

Shadow puppet theatre

Shadow puppet theatres first started in China thousands of years ago. But shadow puppet theatre is still popular today in many parts of the world. Shadow puppets tell people about important events and describe traditional stories. Nowadays there are some new and modern stories, too.



The puppets are usually made from animal skins. These shadow puppets are camel skin and they come from Indonesia. Often there is just one puppeteer who makes the puppets move. To move the puppets there are wooden sticks on the puppets' backs.

The theatre is dark and a bright light shines on the puppets to make shadows on a screen behind them. The puppeteer does all the voices. And sometimes there are other people singing or playing instruments.

Hand shadows

You can do shadow theatre at home, using your hands! You will need a white wall and a bright light.

To make a growling tiger:

- Make a 'C' shape with your left hand.
- Put your right hand on top of your left hand, with your fingers on the back of your hand.
- Lift up your right thumb a little for the tiger's ear.
- Don't forget to make the tiger's mouth move by moving the fingers and thumb on your left hand.



3 Underline these words in the text. Guess their meanings and then check them in the Workbook 4 Dictionary.

shadow puppet popular event stick screen voice lift up

4 Read again and write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Shadow puppet theatre started in Turkey. F
- 2 The theatre shows are always about old stories. _____
- 3 The puppets are usually made from plastic. _____
- 4 You can make shadows in a dark room with a strong light. _____
- 5 You can make a tiger's mouth move. _____