COLOR WHILE YOU LEARN!

Games of light and shadow in the Winterthur collection...

Q&A: So, did you think that today’s Moms, Dads, and kids came up with the game of creating funny shadows on the wall at night? Well, if you did, you’d be wrong! Such games almost certainly have been played all around the world, for thousands of years. (All you need is a strong light and a smooth surface to shine it upon.)

Learn more: In the 1700s and later, children’s books provided instructions on how to arrange your hands to create animals, birds and other shadow-shapes. Such a book may have inspired the printed designs on this American cotton handkerchief, made sometime between 1850 and 1900. Visit our online collections.

Winterthur Museum, gift of Mr. & Mrs. Lammot du Pont Copeland 1980.0071

For more family entertainment ideas, see Winterthur’s At-Home Activities!