

## Lights and Torches

Portable lights of different types and colours can often make the critical difference in making a prop or a small environment sufficiently engaging for participants that they will join in with an activity where otherwise they might not. Lights are now cheap and readily available, so everyone can have one, and it is very useful to have a wide variety:

- Mains powered fairy lights can be used for semi-permanent installation and to make props such as the fire. They can be used to dress a space and are available in many colours to complement the theme of the activity.
- Battery powered LED lights come in smaller lengths but are truly independent. These can be used to make props such as 'hot coals' by wrapping in bubble wrap, put inside plastic bottles, stuffed into socks or in coloured lanterns. They can also highlight areas of importance such as a puppet's face.
- Battery powered tea lights come in many different types – some flickering to look like real candles. Colour-changing versions can be used to make 'glamterns' and submersible ones reinforce the colour of watergel beads, creating a magical sensory experience.
- Flashing bike lights are intrinsically engaging and have variable speeds. They can be used in their own right or can be used in context, for example as sparks flying out of a fire.
- Rope lights can be laid on the floor next to a wall and behind a cardboard cutout of buildings, to create the silhouette of a skyline.
- Torches come in many varieties. Big, powerful ones give out enough light to highlight some activity, for example a puppet in an otherwise dark space, and also make bright clear shadows on Moonhoops (prop). Smaller hand held torches are also good for shadow work.
- Fibre optic 'Dream' torches add a tactile element to the experience, while disco lights add pazazz.

With a selection of torches and lights you will be able to:

- Create shadows wherever you need to
- Create engaging tactile objects by wrapping them in cellophane or bubble wrap
- Create intrigue, encourage participation and focus attention
- Adorn other props such as umbrellas
- Illuminate water gel beads; the submersible tea lights are particularly good for this (Proserpine)
- Light white paper bags with colour changing tealights
- Light containers such as plastic orbs (Mindscape) and boxes (Skyline)
- Create an intriguing landscape (Mindscape)
- Quickly delineate a space, area to work in or pathway
- Make sparks by throwing flashing red lights in the air, maybe whilst sat around a fire and popping bubble wrap
- Explore different spaces in context, for example a thick fog
- Illuminate a moving character or puppet in a dark space

## Links

Magic (Activity)

Workshops - Proserpine, Mindscape, Science Lab, Skyline

## Videos

Pros Lights and water gels

Lab Water gels