

Botanical Shadow Art

FOURTH GRADE

Tracing the outlines of the shadows can be a good opportunity to compare the shapes of different plants and trees and talk about why they grow the way they do. Watching the shadows slowly drift away from the drawings can open up a space for great discussions about sunsets and sundials. This project is done with pencils on paper and then colored in.

SUBJECT

ART

TIME

45 MIN - 1 HR

MATERIALS

White construction paper, 1 sheet per student

Clipboards, 1 per student

Pencils, 1 per student

Permanent markers, 1 per student

Crayons, or markers, several to share

DIRECTIONS

- With your students, go for a walk around the garden and/or school grounds to find an area on campus where interesting shadows are present.
- Have students either spread out and locate their own shadow to trace or collectively agree on a spot to work together. Look for trees, branches, plants, and flowers that cast shadows.
- Once a shadow is located, place the paper on the ground beneath it, with the shadow cast onto the paper. Use clipboards as a hard surface if necessary.
- Have students trace their shadow, including as many of the details as possible. Encourage students to keep their papers in place and work quickly because shadows move constantly.
- After tracing their shadow, have students color in their art piece with the supplies you have provided.

SOURCE

Adapted from:

- Mystic Museum of Art | [Shadow Tracing](#)



Example of Botanical Shadow Art

