

LIGHT AND SHADOW WITH A FLASHLIGHT



A 10-minute activity to do with a grown-up. It shows why outdoor movies wait until dark.

You need

- A flashlight (a grown-up holds it or helps)
- A sheet of white paper taped to a wall
- A small paper shape (a star, heart or animal) taped to a pencil
- A room you can make dim

Try it

- 1 With the room lights ON, shine the flashlight at the paper. Hold your shape in the beam to make a shadow picture. How easy is it to see?
- 2 Turn the room lights OFF (keep a night-light on so nobody trips). Shine the flashlight the same way. What changed?
- 3 The flashlight made the same picture both times. With the lights on, extra light landed on the paper too and washed out the dark parts. That's why outdoor movies start after the sun goes down.
- 4 Move your shape closer to the flashlight, then closer to the paper. What happens to the shadow's size?

Safety

- Point the flashlight only at the paper. Never shine it in anyone's eyes, including pets.
- Never look into a flashlight or a projector lens.

I noticed...
