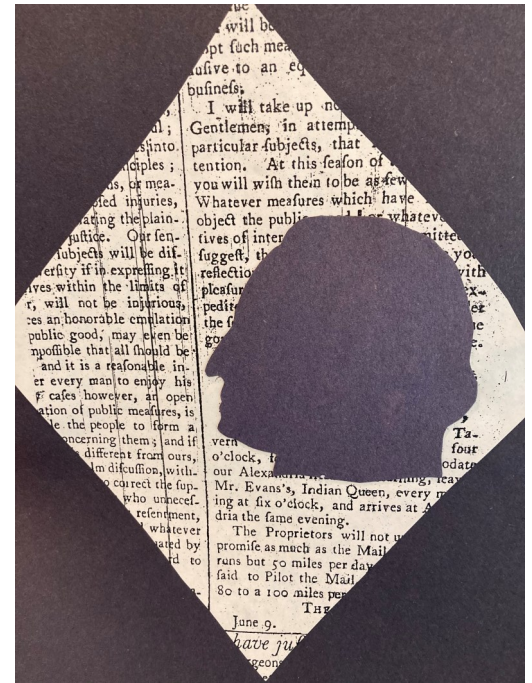


Silhouette Cutting

Silhouettes were a popular way to preserve a person's image before photography. Cheaper than a painting, these profiles were cut out of paper, usually black, and displayed.

What you will need:

- Black paper for the silhouette and contrasting paper to glue silhouette to.
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Tape to secure paper to wall
- Flashlight or other bright, direct light
- Two people—one who's silhouette will be cut, and the other who will do the tracing.



Cut the silhouette

1. Have one person sit or stand a few feet in front of a wall. Their shoulder should be pointing towards the wall, with them looking straight ahead.
2. Position a flashlight or other direct light so it casts a shadow of the person's face on the wall. You may need to turn off other lights in the room.
3. Tape the black paper to the wall so the shadow is on it. You can move the light or the person to make the shadow bigger or smaller to fit on your paper.
4. Carefully trace the edges, or outline, of the shadow. This is the person's silhouette.
6. Once done tracing, remove the paper and cut out the silhouette.
7. Glue the silhouette to a background piece of paper or your choice.

Go Further!

A silhouette, or the dark shape or outline of something, is a popular decoration even today. You can make silhouettes of anything, not just people. What might you make a silhouette of that reminds you of an upcoming holiday? Can others guess what it is?

