

## The Ambum Stone

Ambum Valley, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea. c. 1500 BCE. Greywacke.

Source: <http://nga.gov.au/AmbumStone/>

[module two handout on ambum stone.docx](#)

[module two art gallery.docx](#)

[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ngss/hd\\_ngss.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ngss/hd_ngss.htm)

**Form:** The artist(s) used subtractive carving technique, which means they subtracted a certain amount of greywacke stone to create the floaty neck seen below.

**Form:** The Ambum Stone is a 3D statue made entirely of greywacke stone.

**Content:** Most likely a depiction of an Echidna, which is an egg-laying mammal that's native to the New Guinea region.

**Context:** The unknown purpose of this piece of art feeds into our lack of knowledge about the people of this island during this time.

**Function:** This sculpture's purpose is unclear to this day.

**Content:** The Ambum Stone is a part of a group of oceanic sculptures found around this area that are pieces of an unknown culture that existed around this island.

**Content:** The Ambum stone's rounded belly provides balance and allows it to be a freestanding sculpture.

**Context:** It is considered to be a possible representation of totemic pieces or ancestors.

**Context:** Similar sculptures of this sort have been used spiritual sorcery rituals. Often religious rituals such fertility rituals, hunting rituals, etc.

**Context:** To the people of this modern-day island, sculptures of this type have been accredited with supernatural powers.

