Stick Puppet Shadow Play

THE CAT IN THE HAT Knows a Lot About That!

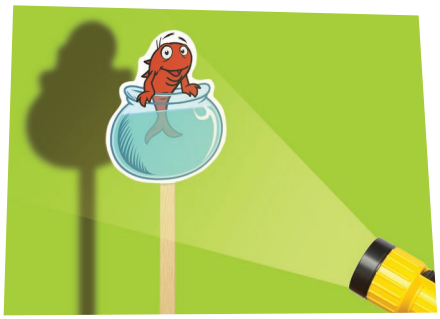
PBS KIDS

Shape, Size, and Silhouette Surprises

After Nick and Sally get spooked by some shadows, the Cat sheds light on how they are made. Join the fun! Explore shadow science with The Cat in the Hat stick puppets, a flashlight, and your own imagination.

Materials

- The Cat in the Hat Puppet printables
- Cardstock or paper
- Straws or wooden craft sticks (6)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Flashlight
- Wax paper (optional)



Make the Puppets

1. Print The Cat in the Hat Puppets onto cardstock or paper. If using paper, glue printed puppets onto a second sheet of paper to add more strength.
2. With an adult's help, cut out the figures. Tape a straw or wooden craft stick to the back of each puppet.

Explore

1. Hold a stick puppet or two in front of the wall.
2. Can you create a shadow with the flashlight?
   What if you move the light closer to the puppet or farther away?
   What if you shine the light from high above or down low? What happens?
3. Can you make the shadow almost disappear, even while shining the light on it? How did you do that?

Tip

When playing with shadows, find a dark space with a blank wall. You might wait for the sun to go down or find a room without windows.

More Ways to Play

1. Now it is your turn to be a puppet! Ask a friend to point a flashlight at you while you make your body, hands, and arms into a shadow figure. A bird? A dinosaur? The Cat in the Hat?
2. Chinese shadow puppetry is one of the oldest forms of puppet art. Create your own screen and stage by taping a long piece of wax paper across the bottom of an open door frame. With the help of a friend, hold a stick puppet behind the paper, and then shine a light on it so the paper catches the shadow (the puppet will be between the light and the paper).
3. Pretend that it is the Cat—and not the children—who is spooked by the shadows. Have Nick and Sally teach him about shadows using the stick puppets and your flashlight.

Find related games in the FREE *The Cat in the Hat Builds That* app.
Download it now!

pbskids.org/catinthehat

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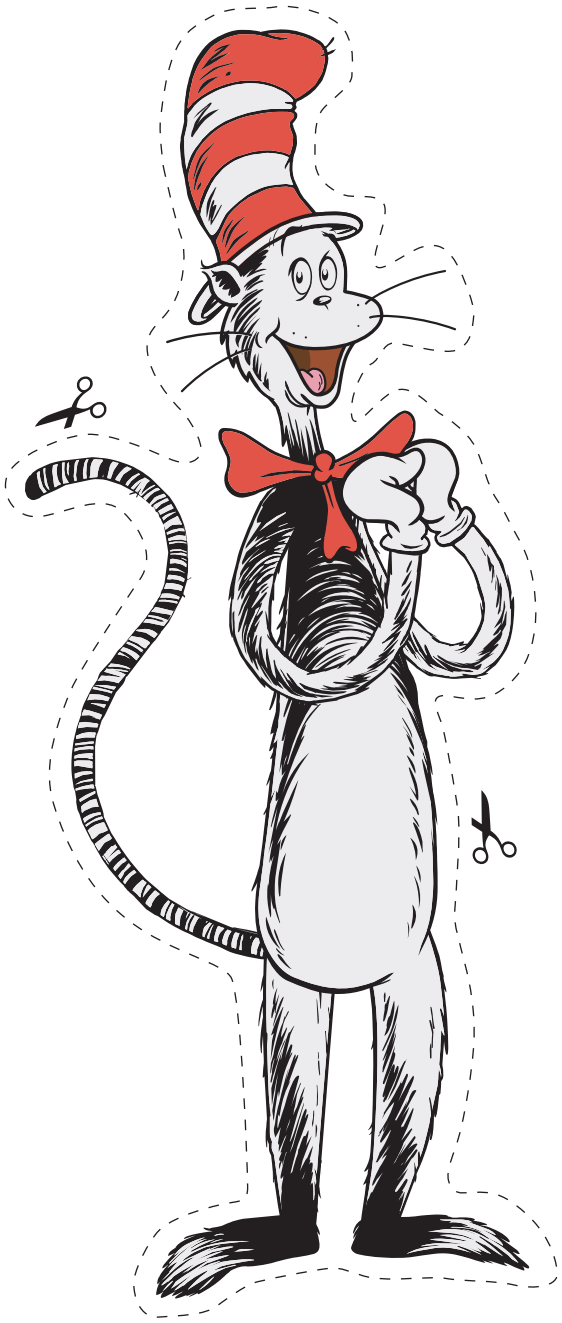

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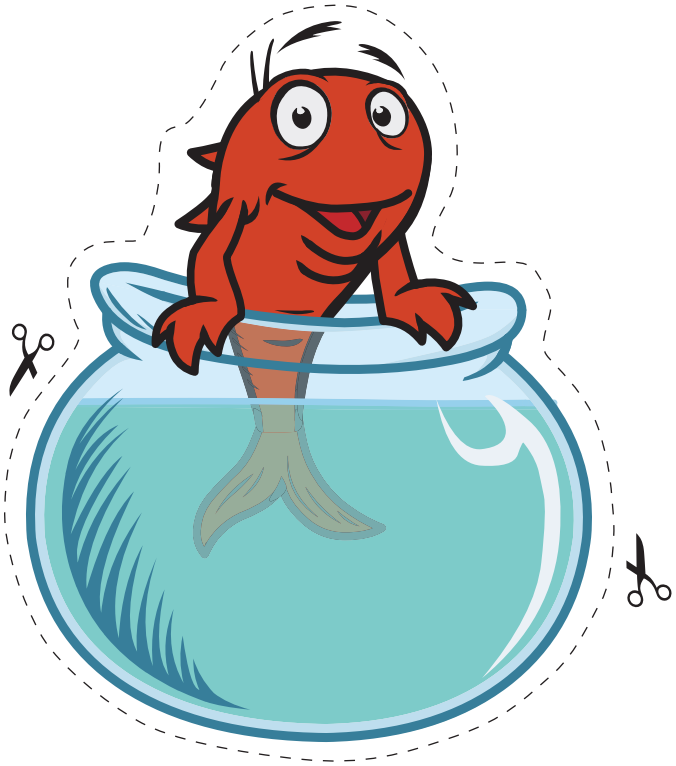

FISH

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SALLY

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NICK

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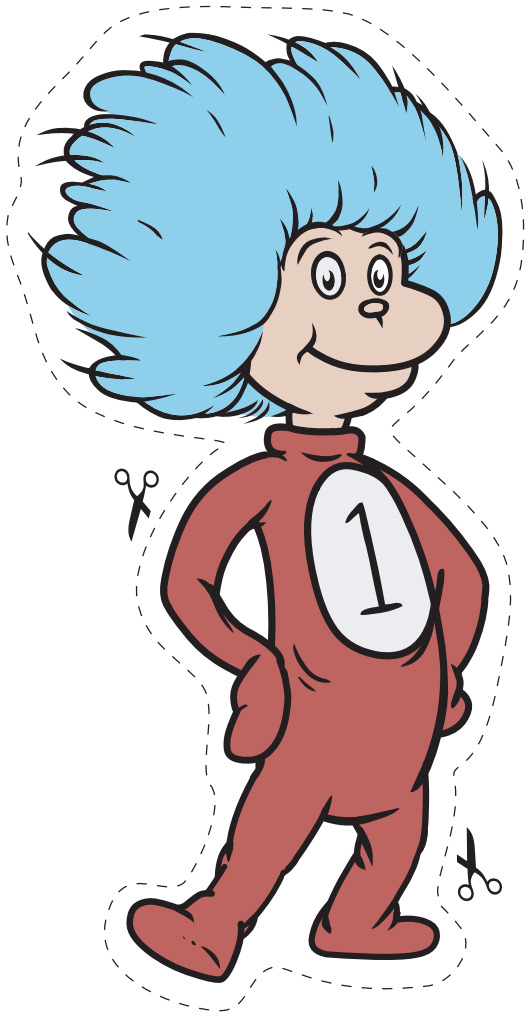

THING ONE

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THING TWO