

Basic Detail Report



Mirror

Date

206 BCE - 220 CE

Medium

Bronze

Description

This object is a bronze mirror from the Han dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE). Although it may be hard to imagine due to

its current state of oxidation, the smooth reverse side of this object was once polished so finely that one could see their reflection in the bronze. The small size of this mirror may indicate that it was used as a fire starter to reflect the sun's rays and ignite tinder when traveling. Mirrors held a lot of symbolic meaning in China and might have been kept on one's person to bring good fortune to the owner.

Dimensions

1/8 × 2 7/8 in. (0.3 × 7.3 cm)