Teacher's Pet

SOAPSTONE

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Soapstone is mined in many parts of the world, but the soapstone that you are using today comes from Brazil. It is a metamorphic rock meaning it has been changed over time with heat and pressure. It is made up of mostly talc which is the softest mineral on Mohs scale of hardness. This means that any other mineral can scratch it. It also has a soapy feel when touched which is where the name comes from.

Soapstone is usually gray, blue, green and/or brown in colour. The softness varies depending on how many other minerals are in it. Traces of iron and pyrite (fool's gold) are commonly found in soapstone and those areas are much more difficult to sculpt.

SOAPSTONE CARVINGS

Inuit stone carvings are generally known as “Soapstone Carvings” although many types of stones are used depending on the region they live. Included are Serpentine, Dolomite, Quartzite, Basalt, Argillite and Limestone in addition to the popular Soapstone. Different types of stone come from different regions, islands and riverbanks.

SERPENTINE

QUARTZITE

ARGILLITE

SOAPSTONE

DOLOMITE

BASALT

LIMESTONE

P. Aningat

Bear

Raw Shape

Step 1

Smoothing Edges

Step 2
Draw & Etch

Step 3
Buffing Lines

Medium Sandpaper

Step 4

Polishing

Fine
Sandpaper

Step 5

Oiling

Finished

Name

Clean Up

Thank you!
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