

SOAPSTONE STEPS



STEP 1. Using a soft pencil, draw an image or shape on the soapstone. Encourage students to work as large as they can on their piece of soapstone. Don't go too close to the hole if working on amulets.

STEP 2. Use the coarse soapstone file to get your basic shape. This will take the soapstone away the quickest but it will also leave deep grooves, use the finer files to remove these grooves. You can also use chisels to remove the soapstone. As the soapstone dust is very fine, it will clog up your files, use a stiff brush to remove the dust.

STEP 3. Smooth with steel wool. It is flexible and will get into the crevices that you're can't reach with your file or sandpaper. Use it wet. Each student needs a pot of water to wash their soapstone.

STEP 4. Use only wet and dry sandpaper. Start with a rough grade 320. Continually wash the soapstone and the sandpaper so it doesn't clog. Work in small circles until the entire soapstone has been sanded and feels silky smooth. Then sand with the 400 grade, 600 grade and finally 1200 grade. The more you sand the smoother it becomes and the nicer the finished piece will look. Pour the water outside

STEP 5. Heat the finished piece with a hairdryer until it feels very warm to touch. Use a soft cloth to rub wax on it. After the soapstone has cooled use a soft cloth to polish it. You can repeat this process.



**BEFORE AND AFTER.
YEAR 11 DOUBLE PERIOD**



**YEAR 9
3 PERIODS**

