

Early Art of North America (to 1300 CE): Eastern and Southwestern regions



How would this feel in the hand? What may have been a use for the object?

Archaic
Woodlands
(New York),
Birdstone, c.
1500-500
BCE, slate,
2001.163



Cahokia (near St. Louis, MO) reconstruction circa 1150 CE.



Based on such archaeological evidence, what might we conclude about the culture?



Spiro, (Mississippian era)
Earspools, 1100-1400 CE,
limestone, shell, and copper.
2001.28.1,2

Besides the symbolic
shapes, what else would
convey status?



Spiro, *Pair of gorgets*, 1200-1350, shell, 91.37.1,2. The eye set into the palm of the hand is thought to a symbol of the Milky Way constellation. Gorgets are ornaments worn on the chest.

13-22 S and 8.45 KO: Hopewell culture, *Serpent Mound*,
c. 1070 CE (Woodland period). This is an effigy mound.





Caddo, *Bottle and Jar*,
1100-1300, ceramic, 89.17
and 90.2.7



Pipe,
Mississippian,
c. 1200, stone,
2004.118



13-27 S and 8.6 KO: Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon (New Mexico), 830-1250 CE. The round structures are thought to be kivas.

Ancient
Puebloan, *Pot*
(*Olla*), c.
1000-1300
(90.106)



Hohokam, *Bowl*, clay and pigment, 900-1200 (2004.71)



Mimbres, *Bowls*, ceramic and pigment, 1000-1150 (2014.97.4 and 2014.97.1)



What animals do you see represented here?

Early Art of Mesoamerica, Central America, and Pacific Coast (to 1300 CE)

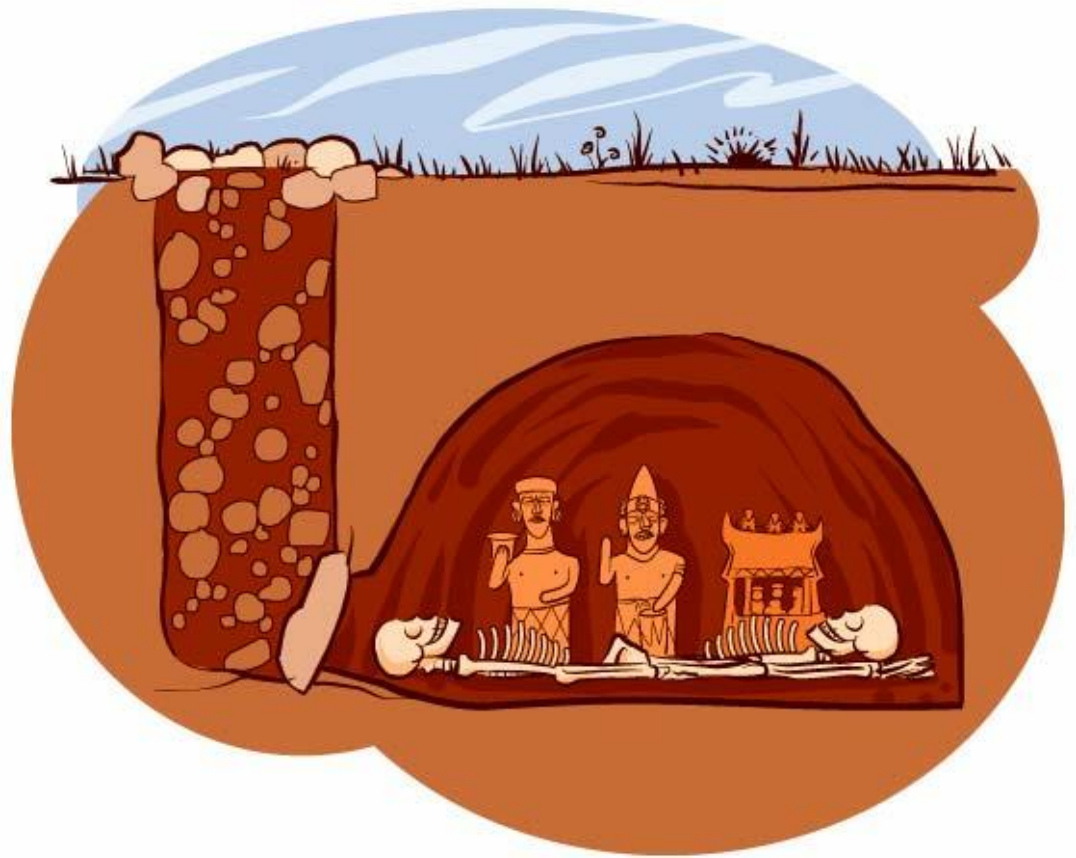


Colima, *Tripod vessel*, 300 BCE-
CE 100, ceramic, 92.85.20, and
Dog, 100-300, ceramic, 99.57.3





Nayarit, *House group*,
200 BCE-CE 400, ceramic,
47.2.37



Nayarit, *Figure (woman)*, 1st-2nd cent.

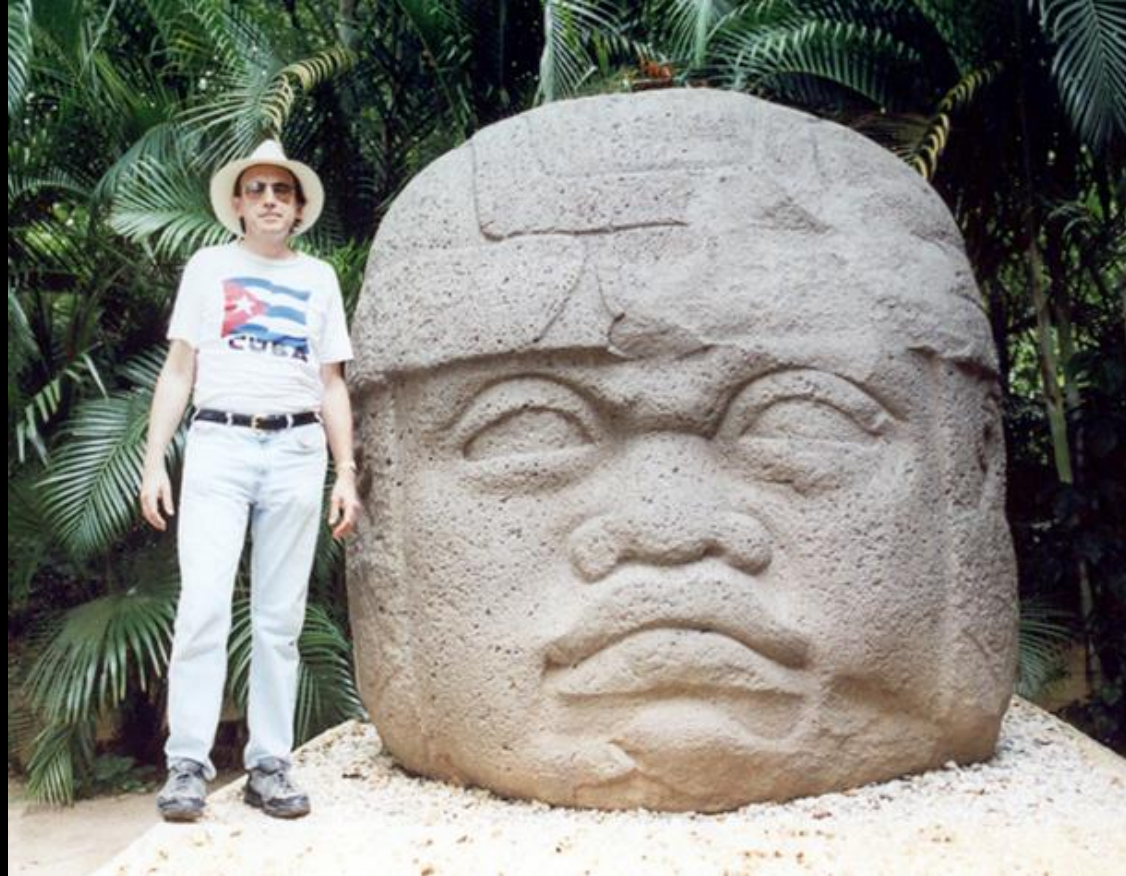
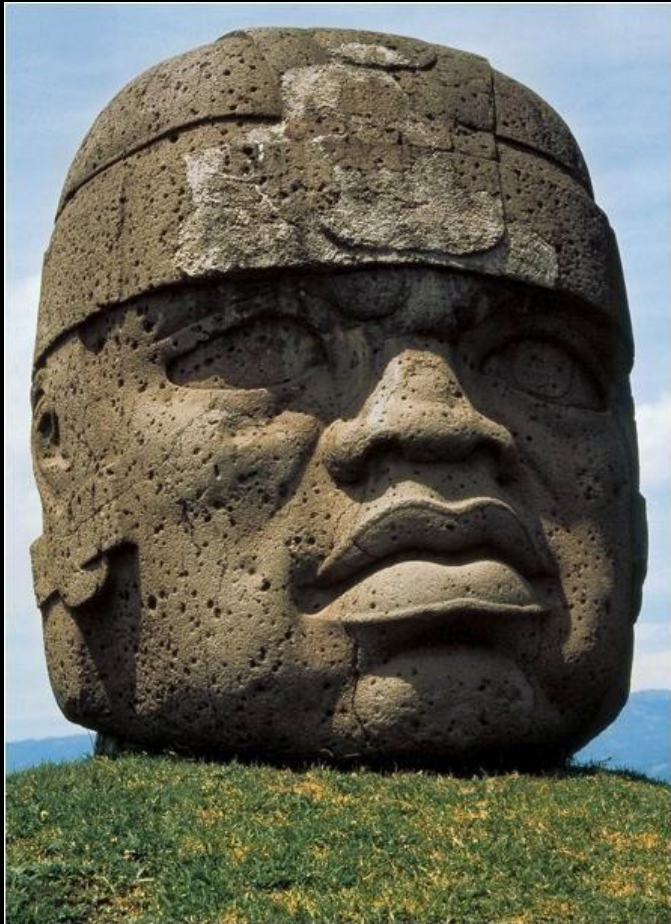
Ceramic, 47.2.30

“Couple figures ... from West Mexico were likely more than just marriage pairs. Placed in deep shaft tombs, they may also have represented the ancestors of the deceased to watch over and care for the spirits of the departed.” (Mia Label)

Olmec: The “mother culture of Mesoamerica”

La Venta (Mexico), 13-2 S: View of Great Pyramid, looking north.

Colossal heads, La Venta (inset) and 13-3 S: San Lorenzo, basalt, 1200-900 BCE

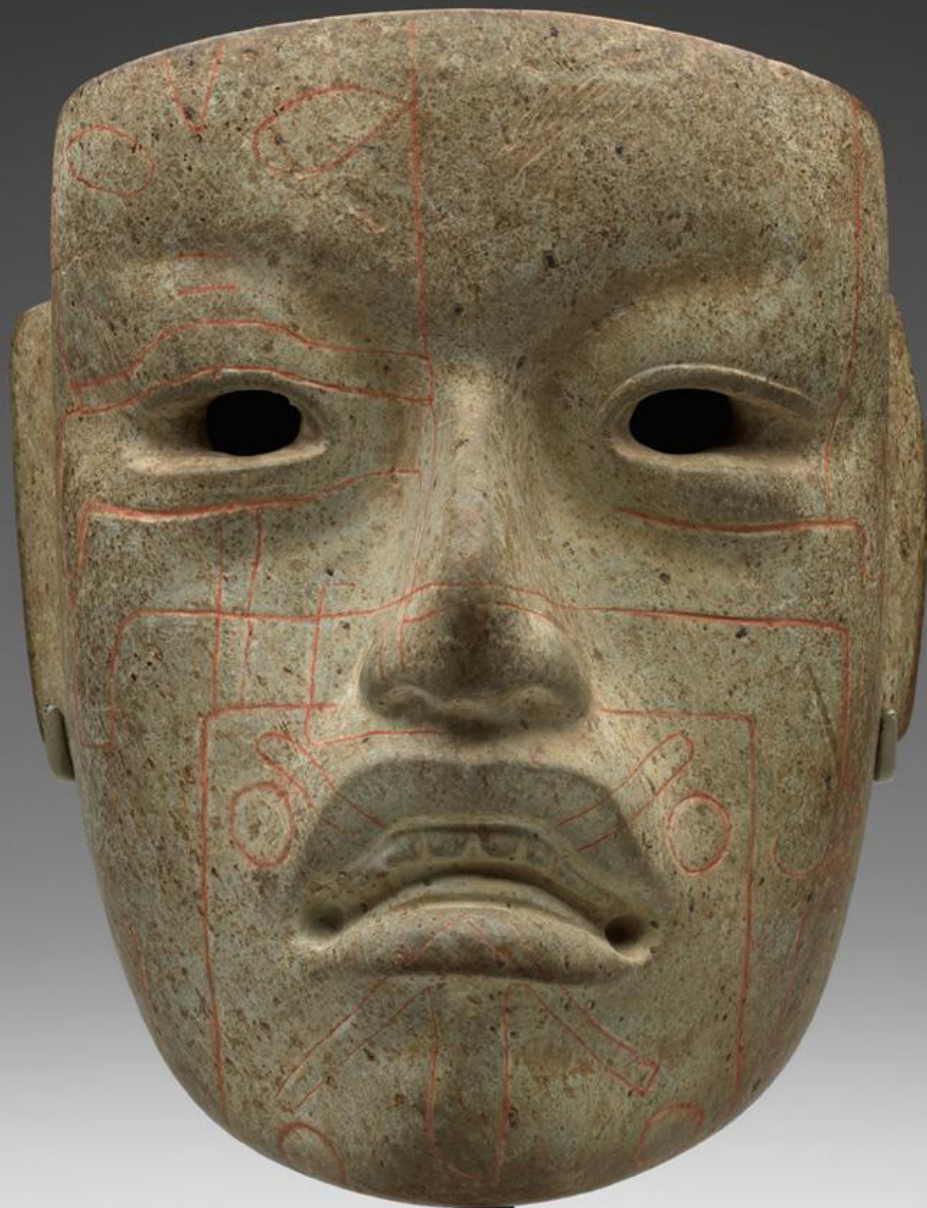


Olmec

13-1 S: *Offering 4*, La Venta. 900-400 BCE.

Jade, greenstone, granite, and sandstone.





Olmec (Mexico), *Mask*, 900- 300 BCE, jadeite and cinnabar, 2002.127. Above, *Standing male figure*, 100 BCE-CE 100, serpentine, 73.44 (not on view)

Teotihuacán (13-4 S
and 8.3 KO)

Ciudadela

Pyramid of the Moon

Pyramid of the Sun



The Teotihuacán Culture
Spikes of the maguey plant.

Blood is shed as a sacrifice and its
purpose is to renew the community.

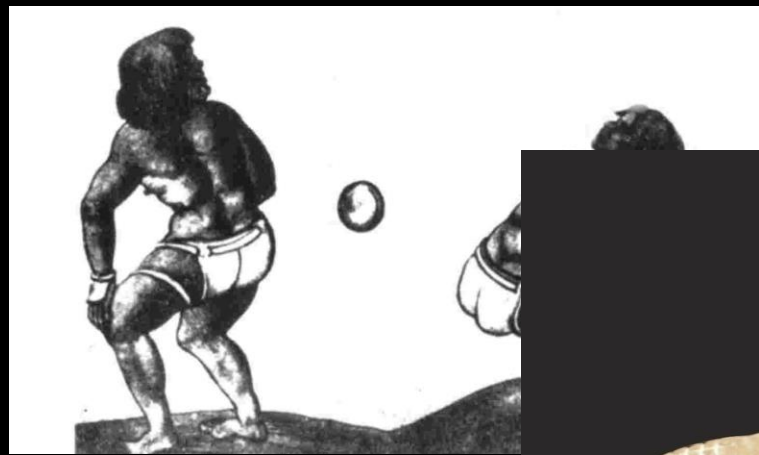


13-7 S: Maguey Ritual, fragment of a fresco, 550-650.

The Mesoamerican Ballgame

The Mesoamerican Ballgame

First game played using a rubber ball. Europeans were amazed at how it bounced. (Inset, Ball player)



The Mesoamerican Ballgame

This was the first
organized team
sport.

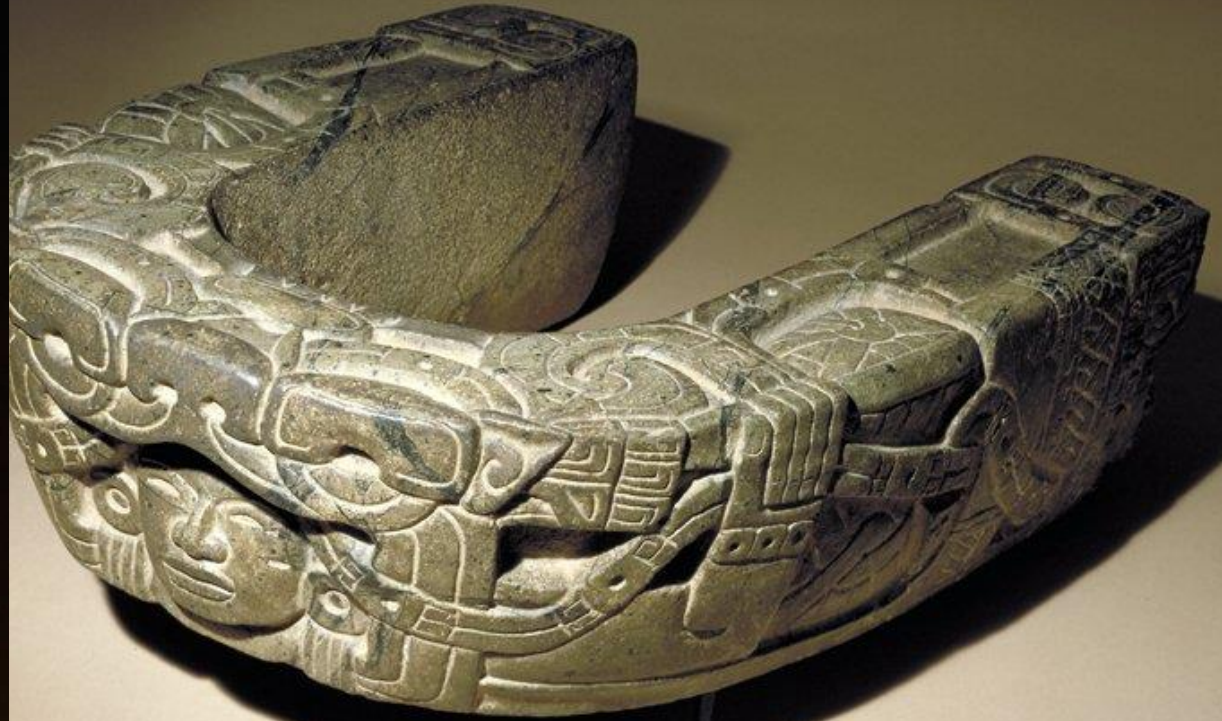


13-12 S, *The Ball Court in Copan,*
shaped like the letter I.

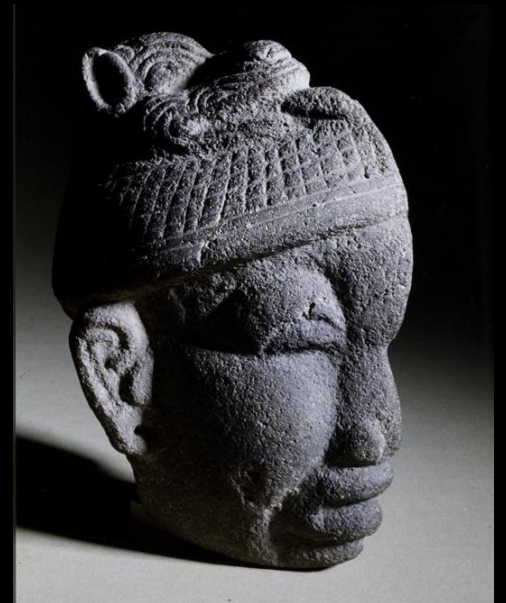
A goal or scoring circle, similar
to those shown above.



Veracruz, El Tajín, *Ballgame yoke*, 600-900 CE, stone, 41.72 and
Rattle in the form of a ballplayer, 600-750, ceramic, 47.2.9



Veracruz, El Tajín,
Ballgame yoke, 600-900
CE, stone, 41.72 and *Hacha*
in form of macaw, 64.26
and *Hacha*, 44.6. Stone,
600-900 CE.



Maya Culture

Maya art communicated the status of the kings, detailed dynastic succession, warfare, and religious themes.



Polychrome ceramic vessel, from the Maya city of Motul de San José. Photo by Justin Kerr. (Inset photo, *Plate*, 550-900, 97.92.4)

What element of Maya society is being communicated here?

Maya Culture

13-8S and 8.24 KO:
Temple I, called the
Temple of the Giant Jaguar
(tomb of Ah Hasaw),
Tikal, c. 700. Inset photo,
Temple of the Inscriptions,
Palenque, 7th century.

Maya ceremonial
centers were a mixture
of sacred buildings and
funerary monuments.
This pyramid was a
tomb for the king, and
its 9 levels alludes to
the realm of the
Underworld.



*Portrait of Lord Pacal (13-11 S) from his tomb and jade funerary mask, Temple of the Inscriptions, Palenque, mid-7th century. He ruled for 68 years! Inset, *Maskette*, 550-900, Jade, 2004.104.1*



Maya Culture

8.27 KO: *Presentation of captives to Yahaw Chan*
Muwan, Bonampak, 795 CE.



Maya Culture

Shield Jaguar and Lady Xok, from Yaxchilan,
725 CE (see p. 394 S).

Blood sacrifice by royalty was thought to be **necessary** for the stability and continuation of Maya society. Blood and human life were the most precious things a human could offer the gods.

(Autosacrifice: giving your own blood)



Maya, Vase with monkeys, 450-700, ceramic, 2000.195. Serving vessel, 600-900, ceramic, 80.8a,b



Maya Culture

Maya codex (Dresden Codex), before c. 1500.



(Inset) Maya, Chocolate pot, about 750, ceramic, 97.92.6

Maya Culture Pyramid (*El Castillo*, 13-14 S),
with Chacmool (inset), Chichen
Itza, 9th-12th century



Chorotega, Left, *Olla*, Ceramic, 300-799 CE, 73.17; (Right) *Figure*, ceramic, 300-799. 73.16.3



Guanacaste, *Tripod vessel*,
1100-1200, ceramic, 46.3.6



Costa Rica (no culture listed), *Metates*, 1-500, volcanic stone, 97.92.5 (not on view) and X95.12 (inset). What do you think these were used for?

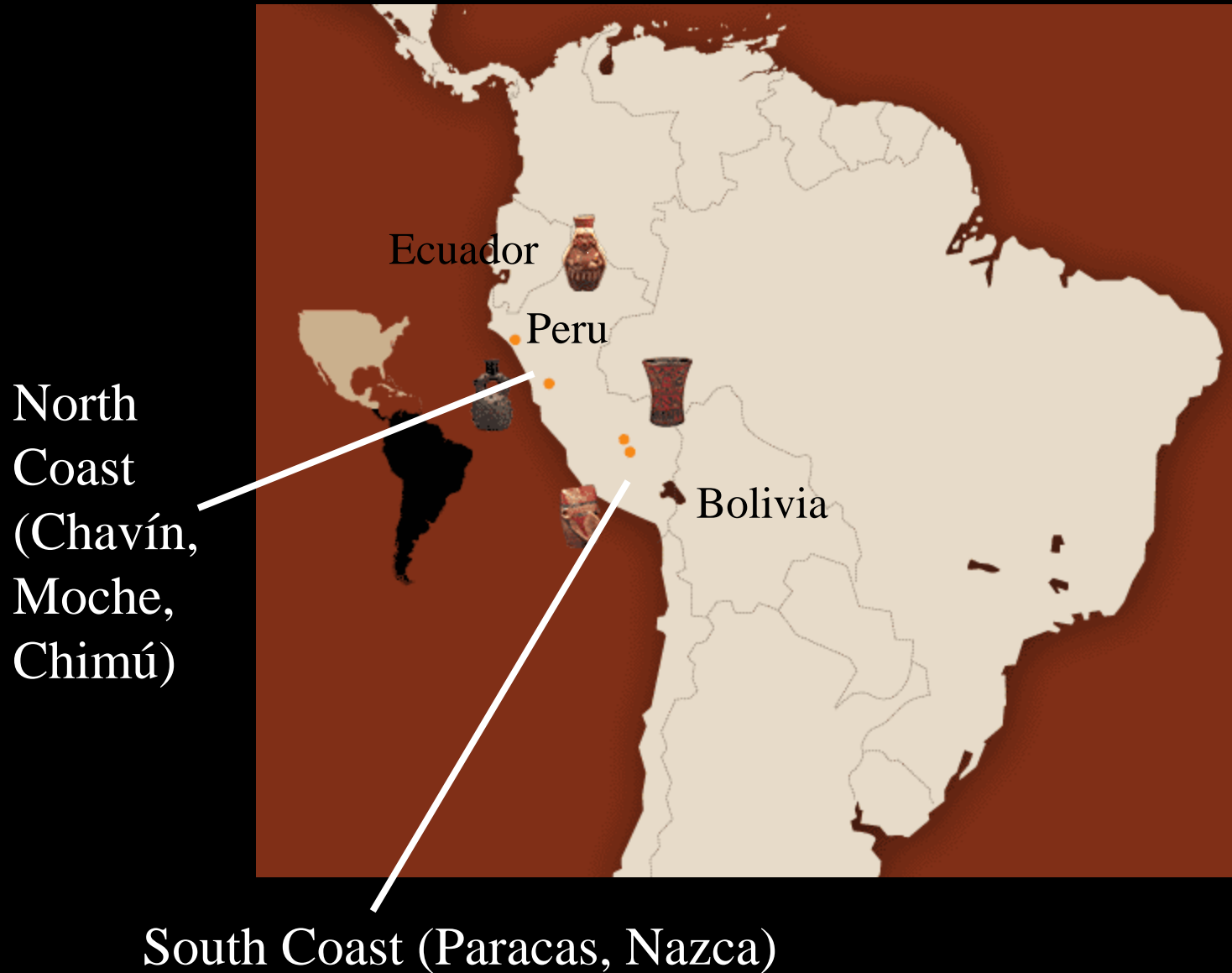




Veraguas, *Breast plaque*, 800-1500, gold, 53.2.5 and *Pendant*, 800-1200, gold, 63.34a,b



Andean Region (Moche, Chavín, Chimú, Paracas, Nazca)





Chavín (Peru),
Stirrup vessels,
1400-500 BCE,
ceramic, 77.59.5
and 2001.198.7
(not on view)

Chavín de Huántar was an ancient pilgrimage site in the Central Andes. The style of art developed there influenced other Andean cultures, much as the Olmec influenced Mesoamerican cultures.



The Paracas Culture

8.1 KO: Embroidered
funerary mantle, 50-100 CE

Textiles were of enormous importance to Andean cultures, serving complex functions in both private and public life.





The stirrup-shaped handle and spout were on vessels used in ritual.

Paracas (Peru),
*Double Spout
Vessel*, 900-200
BCE, ceramic and
pigment, 2002.58.2

Inca Culture

Geoglyph of a hummingbird, c. 500

Constructing the Linear and Spiral Geoglyphs

LINEAR ANIMATION

SPIRAL ANIMATION



Art by Fernando G. Baptista, NG STAFF/ Flash by Dinara Sagatova
Source: Markus Reindel, German Archaeological Institute



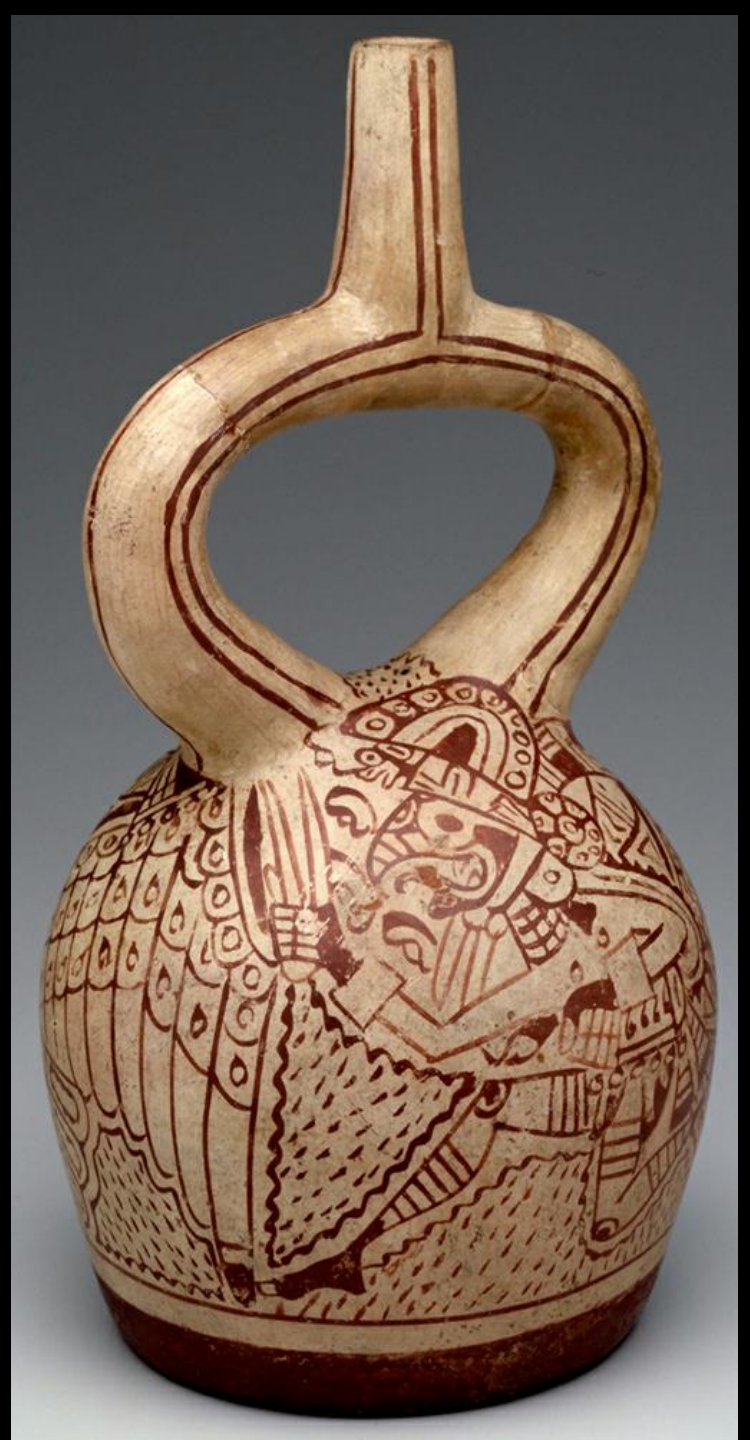
Nazca, *Fish*, 100 BCE-CE 600, ceramic, 44.3.59

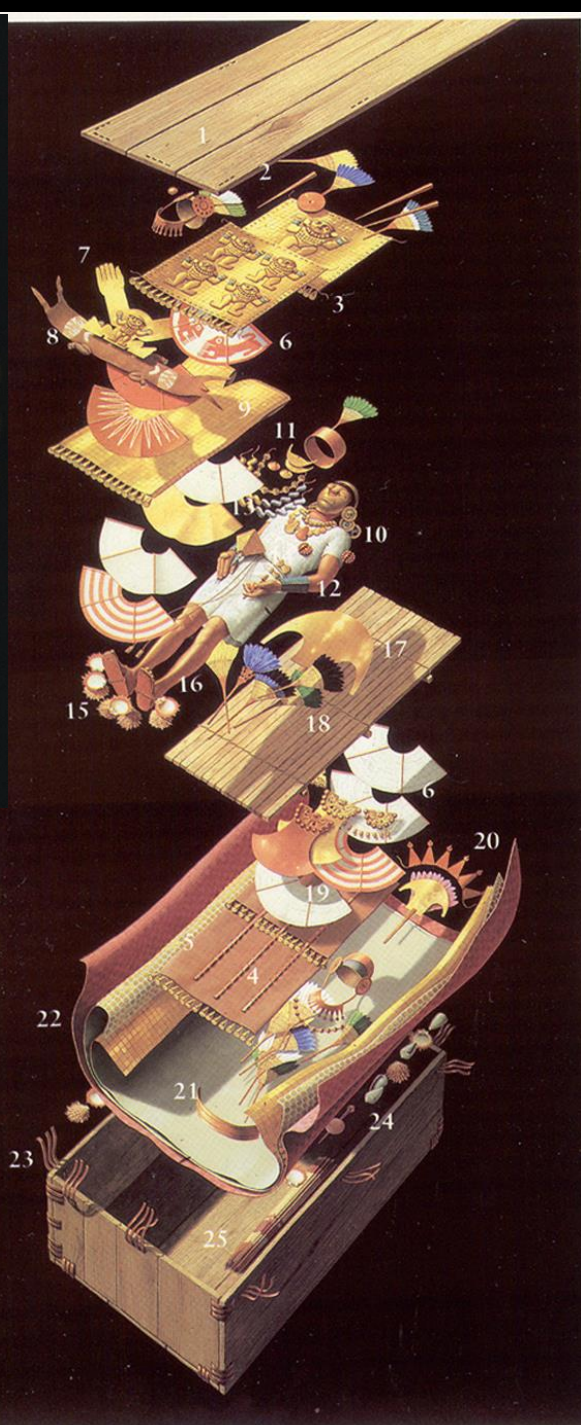
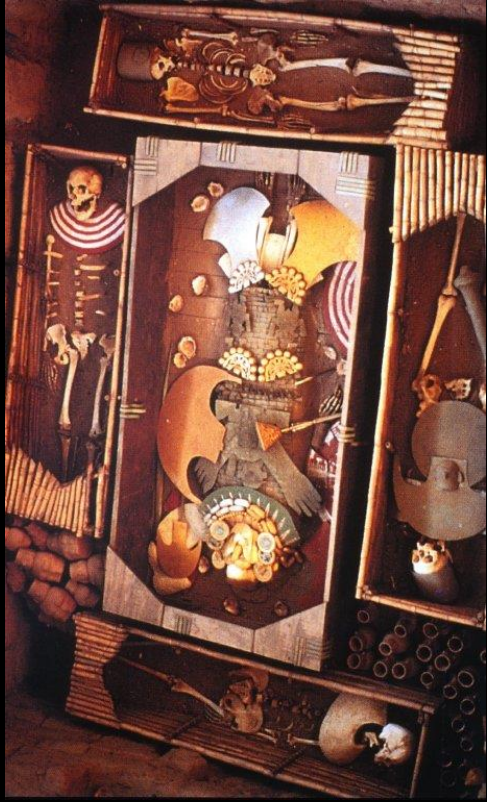
The Moche Culture

The Moche dominated the northern coast of Peru from 200 BCE to 600 CE, excelling in ceramics and metalworking.



Moche, *Fineline vessel with runners*, 400-600, ceramic, 44.41.1 and above, 8.4 KO
Moche portrait head, 400-500 CE.





13-20 S: Earspool of Warrior Priest and burial site (see p. 281, KO) Moche. Earspool made of gold, turquoise, quartz, and shell, from Sipan, c. 300



Chimú, Ear spools, 1150-1450, gold alloy, 43.4.1,2

What's similar between the Moche earspool and the earspool of the Chimú?