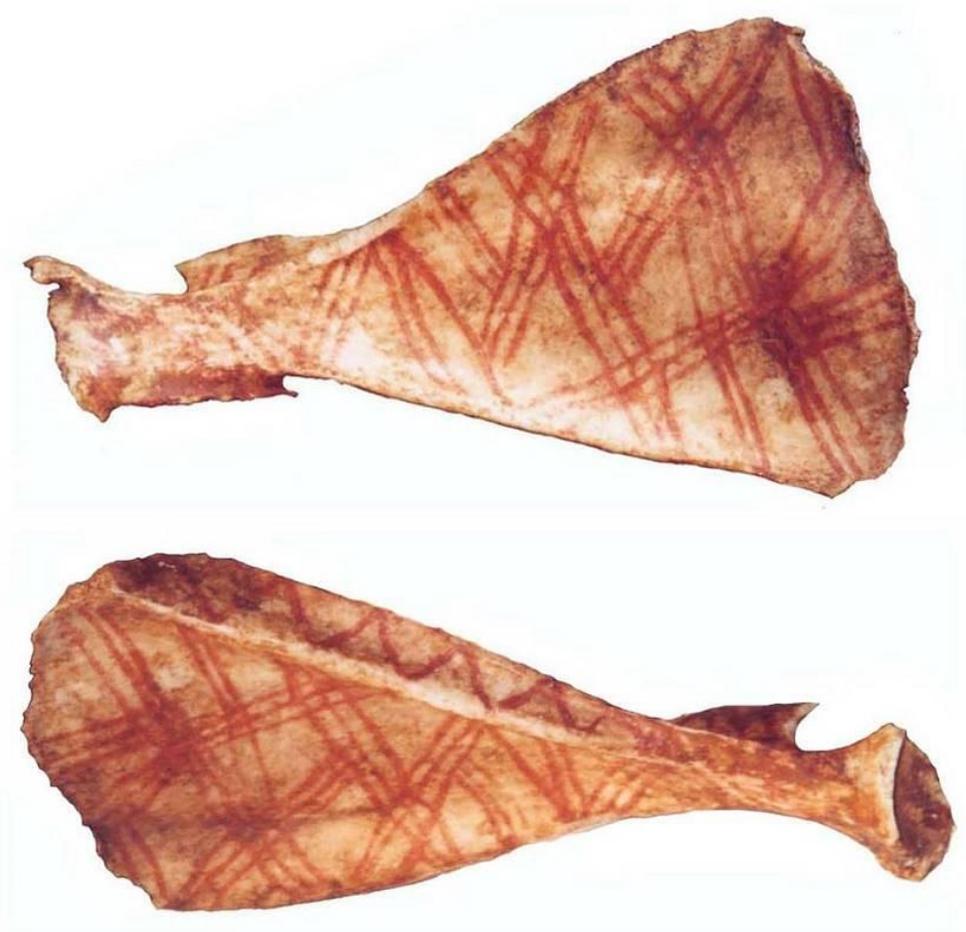




Shell bead rattles recovered from Cueva Candelaria, a well-known mortuary cave in southern Coahuila. An area inhabited by the Guachichiles and Coahuiltecan.



A small drum made from a tree trunk similar to a teponaztli was used by the Guachichiles during mitote or comet ceremonies. The drum can be played with sticks or cattle and horse jaw bones.



These Scapulae's (deer shoulders) are decorated and hung on cords and used as a form of rattle for the shamans/medicine people to induce a trance state. These specific rattles were found in the state of Coahuila.



The shell of a turtle was also used by Guachichiles and other Chichimecas as a form of drum they would be played on with sticks, bones and even small rocks the term today in the mesoamerican community is called Ayotapalkatl which is used a bit differently in which they scrape the shell in some cases and not beat them.



The jawbone of a steer or horse was also used by the Guachichiles during dances and festivals; the jaw bone can be rattled and scraped and also could be used to beat against a drum.



Gourd rattles are used by many of the chichimeca and northern groups in aridoamerica instead of some regions who use corn kernels; these rattles were commonly stuffed with small pebbles and seashells. The chichimecas would often carve petroglyphs and use symbolism in their rattles.



Small flutes made of bone were also used by the chichimecas. The bone flute could be multi-chambered examples using up to four chambers. These flutes would also be decorated with abstract design.



Deer hoof and scapulae rattles provided percussive sound that was one of the ritual pathways to an altered state of consciousness. They would use these types of rattles to induce a trance state or to accompany chanting or other hypnotic sounds. They hang them from cords, fasten them to their clothing, or hold them in their hands.



Timbrels and hand drums were played by the Guachichil during festive events and community gatherings. Not only is this sourced in the North Mexican Frontier on but also today a universal instrument amongst all indigenous nations.