

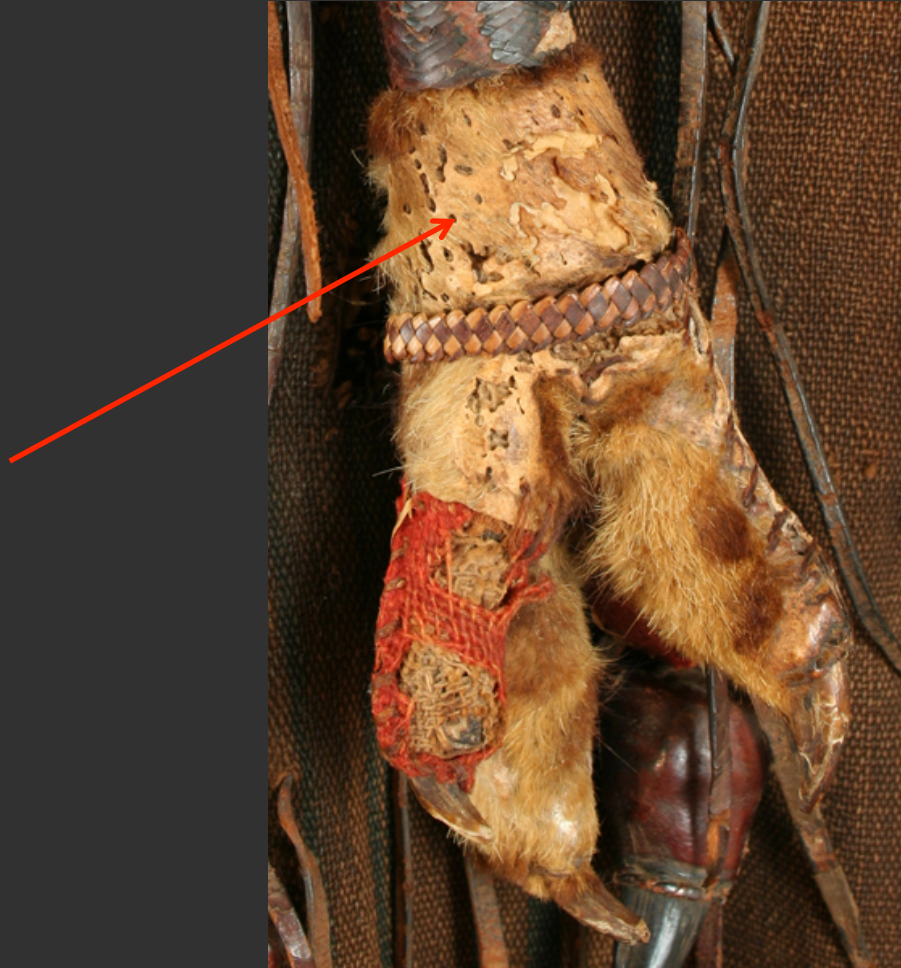
Insects & Objects

Insects can cause damage to art objects and artifacts.



In its original context, this sculpture probably sat on the ground and termites tunneled into its base, eating the wood and leaving dirt in the channels.

Sometimes insects find their way to objects inside museums or private collections. A carpet beetle probably ate the fur and made the small holes in the animal skin on this object.



Insects also leave behind stains, webs, casings, and frass (a.k.a. “bug poop”). This debris can damage objects and attract other insects or pests. The white areas on this ceramic pot are remains of spider nests.



It is not safe to spray objects and museum spaces with pesticides. So, the best way to prevent insect damage is to put sticky traps in galleries and storage to monitor the presence of unwanted intruders.



Traps are routinely collected and inspected to identify trapped insects. In order to recognize unique features of tiny insects, the sticky traps are examined using magnification.

