







Think Like an Archaeologist: Artifact Analysis

Teacher Information

(Do not reveal information until after students are finished with their activity!)

	<p>Metate with Bird Head Costa Rica, Guanacaste-Nicoya area, 300-700 CE Basalt 11 x 21 in. (27.94 x 53.34 cm)</p> <p><i>This was a grinding tool, typically used to grind corn.</i></p>
	<p>Ladle Censer Mexico, Western Oaxaca or Puebla, Mixtec, 1200-1500 CE Slip-painted ceramic Length: 19 in. (48.26 cm)</p> <p><i>This was a portable incense burner. Oaxacans used (and still use) copal (tree resin) for incense.</i></p>
	<p>Atlatl Attachment Mexico, Guerrero, Mezcala, 500 BCE – 1000 CE Stone Length: 1 9/16 in. (4 cm); Height: 1 3/16 in. (3.1 cm)</p> <p><i>This is a tool that supported a spear and helped project the spear farther and faster.</i></p>
	<p>Grater with Handle in the Form of a Male Head Colombia, Tumaco, La Tolita, 300 BCE – 300 CE Gray/rose slip-painted ceramic Height: 1 7/8 in. (4.76 cm); Length: 8 5/8 in. (21.91 cm); Width: 3 3/8 in. (8.57 cm)</p> <p><i>This is a kitchen tool for grating food.</i></p>
	<p>Hacha Mexico, Veracruz, Totonac, 600-900 CE Stone Height: 6 7/8 in. (17.46 cm)</p> <p><i>Ritual object, often found with yokes, likely to represent equipment used in the Mesoamerican ballgame – perhaps buried with ballgame player.</i></p>
	<p>Yoke Mexico, Central Veracruz, 200-600 CE Stone Length: 18 3/4 in. (47.63 cm)</p> <p><i>Ritual object (perhaps for ballgame player burial) representing part of the Mesoamerican ball game uniform (material around the waist).</i></p>

