



Ibn Al-Haytham

KS2 Learning Resource

Curriculum links: History, Science, Literacy, Geography, DT

Watch Here: https://youtu.be/S84lIZn_T1A



Watch the dead famous come to life in this comedy animated history chat show based on the popular "Corpse Talk" graphic novel series by Adam and Lisa Murphy.

In this episode, Ibn Al Haytham stops by to talk about his life and times as a scientist and philosopher. Born at the turn of the last millennium during the Islamic Golden Age, Al Haytham spent ten years under house arrest following a disastrous engineering project. Despite this setback, he achieved a huge scientific breakthrough in understanding how light and vision work... it's an eye-opening story!



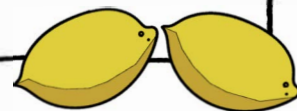
Dig up the past

While you watch the episode, can you answer these questions?

What did Ibn Al Haytham do while he was under house arrest?

How did the Ancient Greeks think the eye worked? Did Ibn Al Haytham agree?

What was Ibn Al Haytham's most important work called?



Fun Fact

Ibn Al Haytham's face is on the back of the Iraqi 10,000-dinar banknote. He also has an asteroid and a crater on the moon named after him!



Dead Quick Challenge

Ibn Al Haytham was born in the country we now call Iraq. Can you find Iraq on a map? What is the capital city of Iraq?



Deadly Dates

Ibn Al Haytham was born in 965 CE, that's over 1000 years ago!

He died around 1040 CE.





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Play with Shadows

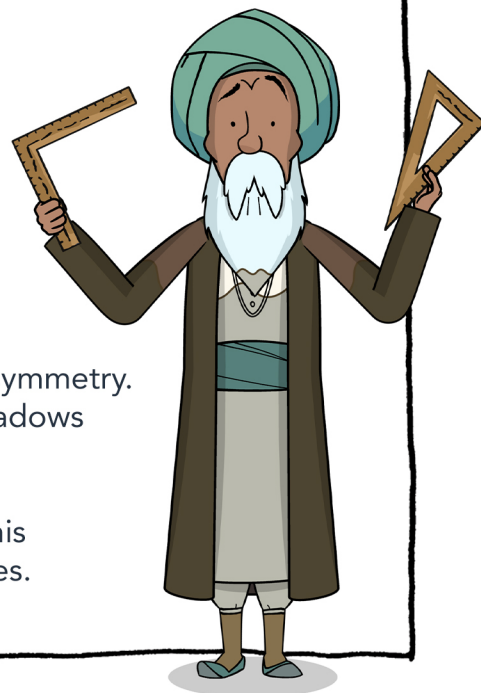
Go outside on a sunny day and experiment with making shadows.

Can you make a shadow that looks like an animal?
What about a shadow that's taller than you?

Is it possible to make a shadow that's not touching you?

With a partner, see if you can make a shadow that has one line of symmetry.
Finally, without touching your partner, see if you can make your shadows shake hands!

What do you know about how shadows are formed? Through his experiments, Ibn Al Haytham found that light travels in straight lines.
How does this help you explain how shadows are made?



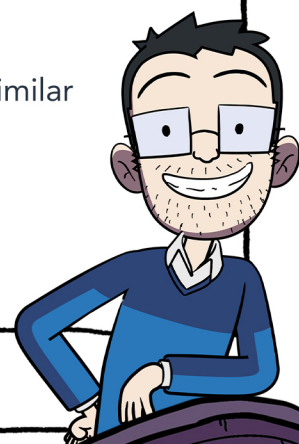
Make a Pin Hole Camera

In the episode, Ibn Al Haytham makes a pin hole camera (also known as a camera obscura) by carving a small hole in the wall of his house with a spear.

Can you find out how to make a pin hole camera of your own?
(We don't advise making any holes in walls - you can use a cardboard box or similar to make your pin hole camera; no spears needed!)

How does your pin hole camera work?

In what ways is it similar to the eye?



Before You Go

Ibn Al Haytham used scientific experimentation to try and answer questions such as, 'Do animals react to music?' and 'How do eyes see?'.
Can you think of a scientific question you would like to investigate?

Watch Next:
Hotelier, Mary Seacole

