

YOUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD JOURNAL

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Artifact Observation

Closely examine the artifact and record your observations in the spaces below.

Observations

Date artifact was found: 1904

Place artifact was found: Oaxaca, Mexico

Description of artifact (shape, color, other characteristics): urn was made of light brown clay that feels rough, shaped like a standing jaguar with large ears, mouth of the jaguar is wide open, and it is wearing a necklace with a rectangular charm on it

Materials (what it's made of): baked clay

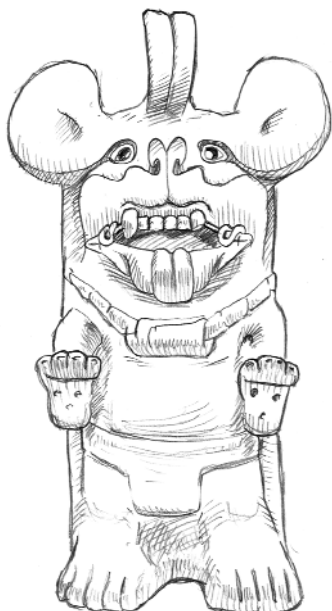
Measurements

Height: about 1 foot tall (32cm) Width: 5 inches (13cm)

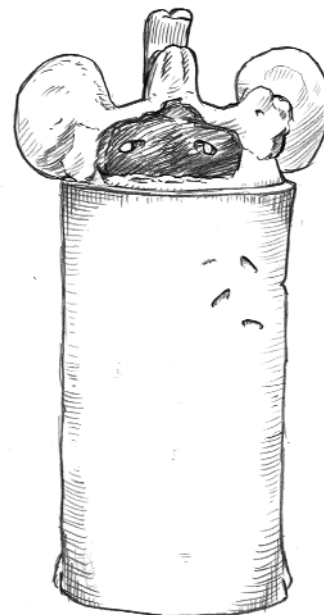
Drawing

Use the space below to draw your artifact:

Front View



Back View



Artifact Analysis

Consider your observations and think about what they tell you about the artifact.

Who do you think made the artifact?

The urn was made by a Zapotec person because it has Zapotec designs and was found at a Zapotec site.

Is there anything distinguishing about the artifact that might give you clues about the culture it came from?

Jaguars are associated with military, government, and power in Zapotec society. People with high status in Zapotec society were often buried with urns in the shape of jaguars because it was thought to be pleasing to the Gods.

About how old do you think the artifact is?

it could be 1,000-1,800 years old

What does the place where you found the artifact tell you about the people who used it?

The urn tells us that the person in the tomb was a noble. Many people that had important roles in the government or were very wealthy were often buried with elaborate urns in their tombs.

What do you think was the purpose of this artifact?

Urns like this one were commonly placed in tombs because it was thought that people would need when they died.

What other objects might be found with or near this artifact? What other objects might be used with it?

There may be other vases in the tomb and possibly human skeletons.

If you could find out anything about this artifact, what would you want to know? How would you try to find out?

I would like to know if other urns were found in the tomb and what they look like. I'd like to know if the other urns are also sculpted in the shape of a jaguar or if they have pictures of people or Gods on them. I would also like to look at photos or drawings of the excavation and see what else was found. This may give me more clues about the culture and what the urn was used for.