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Tatum-A

**Jade Cong**  
**Liangzhu, China. 3300-2200 B.C.E.**  
**Carved Jade**

Sources: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Gardner's Art Throughout the Ages, Thirteenth Edition (By Fred S. Kleiner)

**Content/Function**

It clearly had great significance, but despite the many theories the meaning and purpose of the "Jade Cong" remains a mystery.

**Content**

They used two distinct types of ritual jade objects: a disc, later known as a bi, and a tube, later known as a cong. The main types of cong have a square outer section around a circular inner part, and a circular hole.

**Context**

The Chinese may have believed that Jade possessed magical qualities that could protect the dead.

**Context**

They were made at many stages of the Neolithic and early historic period in south-east China.

**Content**

May have represented power in some way.

**Context**

No writing from this culture was found that remains from the time of its creation.

**Content**

The square section of the cong represents Earth while the circle represents Heaven.

**Materials/Technique**

Cong were extremely difficult and time-consuming to produce. As jade cannot be split like other stones, it must be worked with a hard abrasive sand

**Content**

The principal decoration on the "Jade Cong" period was the mask-like face pattern. On the square-sectioned pieces the face pattern is placed across the corners, on the bracelet form it appears in square panels. These faces are derived from a combination of a man-like figure and a mysterious beast.

**Context**

A group of Neolithic peoples grouped today as the Liangzhu culture lived in the Jiangsu province of China during the third millennium B.C.E. Their jades, ceramics and stone tools were highly sophisticated.

