



Ceremonial Table

Date
ca. 800-1550

Primary Maker
Gran Chiriquí

Medium
volcanic stone

Description

This rather small size of this unusual table made of volcanic stone suggests it was probably used for ceremonial practices. On the top and either side of the table are two zoomorphic figures, mixtures between crocodile and feline forms. The combination of two animals is a characteristic motif in ancient Panamanian cultures, and overall an important motif in indigenous mythology. The bottom of the table is decorated with snakes wrapped around a tree. In Panamá today, small bowls and tablets are used for healing or religious rituals, usually associated with herbs, leaves, and cacao, and this table may once have served a similar purpose.

Dimensions

Overall: 4 7/8 x 10 7/8 x 6 7/8 in. (12.4 x 27.6 x 17.5 cm)