



Effigy Urn
Made by the Ft. Walton people,
ca. 1200-1500 CE
From Okaloosa Co., Florida

Native artists looked to the natural world around them for the sources of color pigments. Plants, rocks, clay and even insects produced a colorful rainbow. The red color seen on this figure was likely made using iron-rich clay or by powdering a mineral like red ochre, adding it to a binder like water, sap or fat and painting it on to the surface.

Pigment: a finely ground powder that gives paint its color.

Binder: The “glue” that holds pigment together and makes it stick to a surface