



# 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=ulqMpggBBz0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulqMpggBBz0)

**Step 1:** Prepare your pieces.

- Cut the black and yellow sheets of construction paper in half.
- On one of the half sheets of black paper, use a cup or jar lid to trace a circle about 3 inches (7.5 cm) wide, and cut it out.
- 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.
- 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.
- Cut a strip of thin cardboard 6 inches (15 cm) long and 3/4 inch (2 cm) wide.

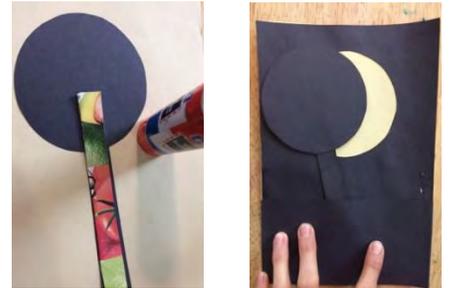


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**Step 2:** Assemble your pieces. Glue the black sheet with the cut-out circle to a half sheet of yellow construction paper. This is your moon background. Line up the 3-inch wide strip of black paper along the bottom edge of the background sheet. Glue the bottom and sides of the strip to the background sheet to make a pocket. Make sure to leave the top edge open!

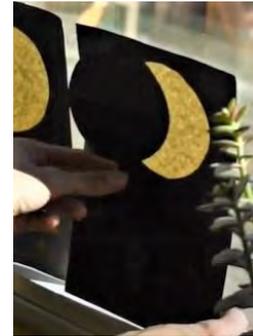


Glue the thin strip of black paper to the strip of thin cardboard to make a handle. Glue the handle to the back of the black circle. This is your shadow puppet.



**Step 3:** Use crayons to decorate the pocket. Draw trees, a house, people, or anything else you'd like.

**Step 4:** Set your moon in a window or by a light source. The yellow paper will "shine". Move the shadow puppet to make different phases of the Moon. In the evening, look at the Moon in the sky, and try to make the same shape with your puppet!



Watch an animated version of the story  
*Papa Please Get The Moon For Me* by Eric Carle:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGqAw7UM6qo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGqAw7UM6qo)



With older children, try using this Moon journal sheet  
to observe and track the Moon phases:  
[moon.nasa.gov/resources/12/moon-observation-journal/](http://moon.nasa.gov/resources/12/moon-observation-journal/)

# The Phases of the Moon

## Why does the Moon appear to change shape?

The Moon doesn't produce its own light like a star, but instead reflects 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.

