



Miniature Grinding Stone

Date
ca. 1000-1550 CE

Primary Maker
Artist Unknown

Medium
basalt

Description
Grinding stones are ubiquitous artifacts in Mesoamerican archaeological contexts. They were used to grind corn to produce masa and tortillas, and for many other purposes. Essentially unchanged for almost 8,000 years, these objects are important indicators of economy, social structure, and gender relations when found on archaeological sites. This miniature grinding stone has a simple, rectangular shape carved from a flat, basalt-stone slab with ridges around the borders. Given its small size, it was likely used to grind pigments or other precious minerals to make paint and cosmetics.

Dimensions
Overall: 1 1/8 x 5 1/2 x 3 5/8 in. (2.9 x 14 x 9.2 cm)