

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

November 2023

Most of us are familiar with the Three R's—reduce, reuse, and recycle. These three methods are the most common ways we can lessen the waste we produce. The concept of minimizing waste and conserving resources is nothing new; rather, it is one that can be seen all throughout the archaeological record. This month's artifact is an excellent example of this concept being put into practice by past peoples. For the month of November, we are highlighting a glass scraper from our collection.

Scrapers are one of the oldest tools created by humans, dating back tens of thousands of years. These tools served a multitude of functions, including food preparation and crafting other tools. Scrapers could be made of different materials, such as bone and shell; however, the kind of scrapers most commonly recovered from archaeological contexts are those made of stone due to their durable composition (Murphy & Murphy, 2013). This makes it all the more exciting that our artifact is a scraper made of glass!



THPO

There are many cultures that did not produce their own glass. These cultures were able to access glass when they came into contact with those that did produce glass. Oftentimes, glass and other such materials were then modified from their original forms and repurposed into other forms that better met the needs of the respective cultures (Porter, 2015; Simmons 2014). That is why this artifact perfectly illustrates that practicing the Three R's extends back throughout human history, and like those that came before us, we should also continue to be mindful of how we can efficiently use resources in the modern day.



SunCatcher
Studio.com

November 15 is America Recycles Day, or National Recycling Day. On this day, we are all encouraged to do our parts by educating ourselves on how to be more ecofriendly in our day to day lives, starting with reducing waste by implementing the Three R's.

To learn more about all the incredible artifacts within our collection, please visit the THPO website at www.stofthpo.com.

