

Soap Bar Prints

Did you know that bars of soap can be used to make art? In this activity, we'll carve soap bars to make prints inspired by the late artist Elizabeth Catlett. Catlett used her carving skills for sculptures and for blocks of linoleum to make prints.

Materials

Soap bar (glycerin bars are softer but any soap bar will do)
Colored construction paper
Pointed utensils- pencils, tooth picks, plastic forks, etc.
Newspaper
Paper towel
Paper plates
Liquid paints (tempera or acrylic)



Instructions

1. Spread newspaper over your working surface.
2. Scrape an outline of your design with the pointed edge of your utensil on one side of the soap bar.
3. Use your utensil to chip away chunks of soap to reveal your design.
4. Gently brush off soap crumbs and flakes with a paper towel.
5. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate and dip soap bar, design side down.
6. Stamp paint side of soap bar onto construction paper.
7. What printed designs can you create?

Go Further

Sculptor and printmaker Elizabeth Catlett made art to bring attention to civil rights both in America and in her adopted home, Mexico.

Learn more about Elizabeth Catlett and her art at: elizabethcatlett.net

Share your soap bar prints with us! Tag us on Instagram @bcmkids #bcmandyou

