

1. IDENTIFICATION: (Artist, title, date, size, country of origin, period/style)

003. CAMELID SACRUM IN THE SHAPE OF A CANINE
Tequixquiac, Central Mexico
14, 000- 7, 000 BCE
Mesolithic Era

2. FORM: (use of design elements/ principles: color, shape, value, texture, line, space; balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, etc.)

Symmetrical, object of similar shape to subject was used, eyes and muzzle smoothly carved out/ negative space, portable art

3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE: (art making processes)

Sculpted bone (sacrum, base of the spine)

4. CONTENT: (subject & genre: iconography, symbolism, the story)

Sacrum bone considered sacred: believed to be connected to the spiritual essence, as it was physical support & close to reproductive organs
The subject appears to be a coyote; a great hunter so may be a ritual mask to ensure successful hunts



5. ORIGINAL CONTEXT/ SITE/ INTENDED FUNCTION OF THE WORK: (Overlap to #6)

Found in Tequixquiac, Mexico; the nomadic people there crossed the Bering Strait from Asia and hunted large game animals that were the ancestors of the llama, the piece is made out of this animal's bone

6. INTENDED PURPOSE & MOTIVATION (why was it made?); **PATRON/AUDIENCE** (who was it made for?); **ARTIST'S DECISION MAKING:**

Intended purpose was unknown, may have been made for a ritual to ensure successful hunts or just as a spiritual piece, artist chose the bone because it was considered sacred

7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):

Hunter-gatherers settled, more time on art
Sculpture instead of painting

CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):

Focus on animals remained, portable/easy to make

8. THEME(S):

Animals

COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:

Like the Ambum Stone, appears to have spiritual meaning and was sculpted. However, this piece was made from bone, and the Ambum Stone appears to have been a mortar and pestle, giving it a practical purpose. Both show prehistoric people's fascination with the natural world and use of available resources.