

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS



TAMPA BAY
HISTORY
CENTER

ONLINE EXHIBIT
Florida Front and Center: Objects That Define Florida
Sponsored by Nancy and Bob Bolt

Initial Observations

What do you believe this artifact is?

Identify or describe the artifact based on your initial impression. Use specific language if possible (e.g., “ceremonial vessel,” “tool,” “personal item”):

Sketch the artifact below.

Include any notable design elements, textures, or structural components:

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Detailed Examination

Approach the artifact as a researcher would—observe and analyze without bias.

What materials do you think comprise the artifact? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Leather | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric | <input type="checkbox"/> Shell | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

How might this artifact feel if held? (Check all that apply)

- Heavy Light Smooth Rough Hard Soft

Notes:

What colors are present, and are they naturally occurring or applied?

Describe the artifact's form:

(Consider symmetry, curvature, angles, or any unique structural details.)

Estimate the size of the artifact:

- Small** (fits in a hand, or may be considered flat) **Medium** (approximately the size of a basketball) **Large** (comparable to furniture or machinery)

List three precise adjectives that describe this artifact's appearance or current condition:

- 1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Purpose and Use

Based on your analysis, what was the likely function of this artifact?

(Be specific and consider its shape, material, and signs of wear or deterioration.)

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Who might have made or used this artifact in Florida's past?

Include a time period or cultural group if possible.

What physical evidence or features support your interpretation?

Does a comparable artifact exist today?

YES NO

**If yes, how does the modern version compare in function, material, or cultural value?
If no, why is this no longer used?**

Historical and Cultural Significance

Consider their worldview, environment, values, or level of technology.

What does this artifact suggest about the people or society that created or used it?

What important information might still be missing or unclear after studying the artifact?
