



## Crafts Around the World Series

### Inuit Soap Stone Carvings: Soap carving

Enjoy learning how to make simple crafts from seven continents: **Africa, Antarctica, Europe, Asia, Australia, North America & South America.**

#### Purpose:

Introduce youth to some simple cultural traditional crafts from around the world. Journey around seven continents, learning how to make simple crafts and having fun creating.

#### Objectives:

- ◇ Learn the cultural history and origins of the craft.
- ◇ Find the country on a map and/or globe.
- ◇ Develop fine motor skills in carving.
- ◇ Increase cultural awareness and creativity.

#### Education Standards:

- ◇ Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
- ◇ Apply geometric methods to solve design problems.

#### Experiential Learning:

- ◇ Create a shape carving in soap.

Use these phrases:

Do it, What happened,  
What's important, So What,  
Now What?



Photo courtesy of Janis Brinn Michigan 4-H 2020 Winterfest participants

#### CONTINENT: ANTARTICA

Antarctica is the fifth largest of the world's continents.

**COUNTRY:** There are no countries in Antarctica

#### LESSON: INUIT SOAP STONE CARVINGS: SOAP CARVING

Soap carving is an Inuit craft; the art of carving.

The *Inukshuk* in the language of the Inuit; means "One that looks like a person". The inukshuit are erected from stones to resemble a human figure. An inuksuk is a manmade stone landmark or cairn used by the Inuit, Iñupiat, Kalaallit, Yupik, and other peoples of the Arctic region of North America. These structures are found in northern Canada, Greenland, and Alaska as well.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Developed by MSU Extension Educator, Janis Brinn with publisher's note permission granted "Carving a Dog from Soap" by Barbara Millikan <http://woodcarvingillustrated.com/blog/2016/07/07/carving-soap/> patterns and instruction use for educational purposes.

# Inuit Soap Stone Carvings: Soap carving

**TIME:** 30-45 minutes or multiple days depending upon the interest to learn more.

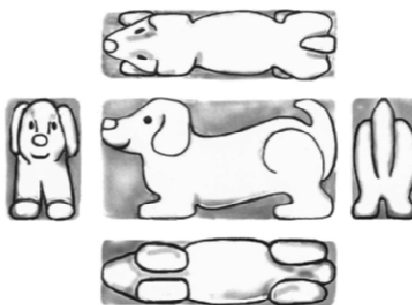
## MATERIALS:

- ◇ Heavy paper
- ◇ Pencil or pen
- ◇ Scissors
- ◇ Bar of soap
- ◇ Sponges
- ◇ Basic soap carving tools – Plastic knife, clay shaping tools, tooth picks, toothbrush, tapered craft sticks, craft-store carving tools, etc.
- ◇ Optional: Samples and instruction sheet

**INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO LINK:** [https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/t/1\\_296dtev4](https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/t/1_296dtev4)

## PROCEDURE: How to do soap carving

- ◇ Create a simple pattern drawn on heavy paper i.e. Turtle, heart, dog, etc.
- ◇ Cut out your pattern and center the body pattern on the soap
- ◇ Trace the pattern with a pencil or pen. Push hard to make a groove.
- ◇ Carve around the outline, taking off a little at a time until you reach the grooved lines.
- ◇ Onto the body form trace the detailed patterns onto the soap i.e. turtle shell and head, dog face and tail, heart arrow, etc.
- ◇ Round the edges and shape the sides. Add details if you desire.
- ◇ Smooth the carving with a wet sponge or your fingers.
- ◇ Did it break?  
and peg it  
with a  
pick.



Just wet the edges of the break together with a piece of tooth-

**Art Science** – Be creative with your design. Experiment with different types of soap, try different types of tools for adding texture and try different carving techniques. Ask questions & make discoveries!

Move into the more challenging art of carving wood or soap stone!