

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

**006. ANTHROPOMORPHIC STELE**

Arabian Peninsula

Fourth millennium BCE

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

**Emphasis on the front (more sculpted), trapezoid head on rectangular body, flat nose, simple and abstract**

**3. MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUE:** (art making processes)

Sandstone

Sculpted/ low-relief

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

**Appears to be human, necklace, awl (a pointed tool), double bladed dagger, two cords**

**May have been a grave marker**



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

**One of three anthropomorphic steles found on the Arabic peninsula, each far away from each other**

**The peninsula had a different climate (savannah rather than desert) so nomadic people could travel and exchange ideas easier**

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

**Probably was intended to be a grave marker, however the purpose is unknown**

**Figurative representation (before Islam, there was representation of people)**

**7. INNOVATION/ CHANGE(S):**

**Representation of a male figure**  
**Very abstract**

**CONVENTION/ TRADITION(S):**

**Funerary art**

**Sculpted stone that was easily present in area**

**8. THEME(S):**

**Human figure, funerary**

**COMPARE TO ANOTHER WORK:**

**Like other figures in this era, there was a growing focus on human form. However, this piece appears to be a man rather than a woman, who dominated in this period. In addition, the purpose seems to be to serve as a grave marker, rather than representing a deity. All of them were fairly abstract and stylized.**