

Basic Detail Report



Jar

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

pottery and paint

Description

Small jars like this one were used to hold pigments for painting Maya ceramics or bark books, or perhaps for cosmetics. This turtle effigy jar has been decorated with a lead-based slip and fired at a very high temperature. This technique travelled from Central Mexico down the Pacific Coast. Many Mesoamerican people believed the world rested on the back of a land turtle.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 3/4 x 3 x 2 3/8 in. (4.4 x 7.6 x 6 cm)