

# CARVING

Michelangelo used to travel to a quarry to choose pieces of marble for his sculptures.

Carvings can be made from many different materials, including soap. It is soft

to cut and easy to find at home.

## PROJECT: CARVING A SOAP HEAD

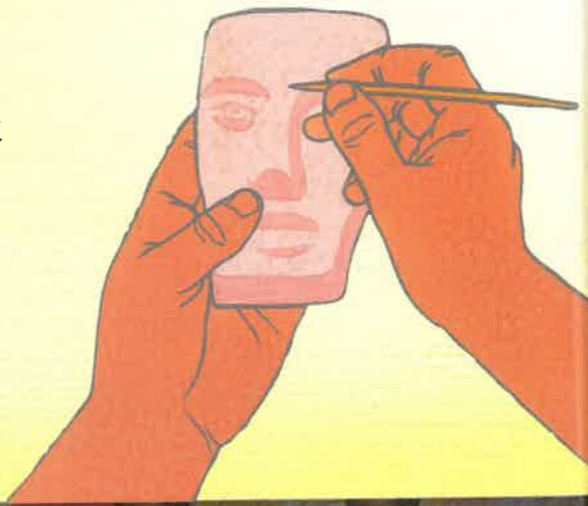
WHAT YOU NEED  
Plastic Modeling Tools / Nail File  
Plastic Knife / Orange Stick  
Newspaper  
Bar of Soap



**Step 1.** You will need some plastic modeling tools, but an old nail file, orange stick, or plastic knife will do as well. Work on a piece of newspaper so you do not make too much mess.

**Step 2.** Mark where you will put the eyes, nose, mouth, and hair on the soap, using a pointed tool. Start to carve out the shapes until the soap looks like a face (see tips on page 7).

**Step 3.** Add the details like eyebrows, hair, and cheeks. You could make faces of all your family in different colors, and display them in the bathroom!



# GALLERY

The Madonna of the Stairs 1491–1492

MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI (1475 – 1564)



### MATERIALS

This picture of the Virgin Mary and her baby Jesus was carved from a slab of marble only 2 inches thick.



### LOW RELIEF

The figures are cut just slightly into the surface of the marble, using a fine chisel. This method of work is called low relief.



### YOUNG ARTIST

Michelangelo carved this when he was sixteen. He has made the Virgin Mary and Jesus look like an ordinary mother and baby.



### CARVING

Although carved out of solid marble, the clothes flow as if they are real.

By the time he was thirteen, Michelangelo had begun to learn to paint and make sculpture. A great deal of his work was for the Christian church and showed scenes from the Bible. His most famous painting is on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, which he painted all by himself.