

# Basic Detail Report

---



## Mask

### Date

ca. 1500-400 BCE

### Primary Maker

Olmec

### Medium

greenstone

### Description

This greenstone mask displays a great sensitivity to the natural features of a human face and may represent a portrait or death mask of an individual. The mouth is rendered with great realism to reveal a line of well defined teeth and provide the face with a lively

expression. The long nose and rectangular ears imbue the mask with a symmetry and authority that convey Olmec aesthetic ideals. Strength and stoicism in a rather genderless form are seen again and again in Olmec high-status art. The two holes in the ear lobes suggest the inclusion of jewelry and the single incisions across the bridge of the nose may represent a facial tattoo. This masterpiece of stonework was made without the use of any metal or mechanized tools and must have consumed many hours in the life of the craftsman.

### Dimensions

Overall: 7 5/8 x 7 3/8 x 4 3/8 in. (19.4 x 18.7 x 11.1 cm)