

What is a Silhouette?

A silhouette is an image showing an outline of a profile, or side view, of a person's face or body.

Before cameras were invented, the only way to have a picture of what a person looked like was to create, an image by hand. Professional drawings and paintings were very expensive, but silhouettes could be done easily at home.



Make your own Silhouette

Making your own silhouette can be tricky. Make sure you ask an adult for help. If you don't get it right the first time, try again!

Materials:

- Black construction paper
- Pencil or chalk
- Tape
- Scissors
- Chair
- A bright flashlight or desk lamp

Directions:

1. Find a location where all the lights can be turned off and blocked, like a bathroom.
2. Have your subject sit sideways in a chair, close to a wall.
3. Tape a piece of construction paper to the wall near your subject's head.
4. Shine a bright light on your subject. Place the light on a table or cabinet.
5. Make sure you can see a good outline of your subject's head.
6. Have your subject sit very still. Trace the outline on the construction paper using a pencil or chalk.
7. Carefully cut out the outline.
8. Tada – Now you have a silhouette!

