

SHADOWS

Brainstorm everything you know about shadows, including how/when they're cast and typical objects in nature that provide shelter.

What are some movies or books with scenes that include shadows in a fictitious way?
How are they usually portrayed?

Explore this Hebrew word & picture tsel (H6738):

צל / ח

Read this selection of verses and ponder God's purpose for the theme of shadows in his story:

2 Kings 20:8-11
Hosea 14:4-7
Jonah 4:-11
Matthew 17:1-5
Luke 1:34-38
Colossians 2:16-17
Hebrews 8:1-5, 10:1-2

The imagery of being under shadow of God's wings as well as being in the shadow of death appear multiple times throughout Scripture. Read the following verses and consider what those contrasted illustrations reveal about God's design of shadows.

Psalm 91:1-4
Psalm 23:4
Exodus 37:7-9
Ruth 2:11-12

Take some time to ponder on all you've learned.
How do shadows give glory to Jesus & illustrate His story?
Have you made any new discoveries?

ENGAGE IN WONDER

How do shadows illustrate God's living story? Ponder everything you're learned.

Here are some additional questions to ignite your curiosity and imagination:

- Shadows can only be seen when the sun is out. How does the cycle and motion of the earth in relation to the sun (time of day/ seasons) effect the casting of shadows?
- How is a shadow the same and different than a reflection?
- The spinning earth puts itself into a shadow each night. Why do you think God made the earth to rotate & not the sun? How do these symbolic illustrations tell God's story?
- Imagine the changing of the shadow being cast at the cross of Jesus' crucifixion. How would it would have appeared from 9am -12pm? What happened from 12pm-3pm? See Mark 15:21-32
- Shadows cast by objects provide shade, which is an important theme in God's story. Why do you think God purposefully created trees to provide shade? How are the terms shadow and overshadowing the same and different? Ponder Jesus as our covering.
- Why do you think God created shadows to be easiest to see when there is a greater contrast between the shadow and lit surface (such as a white wall or light ground)?
- The shape that blocks the light source determines the shape of the shadow, but so does its position to the light. How does this illustrate God's story?