

1st Grade Lesson Plans

Shadow Puppets, Storytelling, and Phases of the Moon

Learning Objectives:

I can:

- Create shadow puppets using paper, scissors, dowel rods, and glue
- Recognize and describe the changes of the moon as it moves through the phases
- Duplicate the shape of the moon phases in my paper cutouts
- Point out changes in the shadow puppet image, while exploring distances from the light source
- Explain that cultures and Ancient people created stories to explain the natural world
- Create a story about why the moon changes in appearance

Materials and Supplies:

Pre-Show

- [Google Slides presentation](#)
- Cardstock or Poster Paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Dowel rods or Wooden Skewers
- Tape
- Flashlight or Lamp
- Solid Background

Post-Show

- [Google Slides Presentation](#)
- Paper
- Pencils
- iPads or Recording Device (optional)

Standards:

South Carolina Academic Standards for Performance Indicators for Science

Standard 1.P.2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the properties of light and how shadows are formed.

1.P.2A.3 Conduct structured investigations to answer questions about how shadows change when the position of the light source changes.

Standard 1.E.3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the patterns of the Sun and the Moon and the Sun's effect on Earth.

1.E.3A.2 Use data from personal observations to describe, predict, and develop models to exemplify how the appearance of the moon changes over time in a predictable pattern.

South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards for Theatre Proficiency

Anchor Standard 1: I can create scenes and write scripts using story elements and structure.

Benchmark T.CR NH.1 I can work with others to add dialogue to a story.

Indicator T.CR NH1.2 I can collaborate with peers to improvise multiple dialogue choices.

Anchor Standard 7: I can examine the role of theatre through history and culture.

Benchmark T.C NM.7 I can relate to character experiences of a specific culture.

Indicator T.R NM.7.1 I can recognize how a specific culture explores theatrical elements.

Pre-Show Activity-Making Moon Phase Shadow Puppets!

Introduction-KWL Chart (10 minutes)

Create a KWL (Know, Wonder, Learn) chart on the board or on chart paper with your class! Take notes as the children answer the following questions about the moon phases and light and shadows.

- What do we know?
- What do we wonder about?
- What have we learned?

Grouping Students, Passing Out Materials (5 minutes)

This activity would work best in groups of about 4 students, so that puppets of each phase of the moon can be created. Group your students however you see fit!

The materials needed for creating the puppets are listed above. You know your classroom best! Decide how you'd like students to get their materials.

What are shadow puppets? Introduce the Activity! (5 minutes)

Briefly explain what shadow puppets are: figures that are placed between a light and a screen! Use the google slides presentation and videos included to help explain.

Briefly explain the origin of shadow puppets: they're used in countries all over the world and was created thousands of years ago! They can be very simple or very complex.

Create the Shadow Puppets (15 minutes)

Have the image of the phases of the moon on the Smartboard for students to reference. After students have their materials and are in their groups of about 4 they will:

- Decide which group members are creating which puppets--each member should create 2 moon-phase shadow puppets
- Draw outlines of the puppets on the cardstock or poster paper
- Cut out the shapes
- Use tape to attach the skewer or dowel rod to the back of each puppet

Experiment with the Puppets! (10 minutes)

First, gain the whole group's attention to model how shadow puppets work. Either have sample shadow puppets of your own or use one group's puppets as an example. Show them that placing the puppet in front of the light source creates a shadow image on the wall. Then, let them explore on their own!

Ideally, it would be great to have multiple lamps or flashlights, so multiple groups can explore at one time! If this is the case, have the students explore and experiment in their groups. One member can hold the flashlight, while others explore how changing the distance between the light source and the puppet changes the image.

Circulate through the room to encourage this exploration and pose questions to guide learning!

- What happens to the image as you move the puppet?
- Why do you think this happens?
- What order do you think the puppets should go in?
- Why do you think that's the correct order?
- Why do you think the appearance of the moon changes?

If it's not possible to have all groups exploring at once, have each group come up to the light source, pose the questions to the whole class and omit the next step.

Closing-Come together to discuss! (5 minutes)

Have one group, or one member from each group come forward to share their shadow puppets. Pose the same questions you did while circulating to the whole group.

Post-Show Activity-Creating a Moon Phase Myth!

Introduction-Mythology and Moon Phases (5 minutes)

Use the google slides presentation to explain that ancient people used to create stories to explain things in the natural world, like the phases of the moon. Briefly explain the Hindu myth about why the appearance of the moon changed. Ask the students if they remember anything about this topic from the play-what do they remember?

Imagination Warm Up (5-10 minutes)

Explain that for this activity, we'll have to use our imaginations and sometimes we need to get our imaginations going. Have the students move about the room with controlled bodies. Remind them to be aware of their surroundings and to use walking feet! As they move around, call out different ways they have to walk. For example, walk like:

- You're an astronaut on the moon
- The floor is sticky
- You're walking through Jell-o
- There's a heavy wind coming right at you

Use your imagination to come up with more examples!

Group Students (2 minutes)

The students should rejoin their groups from the shadow puppet lesson

Create a story (20 minutes)

Use the example in the Google Slides presentation to show the students an example story.

Students will:

- Brainstorm as a group. What story could explain why the moon changes in appearance?
- Decide on one idea to use for their story
- Choose someone to write for the group
- Write 3 sentences, telling their story of why the moon changes
- Choose 3 members to read the sentences
- Rehearse reading their story

Circulate to help guide the students in their storytelling!

Perform for the class! (5 minutes)

Have each group share their story with the class!

Adaptations:

-If you have iPads or any similar technology, instead of students writing their sentences, you could have them record them instead! This should be a time saver.

-Instead of students writing sentences, have each student improvise their own story after brainstorming with their group! This could be done in small groups or in whole-group.

-Have the students draw a picture of their story, then explain it to their group or the whole class!

-Mythology too much? Have the students simply answer the question, "Why does the moon change in appearance?" They can brainstorm in their group, then create narration based on that! You could encourage them to come up with a realistic answer and a fantastical answer!

Want to do more?

Create a shadow puppet theatre with your class! Use this [link](#) to learn how.

Create a performance piece! Have each group choose puppeteers and a narrator. Then have the groups perform the shadow puppets in moon phase order while the narrator reads their story! Do you have iPads or other technology? Have the students record their performance piece to share with parents!