

Curricular Connections

Carving a sculpture out of stone is not only a fun activity but it provides an opportunity for students to learn in an engaging and hands-on way. Continue reading to find out how our soapstone carving activity can be tied to the Education Curriculum.



1. Visual Arts

Stone carving is a 3-D subtractive method of sculpting. Students can explore different techniques, materials, and tools used in the carving process. They can learn about the properties of soapstone, how to shape it, and how to add details and texture. This activity allows students to develop their artistic skills, express their creativity, and learn about different cultural art forms.



2. Social Studies and Indigenous Education

Soapstone carving has cultural significance in many indigenous communities. Our carving workshop can be used as a way to explore indigenous art forms, traditions, and the historical and cultural context in which these art forms originated. Students can learn about the cultural significance of soapstone carving.

Photo by [William A. Turnbaugh](#)

Please note we will not provide cultural teachings related to Inuit or other Indigenous groups. Teachers are welcome to invite an elder or another representative from an indigenous community for this purpose.

Please explore the *Cultural Connections* segment of the [Teacher Resources](#) section found on our members website page.

3. Personal Planning

Soapstone carving can be linked to personal planning and development. Engaging in a hands-on activity like soapstone carving allows students to develop skills such as patience, focus, problem-solving, and creativity. They can set goals for their carving projects, reflect on their progress, and develop a sense of achievement as they complete their pieces. This activity also encourages students to explore their personal interests and passions.





4. Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST)

Our carving activity connects to design processes, materials and tools, craftsmanship and skills development. Students will need to use their problem-solving skills and critical thinking. Our hands-on experience develops students' technique while reflecting on their learning experiences.

5. Science, Rocks and Minerals

By studying soapstone as a material for carving, students can explore the properties and classification of minerals, rock cycle and the processes involved in the formation of metamorphic rocks. They can explore how rocks undergo changes over time and how soapstone fits into the larger geological context. Soapstone carving provides an opportunity to discuss the environmental impact associated with mining and extraction, sustainability and human impact on the environment.



It's important to note that curriculum connections can vary depending on the grade level, specific learning outcomes, and the context in which the soapstone carving activity is implemented. We encourage teachers to consult their province's curriculum guidelines for the appropriate grade level and subject area to ensure the activity aligns with specific learning objectives.