

A ***cong*** is a form of ancient Chinese jade artifact. The *cong* is one of the main types of jade artifact of the Liangzhu culture (about 3000-2000 BC) around Lake Tai in Jiangsu province. In form, a cong is a tube with a circular inner section and squarish outer section. The outer surface is divided vertically or horizontally. The outer faces are sometimes decorated with mask-like faces.

Although generally considered to be a ritual object of some sort, the original function and meaning of the *cong* are unknown. Later writings speak of the *cong* as symbolizing the earth, while the *bi* represents the heavens. The square represents the earth and a circle represents the heavens. (Wikipedia)

Half-human, half-animal images with large eyes, flat noses, and rectangular mouths were found carved in low relief. The meaning of the mask like creatures is hard to be determined, but could possibly be a representation of deities or ancestors.



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https://bowersarthistory.wikispaces.com/

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Be sure to watch the Khan Academy video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ld8kHvz1yN4>

Additional resource:

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/asia/j/jade_cong.aspx>

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Jade Cong. (n.d.). Retrieved September 28, 2014, from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jade\_cong)