

Lapidary Workshop

DEAR TEACHER:

Thank you for allowing us to enrich your students' education with this program. We hope that our combined efforts will provide a worthwhile, enjoyable and 'smooth' Museum visit.

Please note:

Enter your bookings in your Daybook (forgotten bookings are disappointing).

Class size is 30 students.

Double check your confirmation ticket for accuracy and inform us of any changes immediately.

Cancellation policy:

7 days notice must be provided to avoid being charged for your program.

Call us at 988-0626 if you have any students with special needs in your class or if you prefer to have particular areas of the program emphasized.

Arrive early out of courtesy to our volunteers and for an optimal experience.

Have the admission fees collected before arriving and make the payment to the Museum box office (located on main level) before the program's starting time. Please make cheques payable to The Manitoba Museum.

Class control remains the teacher's responsibility.

Lunches: Spaces cannot be reserved.

However, a number of areas in the Museum complex or the surrounding area are suitable for lunch. For more information phone 988-0626.

Jackets and lunches can be stored in pull-out racks located near the classrooms on the lower level of the Museum. Valuables should be left at home.

Call 988-0626 or write us if we can help you develop specific Museum activities or if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

We appreciate hearing from the students and often display their posters and drawings if you would like to share them with us.

Enjoy your visit!

THE PROGRAM: Grades 3-10 (90 minutes)

Working with soapstone allows students to express themselves artistically, provides insight into the skill of Inuit craftsmen, and provides a "hands-on" experience. The rock, which is shaped and polished by the students, is theirs to keep and wear home as pendants.

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

The class is conducted to the Earth History Gallery where the students are seated at tables. An introduction to soapstone, the shaping process and the tools to be used is followed by the active participation of all students and adults in working with individual pieces of soapstone. (Please wear clothes suitable to a somewhat dusty experience!)

PRE-VISIT SUGGESTIONS:

1. Use the Mohs scale to evaluate the hardness of various rocks. Rocks such as gypsum, limestone and quartz may be examined and compared by attempting to scratch them with a fingernail, copper penny, and knife blade.
2. To learn more about the Inuit lifestyle, plan a visit to the Museum to enjoy the school program: Inuit: People of the North.
3. Introduce Inuit art to the students with special emphasis on soapstone carving.
4. Complete the word search.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Make a file of photographs and illustrations of animals to use as reference when carving.
2. Try your hand at carving soap, wood, or plaster. Soapstone is available locally from a lapidary supply store.
3. Research the carving material known as "soapstone". Where is it mined in Canada? For what mineral is it the host? What is its more technical term? What is its chemical formula?
4. On a map of Canada, shade in the area where soapstone deposits have been located.
5. Visit the Winnipeg Art Gallery, which has one of the finest collections of soapstone carvings in Canada.

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WORD SEARCH: Search in Every Direction

S	O	A	P	S	T	O	N	E	T	R	K
A	L	N	O	M	E	D	I	U	M	H	C
N	O	P	L	O	C	R	P	L	C	A	E
D	N	T	I	O	S	O	F	T	I	B	V
P	L	I	S	T	K	V	A	L	O	K	I
A	E	U	H	H	A	R	D	N	E	S	S
P	X	N	T	J	C	O	A	R	S	E	A
E	N	I	H	S	D	U	S	T	M	L	R
R	O	J	L	O	U	G	R	I	T	I	B
B	F	I	N	E	C	D	E	G	I	F	A

SCRATCH
POLISH
ABRASIVE
MEDIUM
SHINE

DUST
FILES
GRIT
COARSE

SANDPAPER
SOAPSTONE
OIL
HARDNESS

SMOOTH
INUIT
FINE
SOFT

Teacher's Key

S	O	A	P	S	T	O	N	E	T	R	K
A	L	N	O	M	E	D	I	U	M	H	C
N	O	P	L	O	C	R	P	L	C	A	E
D	N	T	I	O	S	O	F	T	I	B	V
P	L	I	S	T	K	V	A	L	O	K	I
A	E	U	H	H	A	R	D	N	E	S	S
P	X	N	T	J	C	O	A	R	S	E	A
E	N	I	H	S	D	U	S	T	M	L	R
R	O	J	L	O	U	G	R	I	T	I	B
B	F	I	N	E	C	D	E	G	I	F	A