

Moon Shadow Play

Explore the phases of the Moon with hands-on play!

Materials Needed:

One sheet each of black and yellow construction paper, glue, scissors, strip of thin cardboard, crayons, pencil, cup or jar lid to trace (about 3 inches wide)

Note: This craft is designed for adults to assemble. Children can help with each step, and then enjoy playing with the finished product!

Instructions:

Watch a video showing how to make this craft www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulqMpghBBz0

Step 1: Prepare your pieces.

- x Cut the black and yellow sheets of construction paper in half.
- x On one of the half sheets of black paper, use a cup or jar lid to trace a circle about 3 inches wide, and cut it out.
- x From the same sheet, cut two strips 6 inches (15 cm) long. One should be 3/4 inch (2 cm) wide, and the other should be 3 inches (7.5 cm) wide.
- x On the other half sheet of black paper, trace a same-sized circle near the top. Cut out the circle, making sure to leave the rest of the sheet intact.
- x Cut a strip of thin cardboard 6 inches (15 cm) long and 3/4 inch (2 cm) wide.



Step 2: Assemble your pieces. Glue the black sheet with the cut-out circle to a half sheet of yellow.

The Phases of the Moon

Why does the Moon appear to change shape?

The Moon does not change shape. It always shows the same side to Earth. The Moon is lit up by the light from the sun! The moon also orbits the Earth every 28 days. We see the moon change shape, but this is not because it receives less light (or gets smaller). One half of the Moon is still lit up by the sun. Instead, we see the light side of the Moon differently depending on where the Earth is compared to the Moon and Sun.