

Basic Detail Report



Pendant

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

jade

Description

Natural jade deposits were not commonly found in Mesoamerica. A few deposits are known to exist in the highlands of Guatemala and in the mountains from riverbeds. Mineralogists classify it as a true jadeite with variations in color from light blue-green to dark green and

including shades of white to grey. The material proved very difficult to work with rudimentary tools of wood and stone and resulting designs were relatively simple. Many of the design elements were created with shallow string cuts and hollow drills which had to be replaced frequently. Grinding and polishing with abrasives were also key methods of working the jade into the types of pendants seen on these pages.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 3/8 x 1 1/4 x 5/8 in. (3.5 x 3.2 x 1.6 cm)