Build your own light box at home

Have fun taking photographs, making your own stop motion videos, or creating your own colourful backgrounds. Follow the easy step-by-step instruction and you can spend hours experimenting with shadows, angles, and sources of light.

Materials:
- Cardboard box
- White paper, coloured paper and/or fabric
- Sticky tape
- Ipad/ phone / camera
- Sources of light eg. Torch, lamp, spotlight

Step 1: Place your box flat and look inside to check if you can see any holes where light might shine through. If you have small holes cover them on the outside of the box.

Step 2: Cut a large rectangle hole on the side of the box.

Step 3: Cover the side with white paper and use your sticky tape to hold it in place. The paper should be big enough to cover the hole that you cut out.

Step 4: Repeat step 2 and 3 on the other side of your box. This will allow you to use light sources from both sides.

Get a large piece of paper or some white fabric that will fit the width of your box and gently secure it to the inside top of your box with your sticky tape. Make sure you do not fold it and let it hang like a curtain that drapes outwards on the bottom of your box.

Step 5: Place your light sources on either side of your light box. The lightbox will work best in a dark room so close your curtains or use it in the evening.

You have now created your very own light box. You can find different objects to photograph like toys or flowers.

You can play with light and shadows by changing where you put your light. Try changing the colour of your background or paint your own background. You can even make your own stop-motion animation using your light box as a background by following our stop-motion animation instructions on our At Home Art Activities **webpage**.