



#### BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Hi friends! Welcome to this edition of “Art Vids for Kids.” My name is Kate and I’m a Museum Guide at the Dayton Art Institute. I’ll be your guide as we explore this *Jaguar-Shaman Tripod Vessel*. You’re going to want paper and a pencil, so go ahead and pause the video so you can grab them.

Let’s begin by looking closely at this vessel, or container. What colors do you see? Do you notice the black head, arms and legs? The cream-colored body? The red mouth, stripes and other accents? Can you find the brownish-red color of the clay showing through? Artwork that is made from clay is called pottery. This pottery was made over 1,000 years ago.

Let’s continue looking. What else do you notice? Is it the sculpted head almost pouncing out of the container? Do you also see the snarling, sharp teeth? Does this look like a jaguar to you? Jaguars are one of the largest members of the cat family. They’re considered special because they can adapt to many different habitats. They’re at home on land, in the trees, or swimming in water. Jaguars also see well in the dark and hunt both day and night. They can seem to appear from nowhere.

Now, grab your pencil and paper. Let’s look for patterns. Patterns are designs that repeat themselves. Pause the video and draw at least 3 patterns that catch your eye. Resume the video when you’re finished and ready.

Did you notice the X’s, little dots and small faces on the legs, arms and chest? This pattern reminds me of a jaguar’s spotted coat. The small faces are hard to pick out, but they show a person’s profile. A profile is the view of a face from the side. Can you also spy the pattern of small faces going around the top of the container?

Perhaps, you noticed right away the vessel is standing upright on two legs. If you look closely you can see a tail in the back. It gives the container three supports so it doesn’t topple over. Did you notice the front legs are shorter and rest on the knees? I think this vessel looks like a combination of a jaguar and a shaman. A shaman was a man or woman who had a special job. He or she was a problem solver. It was

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believed that a shaman could unite with the spirit of an animal and united they would help the community.

If you were to make your own vessel, what animal would you choose to connect with? Would it be strong and powerful like a jaguar? Or, be a companion like a dog? Would it live on land, fly through the sky, or swim in the water? Maybe it's a creature that can do all three. We'd love to see you continue this adventure by designing a vessel that suits you.

Thank you for joining me. If you would like to see the *Jaguar-Shaman Tripod Vessel* in person, you'll find it in the Art of the Ancient Americas collection, in gallery 102. You will also see many other objects that tell about the rich cultures that existed long ago. We hope you visit us at the Dayton Art Institute.

## END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

## IMAGE CREDITS\*

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## QUESTIONS?

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