

**Early Art of the Americas Worksheet (Galleries 259 and 260)**  
*(in preparation for class on November 4, 2015)*

Find the Birdstone from the Mississippian culture, dated 3500 BCE, Gallery 260. Looking at it, describe how it would feel to hold it in your hand:

Describe the use of line in the surface design on a ceramic object from the early Americas, before 1300 (your choice, but identify the title and culture):

Find the case with the objects from the Isthmus region cultures in Gallery 260. Where do you see animal imagery? List the objects below, noting what animals you see integrated or displayed in the objects:

Find one object (dated before 1300 CE) in Gallery 260 that was worn or used to communicate high status/wealth. Describe the object and how that status was communicated through the object (consider its materials, any symbolism in the design, and its use):

The Maya had the only complete system of writing in the Americas. To understand how Maya hieroglyphs work, search for this YouTube clip, “Deciphering the Maya Code,” uploaded by the Canadian Museum of History or click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIWxJc-4Hqs>

Note any questions you have here, regarding the glyphs:

Now, if you have time, can you find any Maya hieroglyphs on the objects in Gallery 260? List the objects you see with glyphs: