

# Find the Wari Single Spout Bottle of a Deity Wearing Tunic with Llamas.

Look at the shape of this vessel. *How do you think the Wari used this vessel?*

Inspect the picture on this vase.

*Name three things you see happening?*

---

---

---

*Why do you think the Wari drew llamas on this vase?*

*Could you explain why they didn't draw elephants?*

Clothing can reveal information about rank, status, and identity within a community. Search through the exhibit and choose a textile (cloth) or ornament that you think someone would have worn. Describe it. *Is it colorful, shiny, or...*

*How would someone put it on?*

Think about the clothing we wear in our society.

Who would wear.....

Heavy boots? A tiara ? A suit? A pair of tennis shoes?

What does clothing and accessories tell you about the person wearing it?

*Use your imagination to fill in the blanks.*

The Pre-Columbian cloth/ornament I found is a\_\_\_\_\_

It was probably worn by a\_\_\_\_\_who was important in the

community because\_\_\_\_\_.

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE EXPLORED THE ART OF THE ANCIENT AMERICA'S WE INVITE YOU TO VENTURE UPSTAIRS AND EXPLORE UAMA'S COLLECTION OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN ART.**

*European and American cultures also created images of warriors and deities. Look through the 2nd floor galleries and see if you can find a sculpture or painting that represents a warrior or deity. Look carefully at the object, discuss what you see and try to figure out some things about the culture that created it.*



## DID YOU KNOW?

Some people think these face-neck bottles represent deities with animal powers, and the dots on the animal's body may suggest that the Wari were interested in astronomy. See if you can find any textiles that may also indicate an interest in the stars.

**UAMA**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA MUSEUM OF ART  
& ARCHIVE OF VISUAL ARTS

Copyright © The University of Arizona  
Museum of Art and the authors.  
All rights reserved.

# JOURNEY THROUGH

Ritual Beauty:

ART of the

Ancient Americas

THE I. MICHAEL KASSER COLLECTION



**AND UNRAVEL MYSTERIES OF MESOAMERICAN ART!**



## Find the Jaina Standing Warrior.

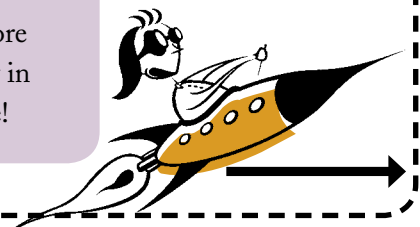
This sculpture was found in a burial chamber. The Mayas believed in a multi-level cosmos, or universe, which they divided into nine underworlds and thirteen heavens. *Why do you think they put a warrior figurine in a burial chamber?*

Look carefully at this warrior. *Describe him.*

Now imagine this object much larger. *Could it still be used in a burial chamber?*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Some people think the Maya civilization disappeared but more than 6 million Maya live today in Guatemala, Mexico and Belize!





# Let's discover what animals and objects the Pre-Columbians valued.

LOOK FOR THE DEITIES: GODS AND GODDESSES OF THE EARTH AND SKY.



Hunt for the deity Chicomecoatl with Temple Headdress.

*Which word best describes her: playful, fierce, loving, day dreaming, or...*

Examine her headdress. *Name three things you notice.*

---

---

---

What is she holding in her hand? *What do you think this goddess was in charge of?*

**DID YOU KNOW?** Teotsinte, an ancestor of the corn we eat today, was the first crop to be planted and grown by Mesoamericans. This marked the end of nomadic, or hunting and gathering lifestyles and the beginning of civilization for Pre-Columbian people.



## Look for a vessel shaped like a squash.



What is supporting the squash? *How would you feel if you were at the base of the squash?*

Think about the shape of a:

- tea pot
- juice box
- cookie jar



*Which of these objects has a wide opening? Which has a narrow opening? Which is tall? Which is short? Do these vessels have handles?*

Explain how the purpose of these vessels determines their shape?

Now look at the squash vessel again. What do you think the squash vessel might have been used for?

Think of a vessel, or container, you drink from or carry liquid in. Use the shape of a cactus and draw the vessel.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Foodstuffs such as squash were frequently represented in West Mexico to show their importance as a staple of life.



# Find the Aztec deity named Quetzalcoatl.

How is this piece similar to or different than the Chicomecoatl with Temple Headdress? *Explain one way they're similar or different.*

This god is a combination of two animals. Look carefully at this sculpture. *Can you guess the two animals it represents?*

---

---



What if the community of people making this earth and sky deity lived in the Arctic tundra, near the sea, or in the jungle? Choose one of these environments and think of an animal that could represent the earth and an animal that could represent the sky? *Draw a deity that combines these two animals.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Quetzalcoatl (*pronounced ke-tsal-ko-wa-tl*) is an Aztec sky and creator god. The name is a combination of quetzal, a brightly colored Mesoamerican bird, and coatl, meaning serpent. Quetzalcoatl was considered powerful because of being equally at home in the realms of the earth and sky.

