

## Teachers' Notes

### **Blackout Facilities**

During this session the children will be investigating shadows which will be much easier to see in a darkened room. If your classroom has blackout blinds use these to block out extraneous light for the investigation tasks. If you do not have this option, consider arranging to do the investigative tasks in a different room that has blackout facilities, e.g. the hall.

### **Light Sources**

Ensure that you have good quality torches for the children to use for investigations. Choose torches with a focused forward facing beam if possible rather than those with a lantern style head that throws light all around. Make sure the batteries have plenty of life in them. Weak torches and flat batteries will not allow children to investigate shadows in a rewarding and meaningful way. Overhead projectors and ceiling mounted projectors are powerful light sources that are ideal for shadow investigations. When using them, be sure to warn the children of the dangers of looking directly into the light. Also remind them of the importance of not shining torches into people's eyes.

### **Screens**

During the investigative part of the lesson you will need a number of screens on which to project shadows. Ideally you will need two screens large enough for a group of children to see. One could be your projector screen and the other a section of plain, pale coloured wall. If you do not have a suitable wall you could hang a white sheet or tape an A1 sheet of white card to a cupboard or shelf. For task 3, pairs of children will need a small screen to create hand shadow puppets. An A3 sheet of white card propped up on the table or taped to a piece of classroom equipment will work well.

### **YouTube film clips**

There are two useful YouTube film clips recommended for this session. Consider downloading them ahead of the session to avoid unsuitable or distracting advertisements popping up during the lesson.

### **Your Choice of Performance**

During this session the children will make the shadow puppets they will need for their performance so you will need to make a decision as to the theme and nature of the show and share this with the class (if you have not already done so). The style and theme of the show could be anything that fits in with your class learning this term. It could be that each group works on a performance of their own traditional tale (as seen in "The 3 Little Piggies"). Alternatively the story could fit in with a current topic in English, history, or any other theme (e.g. Christmas) that might lend itself to a performance. You could consider the option of a whole class performance with each group working on a different scene that fits together to make the whole show. Each group will need to know what puppets to make and don't forget that you can also ask groups to make shadow scenery and props for the play too!