Silhouette

What is a silhouette?

A silhouette is a drawing which consists of an outline filled in with one colour. The first silhouettes were 18th century portraits cut from black card.

The word comes from a French man called Etienne **de Silhouette. He was the country's minister of** finance in the 18th century and made the people of **France very poor through large taxes. Etienne**'s favourite hobby was cutting out portraits and the **word 'silhouette' became associated with them.**

Before photography was invented the silhouette **was the cheapest way to record a person's** appearance and because of this they were very popular throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

Make a silhouette

1. Ask someone to sit sideways near a wall.

2. Position a lamp in front of them so you can see their shadow or **'silhouette' on the wall.**

3. Using masking tape stick a piece of white paper on the wall and draw round the shadow. Your friend needs to sit very still!

4. Cut around the outline to complete your silhouette.