Discovering the Olmec: The Early Formative Olmec are central in a variety of debates regarding the development of Mesoamerican societies. A fundamental issue in Olmec archaeology is the dating of the Early Formative period. The Olmec civilization predates the Classic period of the Maya and the Zapotec civilizations. The Olmec had a significant impact on subsequent Mesoamerican cultures, including the Maya, Zapotec, Teotihuacano, Toltec, Mixtec, and Aztec.

The Olmec culture is characterized by their colossal heads, which were made of volcanic rock. These heads were placed in the centers of Olmec cities and were considered to be the embodiment of the Olmec spirit. The Olmec were also skilled in the production of obsidian, which they traded with other Mesoamerican cultures.

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The Olmec and Toltec *Includes pictures *Describes the history, culture, and architecture of the two groups *Includes a bibliography for further reading

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Innovations of the Olmecs And much, much more! So if you want to learn more about the Olmecs, click "add to cart" now!

The Complete Illustrated History of the Aztec & Maya The OlmecSMany ancient civilizations are described as mysterious, but none provide as many puzzles and unanswered questions as the Olmecs. These people arrived in lands near the Gulf of Mexico around 1500 BCE, and they brought with them entirely new concepts in terms of engineering, agriculture, and religion. The problem is, we have no idea where they came from or how they developed these new ideas. Then, around 400 BCE, the Olmecs vanished as suddenly and inexplicably as they appeared, leaving behind no written records but proving, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Olmec people had indeed lived. The Olmec Enigma? The Fall of San Lorenzo? Were Jaguar and Feathered Serpents? The Rise of La Venta? The Disappearance of the Olmecs? And much more?

Explored by scholars over the last hundred years and more, the Olmecs have been called the "Mother Culture of Mesoamerica," but they are just one of the many ancient civilizations that have left behind intriguing mysteries. This book is one of the first attempts to provide new insights into the Olmec world, which is sure to be a fascinating read for scholars and non-scholars alike.

The Olmecs Twenty-one papers on the Olmec were written for this volume in tribute to Matthew W. Stirling, “pioneer archaeologist, ethnologist, and the discoverer of the Olmec civilization.”

The Olmec Culture of Mexico The Precolumbian ballgame, played on a masonry court, has long intrigued scholars because of the magnificence of its construction and operation. The Olmec Economy & Transformation examines the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire and transformations in political, social, cultural, and religious life in Mexico during the Conquest and the ensuing colonial period. In particular, contributors consider the ways in which the Olmec economy was affected by the arrival of the Spanish, and how these changes were reflected in the everyday lives of the people. The book will be significant for Mesoamericanists as well as students and scholars interested in economy, political, and social history.

The Olmec & Their Neighbors An extensive update to the authoritative introduction to Mexico's ancient civilizations. "M asterly... The complexities of M exico's ancient cultures are perceptively presented and interpreted."

The Olmec Enigma? The Fall of San Lorenzo? Were-Jaguars and Feathered Serpents? The Rise of La Venta? The Disappearance of the Olmecs? And much more?

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The Olmec Art of Ancient Mexico Lost Cities author Childress takes us deep into Mexico and Central America in search of the mysterious Olmecs, North America's ancient advanced civilization. The Olmecs, now sometimes called Proto-Maya, were not acknowledged to have existed as a civilization until an international archeological meeting in Mexico City in 1942. Now, the Olmecs are being recognized as the Mother Culture of Mesoamerica, but proving, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Olmecs had indeed lived. The Olmec Enigma? The Fall of San Lorenzo? Were Jaguar and Feathered Serpents? The Rise of La Venta? The Disappearance of the Olmecs? And much more?
the Indian peoples of the Americas came to be here.

A Short History of Mexico The Olmecs are renowned for their massive carved stone heads and other sculptures, the first stone monuments produced in Mesoamerica. Seven decades of archaeological research have given us many insights into the lifeways of the Olmecs, who inhabited parts of the modern Mexican states of Veracruz and Tabasco from around 1150 to 400 BC, and there are several good books that summarize the current interpretations of Olmec prehistory. But these formal studies don't describe the field experiences of the archaeologists who made the discoveries. What was it like to endure the Olmec region's heat, humidity, mosquitoes, and ticks to bring that ancient society to light? How did unforeseen events and luck alter carefully planned research programs and the conclusions drawn from them? And, importantly, how did local communities and individuals react to the research projects and discoveries in their territories? In this engaging book, a leading expert on the Olmecs tells those stories from his own experiences and those of his predecessors, colleagues, and students. Beginning with the first modern explorations in the 1920s, David Grove recounts how generations of archaeologists and local residents have uncovered the Olmec past and pieced together a portrait of this ancient civilization that left no written records. The stories are full of fortuitous discoveries and frustrating disappointments, helpful collaborations and deceitful shenanigans. What emerges is an unconventional history of Olmec archaeology, a lively introduction to archaeological fieldwork, and an exceptional overview of all that we currently know about the Olmecs.

Farming, Hunting, and Fishing in the Olmec World Olmec Art at Dumbarton Oaks presents the Olmec portion of the Robert Woods Bliss Collection of Pre-Columbian Art. It illustrates all thirty-nine Olmec art objects in color plates and includes many complementary and comparative black-and-white illustrations and drawings. The body of Pre-Columbian art that Robert Bliss carefully assembled over a half-century between 1912 and 1963, amplified only slightly since his death, is a remarkably significant collection. In addition to their aesthetic quality and artistic significance, the objects hold much information regarding the social worlds and religious and symbolic views of the people who made and used them before the arrival of Europeans in the New World. This volume is the second in a series of catalogues that will treat objects in the Bliss Pre-Columbian Collection. The majority of the Olmec objects in the collection are made of jade, the most precious material for the peoples of ancient Mesoamerica from early times through the sixteenth century. Various items such as masks, statuettes, jewelry, and replicas of weapons and tools were used for ceremonial purposes and served as offerings. Karl Taube brings his expertise on the lifeways and beliefs of ancient Mesoamerican peoples to his study of the Olmec objects in the Bliss collection. His understanding of jade covers a broad range of knowledge from chemical compositions to geological sources to craft technology to the symbolic power of the green stone. Throughout the book the author emphasizes the role of jade as a powerful symbol of water, fertility, and particularly, of the maize plant which was the fundamental source of life and sustenance for the Olmec. The shiny green of the stone was analogous to the green growth of maize. This fundamental concept was elaborated in specific religious beliefs, many of which were continued and elaborated by later Mesoamerican peoples, such as the Maya. Karl Taube employs his substantial knowledge of Pre-Columbian cultures to explore and explicate Olmec symbolism in this catalogue.

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