

CARVING AT HOME

ACTIVITY 1



Carving is an artform that has been practiced in Nunavik for thousands of years. Most professional artists use stones called serpentine and steatite. They also use ivory, or animal bones and antlers. Inuit also use many different hand and power tools. You don't have to be a professional artist to make a carving, you can easily practice at home.

In this activity, we suggest using soap bars and different tools found around the house to make your own carving!

1

First, take time to look at the work of Nunavik carvers using these two websites. Pay attention to the themes, colours, shapes and patterns that you see in their artwork.

<http://www.avataq.qc.ca/en/Collections/Art-and-ethnography/Sculptures/list>

<http://art.avataq.qc.ca/artists>

Then, find inspiration around you. It can come from what you see in your house or outside your window. You can also use stories and legends to find inspiration. Sketch a few ideas on paper and make your draft. Once you have created a draft of your artwork, you are ready to follow the next steps to create your carving!

2

THE MATERIAL YOU WILL NEED

- a sharp knife (for the adult)
- a bar of soap (as flat as possible)
- a pencil
- scissors
- paper clips
- bobby pins
- a plastic knife
- a piece of paper



Use a bar of soap that comes in a wrapping instead of in a box, as it keeps its moisture and cracks less when carved.

Ask an adult to scrape off the brand name on both sides of the soap bar using the sharp knife.

Use a piece of paper that is the same size of the soap bar and draw your design on to the paper. Then cut the outline of your design.

Place your design on the soap and use a well-sharpened pencil to trace your design unto the soap.

Use different tools from around your house (plastic knife, bobby pin, paper clip, etc.) to carve the outline of your design.



Use a paper clip to go around your carving to smooth out the edges.

Use the pencil to add details and textures to your carving and you are done!

Find this activity and many more ideas for learning at home on Kativik Ilisarniliriniq's online resources platform available on April 13th 2020.