

# How to...



**CLEAN SLATE**

Before erasers were invented in the 1700s, moist bread was used to get rid of pencil marks.



## SWAP SOUP WITH FRIENDS

Many people enjoy the cozy feeling of making and eating soup in the winter. One way to try several different kinds of soup is to have an exchange with friends. Here's how to do it.

- 1. Invite friends.** To start, ask a grown-up if you can invite a few friends or families over to swap soup. Choose a day and time, and ask each person to bring a large container of homemade soup, as well as copies of the recipe.
- 2. Do a taste test.** At the swap, have an adult help you heat up the soups. Pass out small bowls and spoons to guests, and ladle a little soup into their bowls for taste tests. To reduce waste, ask everyone to rinse their bowl and spoon in between servings.
- 3. Choose a soup.** Once everyone has tasted the soups, it's time to trade. You can do this a couple of ways: Each participant can choose a single container of soup to bring home, or you can pass out small containers for people to fill with different options.



## Make cards with eraser stamps

### What you need

- Shapes to trace, like coins, small blocks, and board game pieces (optional)
- White erasers
- Ruler (optional)
- Pencil
- Scissors and/or craft knife (with adult supervision)
- Different-color ink pads
- Blank cards
- Pencil with a new eraser
- Cotton swabs
- Markers, string, and glue (optional)

### Instructions

1. Decide on some basic shapes to create, such as circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, half circles, and thin rectangles (for stripes and lines).
2. Use the items you've collected to trace shapes onto the white erasers or draw your shapes freehand onto the erasers.
3. Cut out the eraser shapes with scissors. These are your stamps!
4. Press an eraser shape onto an ink pad a few times, making sure the eraser is evenly inked. Then press the inked side of the eraser firmly onto a card.
5. To add dot decorations, press a small eraser top of a pencil into the ink pad and then stamp it onto your card.
6. You can use eraser shapes you cut out to make patterns or to create animals, food, balloons, flowers, faces, or anything you would like on your card. Experiment with layering shapes and interesting compositions.
7. Cut one tip off a cotton swab and use the cut end to stamp tiny dots, such as for eyes or cactus needles, onto your card.
8. Add thin lines to your card by drawing them on with a marker or gluing on thin string.
9. At any time, if you'd like to change colors, wipe your stamp clean with a damp paper towel. Dry it off and then press it into a new ink color.



## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

If there's a new book you'd like to read, go to your town or school library to see if you can borrow a copy before you buy one. Checking out library books is good for the Earth because you are helping to reduce the natural resources required to make new items. Using the library also helps reduce waste. Once you are finished reading a book, many other people can borrow it instead of purchasing their own copies. You may also discover that the library offers a wider variety of items and activities than you realized, such as puzzles to check out or book clubs to attend. Or you may just find the library to be a relaxing place to read and discover new books!



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