



Soap Age Tools

You will need

- Soap Bar (enough for all participants)
- Cutting tools
(Modelling clay tools could be used)

This activity counts towards

Cubs - Requirement 4

Activity Details

Time: 1.5 Hours

£ ££

Indoors

Individuals & Teams

B / C / S / E / N

Before you begin

- The person leading the activity should gather together the required number of soap bars and the cutting tools.
- The person leading the activity may want to put some sheets on the floor to collect the shavings.
- You could show the young people this video from the Museum of London which shows how tools were made: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdkqNXWluiw>

Activity

1. Talk with the young people about Stone Age tools. People in the Stone Age would have collected different shaped rocks (mostly flints) to make tools. They made the tools by hammering the rock with another stone or an antler, chipping pieces off the edges to create the shape they wanted.

Use the pictures below to show some examples of the tools they made:

- scraper - used to scrape animal skins
 - hammerstone - used for hammering, can be used to make other stone tools
 - blade - used for cutting, e.g. meat or animal skins
 - arrowhead - for arrows to be used in hunting
2. Explain to the young people that they are going to pretend to be from the Stone Age and make their own tools.
 3. The person leading the activity could then demonstrate how the young people are going to use the cutting tools to make a Stone Age tool.
 4. The young people need to decide which kind of tool they want to make, then use the cutting tools to shape the soap bar.
 5. Once they have completed their soap tool, the young people could compare it to the image and see how similar it is.





Reflection

How difficult was it to shape the soap? Does your tool look like the one in the picture? Imagine doing that with stone and having to use another stone to chip parts off. Making stone tools is very difficult and requires a lot of skill. It will have taken a lot of practise before someone was able to make a stone tool that did its job.

Safety

This activity may not be suitable for young people with allergies or skin conditions and gloves may need to be worn.

Cutting tools may be sharp and the young people need to be made aware of the care needed when handling them.

Make it accessible

If anyone struggles with fine motor skills, they could work with a partner or their lodge/six/patrol to make the tool together.

Anyone with allergies or a skin condition which may inhibit them from touching the soap could be provided with gloves so they can still take part.

Change the level of challenge

This activity could be completed as a lodge/six/patrol rather than each young person having their own soap bar.

For the budding creator, they could try and make more than one tool, trying to get it more accurate each time.

Youth Shaped guidance

The images can be used to give guidance to the young people, but it is okay if their tool does not end up looking like the photo. Let them explore what happens when they cut differently and what shape they end up with, as this is how new tools are created.





Scraper



Hammerstone





Blade



Arrowhead

