

# Shadow Drawing



Create unique drawings using the shadows of plants or everyday objects around your house. Shadow drawing will sharpen your sense of sight as you learn to notice details with an artist's eye. Drawing plants can help cultivate interest in plant identification and stewardship.



## Materials:

- Paper & Pencil
- Items from around your house (toys, action figures)
- Potted or collected plants (optional)
- Colored pencils, watercolor, markers or crayons (optional)

## Set Up:

- Find a sunny spot outside or by a window.

*TIP: If you don't have access to a sunny spot - set up a lamp or a flashlight so it casts shadows onto the paper.*

- Place your paper on a hard surface (book, clipboard or table) and make sure it's fully in the sun.

## Activity:

- Gather items for your drawing. Toys, action figures, plants and leaves all make interesting shadows. You might go outside and take a clipping from a plant. Just make sure it's not poison ivy!

*TIP: Gather more items than you plan to use, as some make clearer shadows than others. Place your items so they cast shadows onto your paper. You may have to move or rotate the items to create clearer shadows. Decide which you like best, and finalize your shadow design.*

- Take your pencil and trace the shadows onto the paper.
- Once you have traced your objects, remove the items and check out your picture!
- Use colored pencils, crayons, or paint to complete your picture. Make an interesting background or scene for your shadow drawing.

## Discussion:

- Why do the shadows change as you rotate your items?
- What do you think is the best time of day to make shadow drawings? Why?
- How does the size of your item compare to the size of the shadow, and why?
- Do you see your item any differently now that you have drawn its shadow? How? What do you now notice that you didn't before?

## Did you know...



Long before watches and cell phones, people used the sun and shadows to tell time! One method for this is called a sundial.

**Bonus:** Research sundials, and share what you learn with us on Instagram [@wildearthny](https://www.instagram.com/wildearthny). We want to see your shadow drawings too!

