

## Rock stars

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### Making Mount Rushmore

Talk about a really big idea! Years ago, Mount Rushmore was just a huge slab of rock in the hills of South Dakota. Then someone thought of creating a giant sculpture so more people would visit the area.

Artist Gutzon Borglum agreed to do the work. In 1927, he started sculpting the faces of four U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. He created a plaster model of how he wanted it to look. Then he used dynamite to blast away chunks of rock. It was dangerous work!

After the dynamite was used, the faces were carefully chiseled and worked until they were as smooth as a new sidewalk.

In time, the sculpture started to take shape. But things didn't always go as planned. Thomas Jefferson was

started on the right side of George Washington. But after two years of work, Jefferson started to crack. The artist blasted away the image and restarted it on Washington's left.

The last of the faces was dedicated on July 2, 1939. People cheered and fireworks exploded as the four figures were viewed together for the first time. Today the monument is seen by millions of visitors each year.

Your face may never be carved in stone for others to see, but you will always be very important to God. The One who made you loves you and thinks about you all the time. You are His treasured creation.

"I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" (Isaiah 49:15,16, NIV).



### Try this!

Ask an adult to help you make some homemade, bumpy play dough using the recipe below. Try sculpting it into a face or some other interesting shape.

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup uncooked oats



### Did you know?

A young girl once wrote Abraham Lincoln a letter suggesting he grow a beard. He decided it was a good idea.



Mount Rushmore got its first bath in 2005. A cleaning crew scrubbed away dirt and tiny plants called lichens. The plants produce an acid that can damage rock over time.

### JUST FOR laughs

What do you do with a crying pebble?  
Rock it.

What's the best place to look for stones at night?  
In bedrock.

