

Basic Detail Report



Stirrup-spout Bottle

Date

100-800

Primary Maker

Moche

Medium

pottery and slip paint

Description

Large lizards were considered a valuable food source.

They subsisted on the seeds of the *Anadenanthera*

colubrina, related to the acacia tree. The seeds, which

were believed to have medicinal powers, are very bitter. The Moche believed that if they ate the lizards they would also benefit from the seeds' healing properties without suffering the bitter taste. According to Peter Furst (1972:65), the seeds were also made into a potent snuff which, when mixed with an alcoholic beverage called chicha, became a sacred substance for rituals.

Dimensions

Overall: 5 1/8 x 6 1/4 x 5 5/8 in. (13 x 15.9 x 14.3 cm)