





Light Painting

Materials

-  Digital Camera
-  Portable light source
-  Dark room
-  A partner to operate the camera

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Students can make vibrant and stunning works of art with light!

6th - 8th Grade

Long-exposure photography is used to take pictures in dark places. The camera's shutter stays open much longer than for a regular picture and gives the camera more time to capture light. A drawback to this type of photography is motion. Things moving while the picture is taken appear as blurs and streaks in the final image. You can use this to your advantage to create your light painting.

Lights

Collect a variety of light sources to paint with - flashlights, cell phone screens, toys that blink/flash/light up, etc. Battery operated devices work best so you don't get tangled up in cords and wires.

Camera

Set your camera to take long exposure pictures. If you don't have a digital camera, there are apps that let you to take long-exposure photos with your smartphone. Remember to make sure you have permission before downloading any new apps.

Action

Bring all your materials to a room that can be made very dark. Take a light source and stand in front of the camera. When you're ready to start, turn out the room lights and have someone press the button on the camera to start taking a picture. Use the light to "draw" in the air in front of you.

Tips:

- Get the room as dark as possible
- If your photo is washed out lessen the exposure time
- Make sure you complete your painting before the shutter closes

