

# Basic Detail Report

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## Bowl

**Date**

ca. 900-1100

**Primary Maker**

Maya (archaeological culture)

**Medium**

pottery and slip paint

**Description**

This elegant vessel is decorated with a dancing monkey, probably a spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) common in the rainforest environments of Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico. The ancient Maya saw the monkey as the patron

god of writing and they were revered for their intelligence. Spider monkeys in particular were seen as representative of fertility and sensuality. This vessel may have been made to serve guests at a high-status feast.

**Dimensions**

Overall: 6 1/8 x 6 1/8 in. (15.6 x 15.6 cm)