



STONE CARVING PROGRAM

Teacher Planning and Activity Guide

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Studiostone Creative's Stone Carving Program cultivates understanding and excitement about soapstone. Our workshops are led remotely by knowledgeable, practicing artists with art teaching experience, or by you with the aid of written and video instructions. The classes encourage experimentation with stone carving and exploration of relevant themes and issues. Your students will receive a pre-cut shape and supplies they need and will be guided through a step-by-step process to complete their own work of art.

How will my class benefit from this program?

We've created a program that integrates BC cross-curricular Big Ideas and Learning Standards. Students will exercise various levels of creative thinking and experimentation with new mediums. Our program is fully developed, tried, tested and very successful.

What to do before the class

Prior to shipping the supplies at your school, we will need a detailed breakdown of how many animals have been selected for each class. We will provide you with a form that will list the information we need to ensure each class runs smoothly. This form will also include what choices of animals we have for each student. Each stone is hand-cut for our school-carving program so we will need a minimum of two weeks notice to have each stone prepared and shipped on time for your carving session.

You will be given detailed instructions on how to successfully set up your classroom and clean up after the carving session is over.

You will need access to water, so if you do not have a sink in your classroom or you are in a portable, please locate the nearest water source and secure a water bucket for easy transportation.

We have developed our stone-carving program with our students' safety in mind. The materials and tools have been carefully designed and tested to be kid safe and environmentally safe. We use water throughout the process to eliminate airborne dust while carving.

At the conclusion of each workshop students are provided with paper bags to safely store their sculptures. Each take home bag contains a polishing cloth and stone care information card.

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

By participating in this program students will be directly engaging with the core competencies of Arts Education as well as the following subjects:

Mathematics

This is a subtractive art process that will give the students a chance to think and work three dimensionally. Working with a natural soft stone, students engage in experimental process' of shaping and finishing sculptural design. They will solve three-dimensional tasks along the way. We use basic Geometry and shapes to illustrate the subtractive process, providing opportunities to encounter math in a wide variety of situational contexts.

Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

Using a range of approaches to carving, we will hand out files and will teach your students how to properly use the carving tools to create a stone sculpture. Students will see the results of the various techniques used by stone carvers and learn how each tool serves different purposes.

Science

Soapstone is a metamorphic stone that is very soft and varies greatly in colour. It has many important properties and is widely used in Art, Culture and Industry. We will provide you with information on the hardness scale, how rocks are formed and then eroded, and the unseen unique properties of Soapstone.

First Peoples Principles of Learning

Studiostone Creative is very clear that we are not presenting an indigenous program. However, we are honoured and aware of the natural connections to Indigenous studies such as the use and importance of soapstone to Inuit culture and even how certain northern animals play an important role in Northern Culture. Teachers often coordinate this workshop with their unit on indigenous studies.

REFLECTING AND CONNECTING

You will have the option to explore a variety of online materials and recourses available on our website for engaging and preparing your students before the class.

Worksheets

- Reflection on Three-Dimensional carving process, properties of soapstone, unexpected challenges and accomplishments.
- Reflection on the role of the artist in society
- How carving experience increases awareness of Inuit lifestyle
- Questions for research

Pre-visit resources

Inuit Art: Soapstone Carvings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00tPQTlvBUU>

National Film Board: The Living Stone

<http://www.nfb.ca/film/living-stone/>

Inuit Sculptors

https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/ach_lr_ks_rrds_disc_1302786542133_eng.pdf

Artists

Oviloo Tunnillie: <https://www.gallery.ca/collection/artist/oviloo-tunnillie>

Pauta Saila: <https://iad.inuitartfoundation.org/artist/Pauta-Saila>

Animal Meanings

Many Inuit myths and legends tell how humans and other living beings are all connected in a powerful universe. These legends speak of the spiritual forces that are present in the Inuit world. The stories, and the spirits they describe, continue to be inspiring sources for Inuit artists today.

There are a variety of interpretations between peoples. We have outlined how animals are represented in Inuit culture.

Bear: The Inuit believed that *Nanuk*, the polar bear, was powerful and mighty, and they thought that he was almost man. The Inuit hunters would worship this great bear because they believed that he decided if the hunters would be successful. The bear signifies physical strength, leadership and courage.

Eagle: Signifies courage, wisdom, and strength.

Seal: In Inuit culture, seals are symbols of innocence, and therefore Inuit translations of the Bible use the Inuktitut word for "seal" in place of "lamb."

Orca: Signifies ancient knowledge.

Wolf: The Wolf has always been a symbol of evil as well as good.

TERMINOLOGY

Some of the following vocabulary words have more than one definition. We have provided the definition that is the most relevant to our in-school carving program.

Soapstone: A soft stone having a soap-like texture. Soapstone is a metamorphic rock that varies greatly in colour, it is composed of mainly of talc, chlorite and often some magnetite. The Inuit used soapstone to create sculptures derived from traditional stories and even used the material to carve oil lamps, pots and pans.

Two-Dimensional: In geometry, a two-dimensional shape can be defined as a shape that has two dimensions – length and width.

Three-Dimensional: A shape having or appearing to have three dimensions-length, width and depth.

Subtractive Sculpture: The oldest form of sculpture, this process involves removing material or stone, to create a finished work of art.

Form: Form is the shape, visual appearance, or configuration of an object.

Shape: The outline of an area, figure or geometric shape. Shape is the external form of something.

We'd love to hear from you and your students!

Please share your students' artwork and comments and send them to:

edu.studiostonecreative@gmail.com

Or tag us on Instagram and Facebook @studiostonecreative

How to reach us

For payment information, program registration, or to adjust your program booking, contact:

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