

# Museum Minute | Alaska State Symbols Shadow Puppets

Alaska has many state symbols. You can see several of them at the University of Alaska Museum of the North.

To learn more about Alaska's state symbols, go to

[alaska.gov/kids/student.htm](http://alaska.gov/kids/student.htm)

**Land Mammal: Moose**



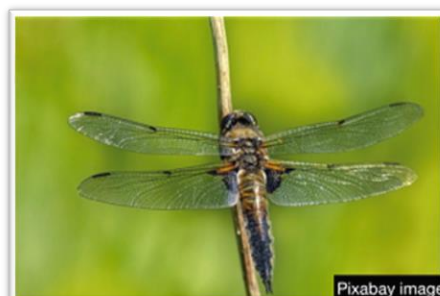
*Pixabay*

**Marine Mammal: Bowhead Whale**



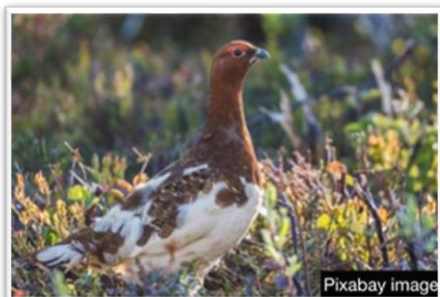
*Kit Kovacs / Norwegian Polar Institute*

**Insect: Four-spotted Skimmer Dragonfly**



*Pixabay*

**Bird: Willow Ptarmigan**



*Pixabay*

**Fossil: Woolly Mammoth**



*Detail from Heading for the River by Randall Compton.*

**Fish: King Salmon**



*Pixabay*

**Make shadow puppets and a puppet theater.**

**Use Alaska's state symbols as inspiration!**

## Materials:

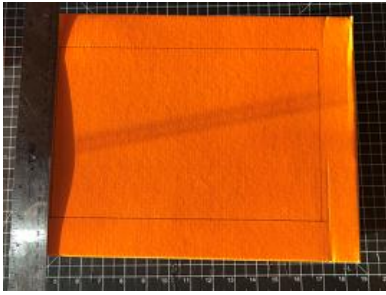
Shadow Puppets: Printable puppet templates (or draw your own), black cardstock, popsicle sticks, scissors, tape.

Puppet Theater: Cardboard box, wax paper, pencil or marker, ruler, flashlight, scissors, tape. *Optional:* Craft knife (adults only!).



## Museum Minute: Alaska State Symbols Shadow Puppets

### Instructions:



**Step 1:** Use a ruler and pencil to trace a rectangle on one side of your box.



**Step 2:** Use scissors or a craft knife (adults only) to carefully cut along the lines and create an opening in the box.



**Step 3:** Tape a sheet of wax paper to the opening to create a screen for your theater.



**Step 4:** Trace the puppet templates on black cardstock. Cut them out and use tape to attach a stick to the back of each one.



**Step 5:** Set up your theater so that the audience can view the screen. Dim the lights. Set up the flashlight to shine at the back of the screen. The puppeteer will sit or stand behind the theater. Hold the puppets up to the screen to tell a story and entertain your audience!

## Puppet Templates

