a show is on page 2.



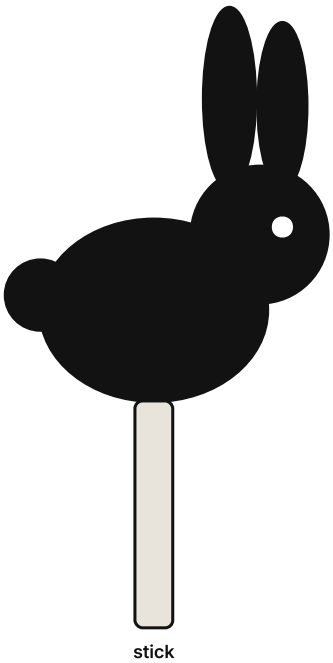
stick



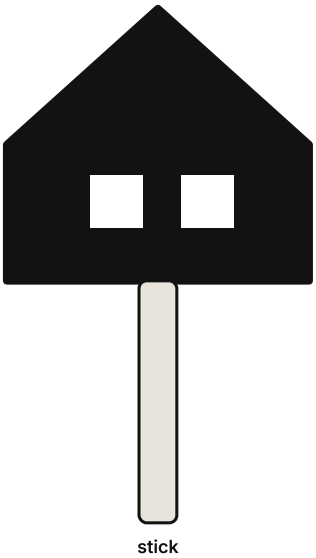
stick



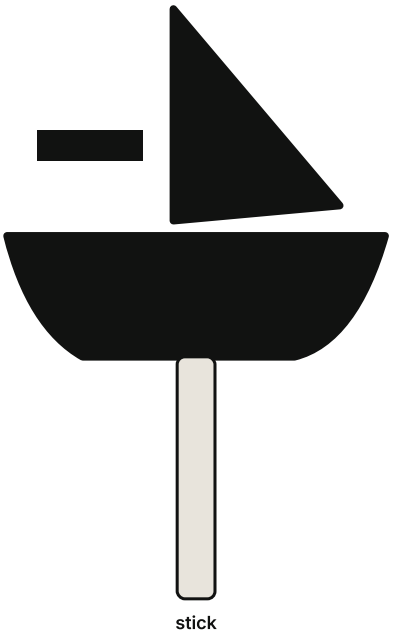
stick



stick



stick



stick

Cut close to each black shape. White parts are holes: let the light shine through!

Putting on a shadow show

1. Find a plain light wall, or hang a white sheet. Switch off the big lights.
2. A grown-up sets a torch or lantern on a table, about two big steps from the wall, shining at the wall. Never shine it in anyone's eyes.
3. Hold a puppet between the torch and the wall. Move it closer to the torch and the shadow grows. Move it closer to the wall and the shadow shrinks and gets sharper.
4. Make up a play. Who is the hero? Where are they going? What kind thing happens at the end?
5. Take a bow. The audience claps quietly or wiggles their fingers like twinkling stars.

Little play ideas

- **The sun and the rabbit: the sun helps the rabbit find its way home before dark.**
- **The bird and the boat: a bird rides on a quiet sunny boat across the lake.**
- **Cell's lost shadow: Cell searches the house and finds it was there all along.**
- **Shadow guessing: hide a puppet behind the sheet. Can everyone guess who it is?**

Why it works: light travels in straight lines. When the puppet blocks the light, it leaves a dark shape behind it on the wall. That dark shape is a shadow.