

Soap Carving Tips and Tricks

- Work slowly. Take only small portions of the soap away at a time. If you do not, the bar will crack.
- In soap carving, it's important to keep the soap bits off of the floor, as they are slippery to walk on! Work on two or three layers of newspaper. Every so often, fold our newspaper up like a small package and throw it away. Have the newspaper underneath to work on. Keep your craft sticks clean by scrapping two together over the newspaper. AND remember that even Ivory Soap can sting your eyes, so don't touch your face or nose unless you wash your hands first. And don't blow the soap bits! If the room begins to smell like soap, open the window to bring in some fresh air. After the first class period, we put the soap and craft sticks in a plastic bag with a nametag so we can pass them back quickly the next time.
- Remember to cushion you soap in you hand and go slowly. Don't try to whack off too large of a piece at a time or you may break your soap. AND remember to leave one side of your soap flat as a base. Your sculpture may be sideways or tall, but it must have a bottom!
- Use the edge and the point of the craft stick.
- When we critique a work of art; that means we take some time and really LOOK at it. Turn it around and around in your hand. Place it on the table and look from different angles. Is it interesting from all sides? Is there anything you can do to make it more interesting? Now is a good time to put your name on the bottom.