



Still Image:

Freezing the world

Making a shadow print / Teachers notes

Focus

This activity introduces students to the process of developing a photographic print by making a shadow print.

Objectives

Students will:

- learn about the stages in developing a photographic print
- make a shadow print.

Outcomes

All students will:

- make a shadow print.
- Most students will also:
- list the stages involved in making a shadow print in the correct order.
- Some students will also:
- describe why each stage is required.

Equipment (per group)

- A5 piece of photographic paper.
- Tray with developer.
- Tray with stop bath.
- Tray with fixer.
- Tray with water.
- Plastic forceps.
- Stop clock.
- Black card.
- Disposable gloves.
- Safety glasses.
- Worksheet: *Making a shadow print* (1 copy per student).

Running the activity

Prepare the solutions before the lesson, following the manufacturer's instructions. Put the solutions into the troughs and label them just before the lesson. Use black insulating tape to repair holes. Check that the safety lights and the blackout curtains are working correctly. Introduce the idea that they are going to go through the process of making a photographic print by making a shadow print. Give the *Making a shadow print* worksheet to the students. Go through the instructions carefully emphasising key points. We would suggest not giving out the photographic paper until they have made their shapes and tested them on ordinary paper. You may have to also change some of the suggested times the papers spend in the solutions depending on the manufacturer's guidelines. Emphasise that they should remove the paper from the developer as soon as they can clearly see the shape on the paper and slide it immediately into the stop bath. You may well go through it step by step with the whole class instructing them when to move them from solution to solution. They should wear the disposable gloves and safety glasses at all times. They should use the forceps for moving the paper between the solutions. They can dry the prints on paper towels after all the fixer has been washed out in clean water.

After the experiment ask the students what they observed. You can introduce the idea of the negative image. Briefly describe the need for each stage, for example that the stop bath stops the developing process, and that the fixer ensures that the image is made permanent and does not disappear.