



**Short Activity**  
**Ages 3–5**  
**20 minutes**

## Tracing Shadows

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### Description

Use shadows or reflections of light as a drawing prompt.

### Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Artistic expression
- Eye-hand coordination

### Materials

- Paper
- An object for each participant to create a shadow or an interesting light pattern (e.g. glass cup, toy, stuffed animal)
- Drawing utensils (pencils, markers, highlighters, pencil crayons)
- Optional: flashlights

### Implementation

1. Use sunlight coming in from windows or another light source to create a shadow or light pattern; alternatively, dim the lights and use flashlights
2. Place your object on a piece of paper and move it around until you like the shadow or light pattern it creates
3. Trace the lines of the shadows or light patterns
4. Use your imagination to add more detail after tracing

### Book Suggestions

*Drawn from Nature* by Helen Ahpornsiri

*Mountains of the World* by Dieter Braun

*The Night the Forest Came to Town* by Charles Ghigna

# Images and Templates

