

# Storytelling with Light



Join us as we use light to present stories in a fun way. Design your own storytelling experience by drawing backdrops, creating cut-outs of characters, and “special effects” that make fascinating use of lights and shadows.

## HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO HELP US GET STARTED.

- ✓ Choose your story - create your own story or choose a favorite story you want to adapt.
- ✓ Think about your characters and backdrops. Thinking on these questions will help.
  - » How many characters are there in your story?
  - » What do they look like?
  - » How many scenes does your story have?
  - » Where does your story take place?
- ✓ What kind of emotions do you want your audience to feel? Decide the use of colors and light filters accordingly.

## WE WILL NEED THESE MATERIALS

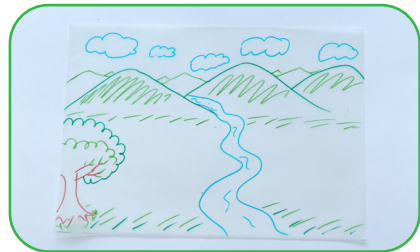


**Note:** Use the batteries and battery holder from the scribble bot pack. If the batteries are drained, replace one of them with the extra battery available with this content.

### LET'S HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE KEY STEPS INVOLVED.

1

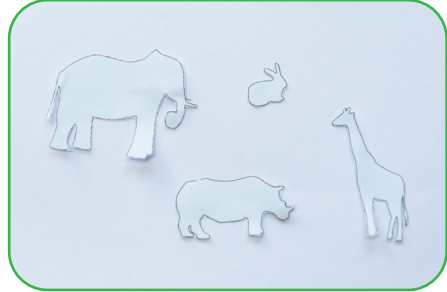
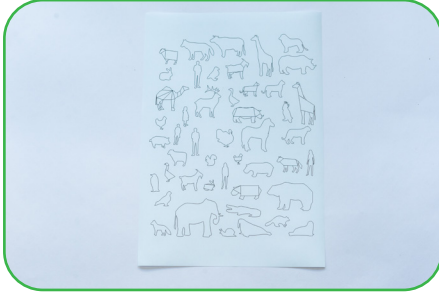
Draw backdrops for your story on tracing paper. Use sign pens and draw neat and elaborate backdrops.



2

Prepare characters for your story from the kit.

» You can cut out the characters from the template sheet.

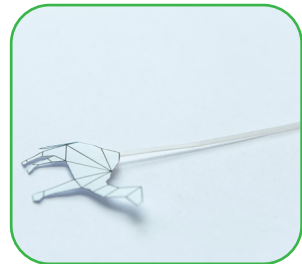
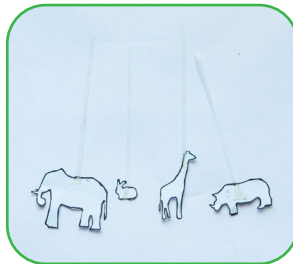
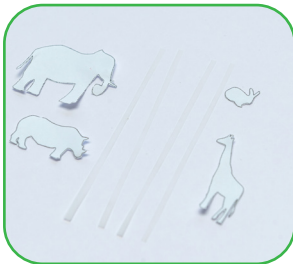


3

You can also draw your own characters and cut them out. Use simple geometric shapes to draw characters easily. Observe the characters template to get ideas.

4

Cut thin, long strips of tracing paper to make handles for the characters. Fold once and crease the strips along the length to make the stick rigid. Stick them to the characters using small roll of masking tape.

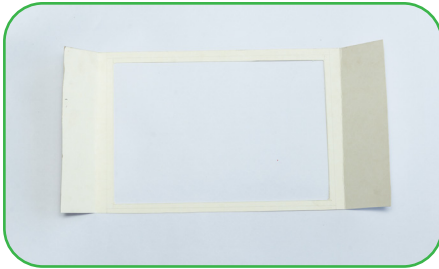


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You can prepare more than one backdrop if your story needs it.

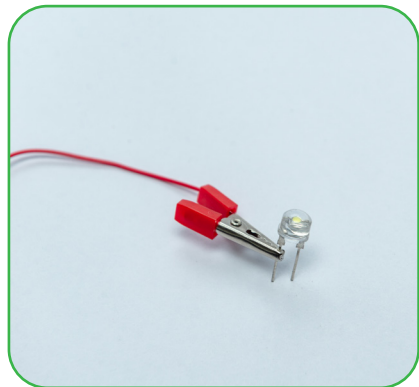
To present your story, prepare the stage and screen. Fold the creases so that the frame can stand erect.

Attach your backdrop to the stage frame. To do so, prepare small rolls of masking tape such that the sticky surface lies outwards. Stick the rolls to the edges of the stage and gently attach your backdrop to it



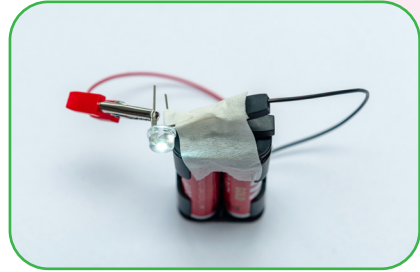
6

Now let's prepare the source of light for our stage. Connect the 3 volt LED with the alligator clips of the battery holder. Connect the longer leg of the LED with the red wire of the battery holder. This is because both of them are positive terminals.



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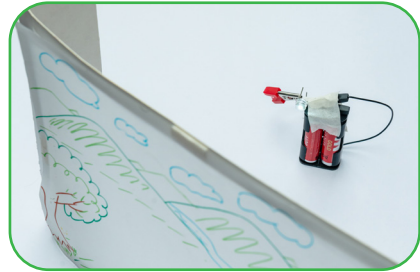
Attach the LED horizontally on the battery holder. Make the battery holder stand upright and use it as a stand for the LED.



**Note: If the height isn't sufficient, place objects like notebooks under the battery holder to make it taller.**

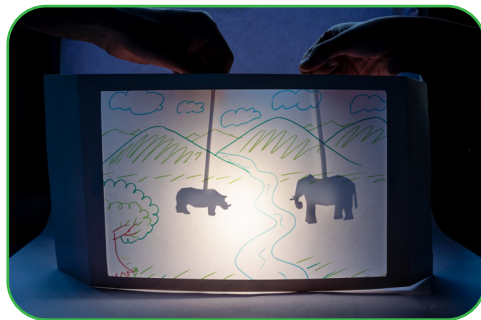
8

Place the light source(LED) behind the stage in such a way that light falls uniformly on the screen.



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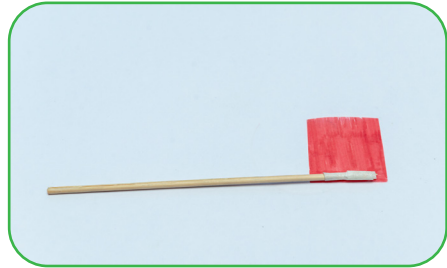
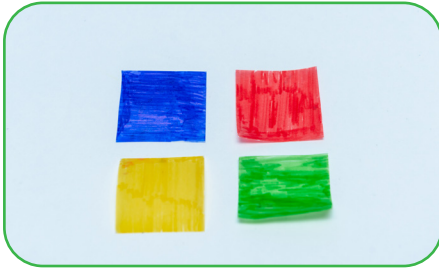
Bring your characters in front of the light to cast their shadow on the screen. Make sure you keep the handle long enough that your hand's shadow isn't cast on the screen. Narrate your story as you move your characters behind the stage.



10

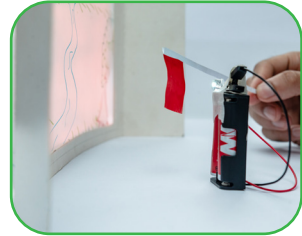
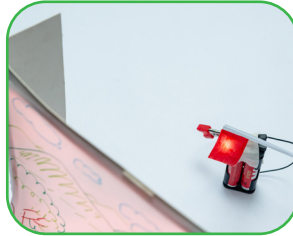
Change your backdrops as the story progresses. To change the backdrop, gently remove the current backdrop from the stage frame without removing the tape. Then gently attach the next backdrop to the frame.

Cut and color pieces of tracing paper to prepare color filters. Attach them on any long object such as food sticks to make it easier to handle them.



11

Place a filter in front of the LED to cast colored light on the screen.

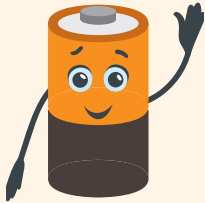


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This technique is useful to evoke certain emotions in your storytelling. For example, a red filter can be used to turn the screen reddish during scenes of anger or danger.



## WE FOUND THESE TIPS USEFUL WHILE PREPARING OUR STORYTELLING EXPERIENCE



- ✓ Gently attach the backdrop to the stage. If you press the backdrop firmly against the tape, you'll have difficulty in changing the backdrops.
- ✓ You can move the characters near or farther from the screen to change the size of their shadow. This can be used as a special effect in your storytelling.
- ✓ Placing the light too close to the screen will result in uneven lighting. Placing it too far will result in dim shadows. An optimum distance will make the shadows and backdrop look clear.

### Think like a scientist

Why does the size of shadows change when it's moved near or farther from the screen?

### Think like a director

What is the difference between writing a story and presenting a story visually, through play or movies?

### Reflection

- Tell us about your experience. What ideas worked well for you in this activity?
- How has your perspective towards theater and movies changed?