

Basic Detail Report



Tjuringa

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Aranda

Medium

Wood and pigment

Description

A tjuringa is a sacred object. Many different words for this item exist among the aboriginal peoples of Australia. In addition, the word is used to refer to different objects, songs, dances or stories. The meaning depends on the context in which the word is used, but all uses are associated with ancestral beings. As it relates to this object, tjuringa refers to a piece of wood or stone. The tjuringa represents the relationship between the person who possesses it, their ancestors and the cultural group to which they belong. Despite the fact that this example lacks decoration beyond its ochre coloring, tjuringas typically feature several designs of ancestral and ceremonial significance. Tjuringas were of particular interest to European collectors in the late 19th and early to mid 20th Centuries. As a result, there are a great many examples to be found in museum and private collections.

Dimensions

31 × 3 × 1/8 in. (78.7 × 7.6 × 0.3 cm)