

# Directions for shadow-puppet theater

Activity: After making paper athletes, use them as shadow-puppets in a theater. There are several ways to make a shadow-puppet theater. Two main ingredients: a THIN piece of light-colored or white cloth, canvas or paper and just ONE beam of light behind the puppet. The single beam of light may be a clip-on lamp that acts as a spotlight, a film projector, or a flashlight.

Attach your cloth or paper to a strip of wood or a broom handle resting on chairs or desks or step ladders on each end. Or two people can hold the theater screen up in the air. You can also use an unprimed (raw) canvas, already stretched and stapled to its wooden frame, resting vertically on the ground or propped up on a table.

To suspend paper athletes in the air for photos or videos of your theater, attach threads to the shadow-puppets and then tack the threads to the top edge of your theater frame or broom handle (or just hold them up in the air yourselves near to the back of the screen). Shine the focused beam of light behind your athlete and it will appear on the screen. The shadow-puppet will be in sharp focus when it is close to the screen. You can also temporarily attach your puppets directly to the back of the screen with tape or low-tack adhesive instead of attaching strings to suspend the puppets.

There are no right or wrong combinations of athletic apparel, sports equipment or prizes. Have fun thinking up your own sports clothing and adventures.