

# Soap Carving

When you look at the amazing sculptures in the museums of Italy, it's hard to believe they were created by carving away at a solid hunk of marble. But that's exactly how this statue of David, and many other sculptures of the Renaissance period, were made. Now you can turn a solid white block into a work of art yourself — by soap carving!

It took the artist Michelangelo more than two years of careful chipping to create this statue of David!



# Renaissance sculptors

used heavy-duty tools like hammers and chisels to carve marble. Fortunately, soap is a little easier to manage.

## You'll need:

- ☐ scrap paper
- ☐ bar of soft soap (Ivory works well)
- ☐ blank paper
- ☐ pencil
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ paper clip
- ☐ toothpick
- ☐ plastic knife

First, spread some scrap paper over your work space to catch all the soap chips you'll be making. You can still use the small chips to wash your hands so be sure to save them for later!



### Step 1

Lay the soap bar on a blank piece of paper and trace around it. Then sketch a simple design on the paper inside the shape you just traced.

We're making a little bird called the Italian sparrow. You can make anything you want. But keep it simple!



### Step 2

Use scissors to cut your design out of the paper. Lay the cut-out design on the soap bar and trace around it with the pencil.

Brush away any soap flakes you as you go.

Always carve with the tool moving away from yourself!



### Step 3

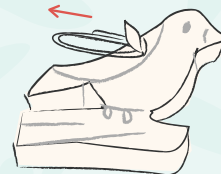
Peel up the paper shape. With the plastic knife, carefully carve away the soap outside of your outline. Remove the soap in small chunks — don't try to cut off big slabs.



Keep brushing off the soap flakes!

### Step 4

Once you're happy with the rough shape, use the pencil to make some grooves for the lines in your design.



### Step 5

Scrape away at the soap's surface with the rounded end of a paper clip to add depth and detail.



### Step 6

Use the toothpick to add fine details. Continue shaping and refining until you're happy with your soap sculpture.



**Finished!**  
Show off your carving, give it as a gift, or use it as soap!