



Credit: NASA

Sun shadow pictures

This activity will demonstrate that the Sun's rays have energy.

Slow-reacting photosensitive paper can be substituted for the coloured sugar paper in order to speed up the amount of time needed for this activity.

You will need

- Coloured sugar paper (or photosensitive paper)
- White card
- A few classroom items of an interesting shape
- Masking tape

Steps

1

Find objects to draw that have an interesting outline – things with holes in them are particularly good.

2

Draw the objects on thin card and cut them out.

3

Arrange your cutouts on a piece of coloured sugar paper. Use masking tape to stick your shapes in place.

4

Stick your picture up in a window where it will be in direct sunlight.

5

Take your picture down after two or three days and see how the unprotected paper has faded and left 'shadows' of the shapes you stuck on.

Analysis/ discussion

What happens if you leave your picture in sunlight for six days?

Extend the activity by bringing in 2D shapes such as those encountered in maths lessons or shapes found in nature.