

MAKE & CREATE

become a Soapmason

Take inspiration from Scotland's incredible stone carvings to create your own masterpiece in soap.

People who carve stone are called 'stonemasons'. Carving stone is difficult if you don't have the right tools, but you can get a good idea of the skills involved by carving soap instead.



This soapmason has carved a compass. They were inspired by Trinity House maritime museum.



This soapmason has carved a lion. The lion is a royal symbol and can be found in castles across Scotland.

Did you know...

Stone carvings made by skilled stonemasons can be found throughout Scotland's castles, palaces and churches.

They were used to decorate the buildings, impress people, and as symbols of power.



Part of the fountain at Linlithgow palace



A lion on a shield at Elgin Cathedral



Letters carved at Huntly Castle

Carving your soap

You will need:

- A bar of soap
- A drawing of **your design**
- A pencil
- A **pointy tool** to make thin lines and outlines. Wooden kebab skewers work well, or a pencil.
- Optional: a **carving tool** such as a blunt butter or plastic knife to carve bigger shapes. **If you're a child check with a grown-up that your chosen tools are safe to use.**
- Optional: **powder paint or coloured eye shadow** (be sure to ask before raiding anyone else's make up!)



Top Tip

Work at a table. For something which gets you clean, soap is very messy! If possible, carve your soap over a tray or wipeable floor (soap is difficult to get out of carpet).

Stage 1: Design

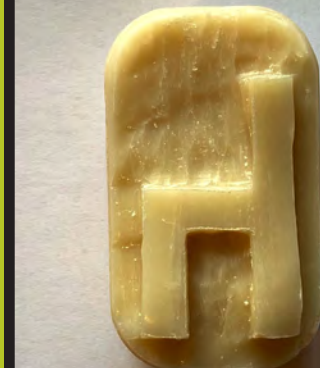
- Try a few different designs on paper. Draw around your soap bar to give you the right size. Will your design be best longways or sideways?
- What will fit onto your soap? Soap bars are quite small. Instead of your whole name, try designing your initials. Instead of a whole animal, you could try drawing just the head.
- Make sure your design isn't too fine as it won't stand out as much. Consider carving chunky bubble letters rather than thin ones.



Stage 2: Carving



Draw the outline of your design with your pointy tool.



Carve away areas using a blunt knife (or similar tool). Carving away some of the background can make your design stand out.



When you have carved your design, you can **brush over a little eye shadow or dry powder paint** if you like. This will help bring out any details.

Carve a little bit at a time. You can't stick things back on!