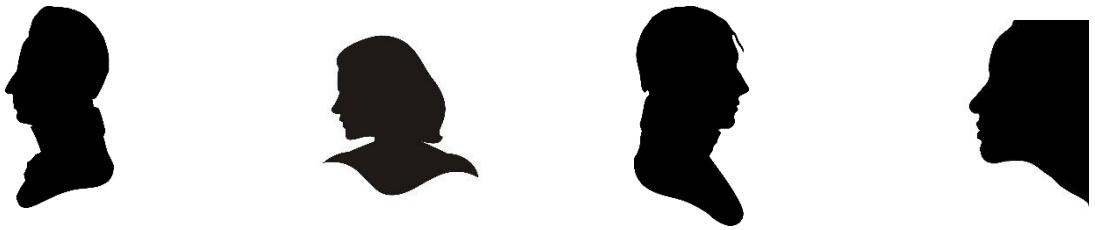
LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Activity Idea

OLD-FASHIONED PORTRAITS

Recommended for Ages 5+

Have fun making keepsake portraits of your family members in an old-fashioned style.



You will need the following materials:

Scissors, glue, chair, lamp, blank wall or surface. Colored paper, traditionally black paper but any colored paper you have on hand will do, even if it has a pattern. White paper or light-colored paper to set the silhouette on.

Instructions:

Find a blank wall or surface to tape the colored or black paper to. Set a chair and a lamp in front of the wall. One person will sit sideways in the chair and fix the lamp, so it casts a shadow or silhouette of the person's head onto the paper. Adjust as needed. Trace the silhouette. Cut out and paste to a lighter colored paper.

You can make a frame for the silhouette any way you wish.

Make a portrait of every family member.

Options:
Try different hair styles or wear different hats if you have them. You can even get silly and try to distort the shadow.