

Bali Shadow Puppets

Overview

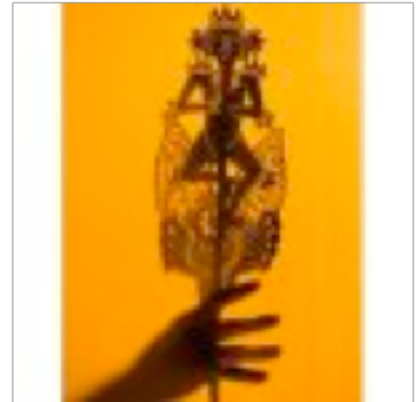
Students will create Bali shadow puppets representing the main components of a story. Students are encouraged to share their puppets and the story with other students and classrooms. Bali shadow puppet plays work well with a narrator.

Standards

This craft project aligns with the following national standards, as outlined by McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning).

www.mcrel.org

- Theater Standard 3
- Visual Arts Standards 1, 3 and 4
- Working with Others Standard 1



Cultural Influence

Puppets are one of the oldest forms of storytelling. In Bali and other islands of Indonesia, shadow puppet theater, known as *wayang kulit*, holds an important place in the country's culture. Wayang theater is not only used to pass on the country's history and moral teachings, but also provides comedy and political commentary.

Traditional shadow puppets are elaborately decorated and designed with many holes in order to display an interesting shadow. Shadow puppet theaters require a light source, traditionally a fire, and a screen for the shadows to appear on.

Time

Two to three class periods

Materials

For Creating Puppets

- One 8½" by 11" piece of heavy card stock per student
- One chopstick or new pencil per student
- Scissors
- Tape
- Hole punch – at least one per three to four students



Bali Shadow Puppets

For Creating the Theater

- Small lamp or large flashlight
- White sheet/fabric
- Tape/clips to secure the white sheet/fabric

Project Directions

Creating the Puppets

- Outline a puppet's shape on card stock
- Cut out the outline of the puppet
- Create additional details with scissors and the hole punch
- Tape pencil or chopstick to the back of the puppet to support it

Creating the Theater

- Orient the sheet with puppeteers and the light source on one side of the sheet and the audience on the opposite side. Often a doorway works well.
- The audience should be able to see only the shadow puppets. Traditionally, the light source sits between the puppeteer and the sheet, however, it may work well to tip a table on its side in order for the puppeteers also to sit in front of the light source but still remain unseen.

Teacher Preparation

- Select a book or books from **We Give Books** (www.wegivebooks.org).
- Collect all required materials.
- Create one puppet for demonstration.
- Production decisions: Will all the students be able to participate in one production, or will they be broken into groups? Will the entire class retell the same story, or will multiple stories be used? Where will the theater be set up?

Classroom Instruction

- Direct your web browser to the **We Give Books** website at www.wegivebooks.org.
- Log in to your account and select a campaign to support.
- Choose a book to read and click the orange "Read Online" button to open it.
- Read your selected book(s) to the students.
- After reading a story to the class, explain to students that they will use the story to create a special kind of play for other students to enjoy.



Bali Shadow Puppets

- Read the Cultural Influence section above to students.
- Show students the shadow puppet and demonstrate how shadow puppets appear to the audience.
- Demonstrate the steps for making shadow puppets.
- Assign students their puppet to create and let them go to work!

Ideas for Display

- Display the class puppets with pictures from the performance.
- Create a description of Bali shadow puppets to include with the display.