

JOMON BOOK

—Jomon Archaeological Sites
in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku—

Issued in March, 2017

Planning and editing / Non-Profit Corporation

Sannai-Maruyama Jomon Information Association
(Aomori JOMON promotion business)

Illustration / Hironori Sato

Issue / Secretariat for the Promotion of the World Cultural
Heritage Registration of Jomon Archaeological Sites

〒030-8570 1-1-1 Nagashima Aomori City, Aomori prefecture

TEL 017-734-9183 FAX 017-734-8128

◎contents◎

Jomon Culture we should let the world know	2
What's JOMON?	4
Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku	10
Jomon sits of Aomori prefecture	12
Jomon in the world	
Jomon Culture to the future	28
Jomon Sites in Hokkaido, Iwate, and Akita Prefecture	30
"What's the value of Jomon Culture for human beings?" Tetsuo Kikuchi	32



Jomon culture we should let the world know

◆ Jomon Culture, Japan's pride, is here

Jomon Culture began on Japanese Islands about 15,000 years ago when glacial period ended. People led a settlement life by hunting, fishing and gathering harmoniously in nature, adjusting themselves to various environmental changes. It's an extraordinary culture lasting for more than 10,000 years.

Jomon archaeological sites composed of 17 assets including Sannai-Maruyama Site in Hokkaido, Aomori, Akita, and Iwate Prefecture aim at the entry to World Cultural Heritage list as ruins with distinguished universal value to transmit the splendor of Jomon Culture.



Special Historical Sannai-Maruyama Site
(Aomori City)

◆ World Heritage is a treasure common to all human beings

World Heritage is a treasure common to all human beings. It includes historical sites, buildings, and precious nature transmitting human history which we must pass to posterity. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) decided World Heritage Convention (Official name "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage") in 1972 to protect the precious treasures in the world which we inherited from the past. Based on the convention some object registered in the list is to become World Heritage.

There is a rigorous screening in order to be registered in World Heritage list. We must meet the requirement, for example, to prove that the candidate has distinguished universal value, the system to protect it over the future has been arranged, and so on. Even after it is registered the country or region is required to protect the heritage and inherit it to the future.



◆ The kind of World Heritage

Cultural Criteria

Valuable historical sites, buildings, cultural landscape and so on.

<World>

- Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (England)
- Lines and Geoglyphs of Naska and Palpa (Peru)
- The Great Wall (China) etc

<Japan>

- Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area (Nara Prefecture)
- Fujisan, Sacred Place and Source of Artistic Inspiration (Yamanashi, Shizuoka Prefecture) etc



Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (England)

Natural Criteria

Especially valuable geographical features, natural landscape, ecological system and the place where endangered species inhabit.

<World>

- Grand Canyon National Park (United States)
- Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
- Lake Baikal (Russia) etc

<Japan>

- Shirakami-Sanchi (Aomori, Akita Prefecture)
- Yakushima (Kagoshima Prefecture)
- Shiretoko (Hokkaido) etc



Grand Canyon National Park (United States)

Legal status of designated sites

Heritages with the value of both cultural heritage and natural heritage

<World>

- Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)
- Goreme National Park and Rock Sites of Cappadocia (Turkey)
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park "Ayers Rock" (Australia) etc

<Japan>

No registration



Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

What's JOMON?

The beginning of Jomon Culture

Abundant deciduous broad-leaved forest including acorns, chestnuts, and walnuts spread out by rapid warming 15,000 years ago on Japanese Islands where sea level rise and rainfall carried piles of earth and sand to form good configuration of the ground and environment in which lots of fish and shellfish could inhabit.

A stone arrowhead on the tip of the bow
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)



A bow and arrow

People became able to take aim at game safely from distant place.

Appearance of hamlet

A pit dwellin

People dug down the ground to make the floor and set up pillars to support the roof of the building. The beginning of real houses.



A restored pit dwelling covered with soil roof (Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)

The invention of useful tools

Doki (Pottery)

The invention of Doki (pottery) made it possible to cook and store foods, bringing about a big stability to eating habits.

A fish-hook

Fishing tools including fish-hook and harpoon were developed.



A fish-hook
(Higashi-Michinokami 3 Site
·Tohoku Town)



A pottery fragment of the oldest class in Japan
/About 15,000 years ago
(Odai-Yamamoto Site·Sotogahama Town)



Ento-Kaso-Style-Doki (Cylindrical clay pottery)
/About 5,600 years ago
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)



A pottery of Kamegaoka Style
/About 3,000 years ago
(Kamegaoka Site·Tsugaru City)

A hamlet

People's life changed on a large scale from relocating life to chase game to stable settlement life.

In due time a hamlet, living point, appeared. Dwellings, graves, shell midden and so on were created in a planned way.

The state of affairs in a hamlet of Sannai-Maruyama Site at that time (Presumption and restoration)



What's JOMON?

The livelihood of Jomon People

Jomon People cleverly made use of rich blessings of nature from season to season and acquired foodstuffs mainly by hunting, gathering, and fishing. They developed the technology to store and preserve them at the same time.

Hunting

They caught games such as deer and wild boar, using spears, bows, arrows, and traps.



Unearthen animal bones
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)



A trap with stake impression bottom
(Kazahari 1 Site·Hachinohe City)



Fishing



They took a canoe and caught fishes by fishing and spearing with harpoons.



Unearthen fish bones
(Sannai-Maruyama Site · Aomori City)



Open socketed harpoon heads(Left)
and combination fish hooks (Right)
(Choshichiyachi Shell Midden·Hachinohe City)

Gathering

They gathered seasonal ingredients such as edible wild plants in mountain in spring, shellfishes in summer, and mushrooms and nuts in autumn. Nuts with rich nutriment were important foodstuff which they could easily preserve.



Unearthen chestnut
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)



Mushroom-shaped clay product
(Chikano Site·Aomori City, Nirakubo Site·Hachinohe City,
Sainokami 1 Site·Goshogawara City,
Izumiyama Site·Sannohe Town)

Storage ·Processing

They stored foods such as nuts in the hole with narrow bottleneck which they themselves made. Tools like a rubbing stone and a striking stone to grind down nuts have been discovered.



Rubbing stone·Striking stone·Stone plate
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)



A large storage pit (Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)

What's JOMON?

Rich spiritual world

Numerous tools supposed to have been used for religious rites and praying have been unearthed at Jomon sites. It's considered that they were used for bumper crop, safe hunting, memorial service and religious rites.



A national treasure·A clay figure
(Gassho-Dogu=Praying clay figure)
(Kazahari 1 Site·Hachinohe City)



Important Cultural Property·A clay figure
(A large flat, plate-like clay figure)
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)

A clay figure

People formed a human shape out of clay to make a clay figure and in almost all cases unearthed figures were discovered in broken state. There are many opinions about them, for example, they were tools used for praying and religious rites, or they were used to act as a substitute for people to cure a disease.



Important Cultural Property·
A reproduced clay figure
(Shakoki-Dogu=A clay figure with sunglasses)
(Kamegaoka Site·Tsugaru City)

Jomon heart

A miniature clay pottery

A miniaturized clay pottery has been discovered.



A miniature clay pottery
(Sannai-Maruyama Site·Aomori City)

Hand·foot printed slate

The slate was made by pressing hand and foot of children on clay. It's considered it was used for celebration and charm.



A hand·foot printed slate
(Oishitai Site·Rokkasho Village)

Stone Circle

The place for praying

The stone circle is made by placing many stones in circle shape. There are various kinds of stone circles such as twofold stone circle, threefold stone circle, and a gathering of numerous small circles. It's considered that a stone circle was the grave and the place for religious rites.



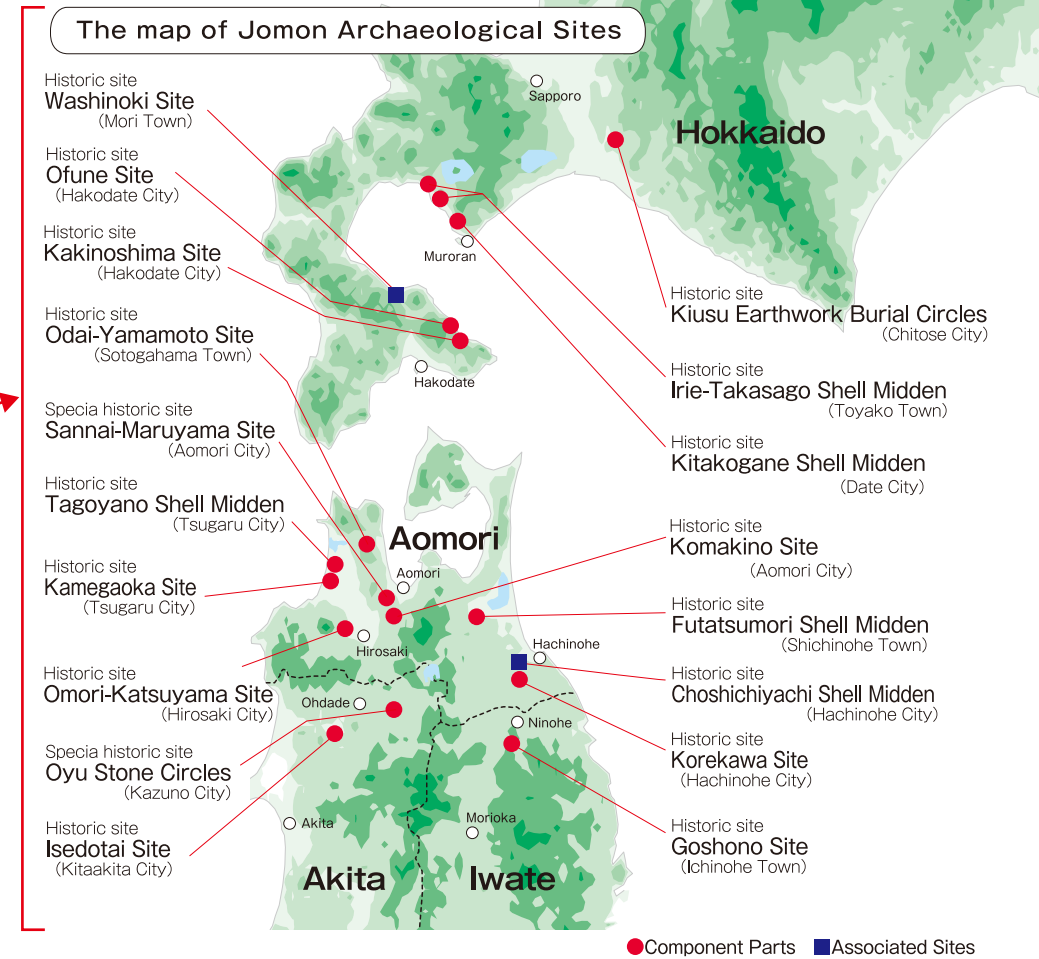
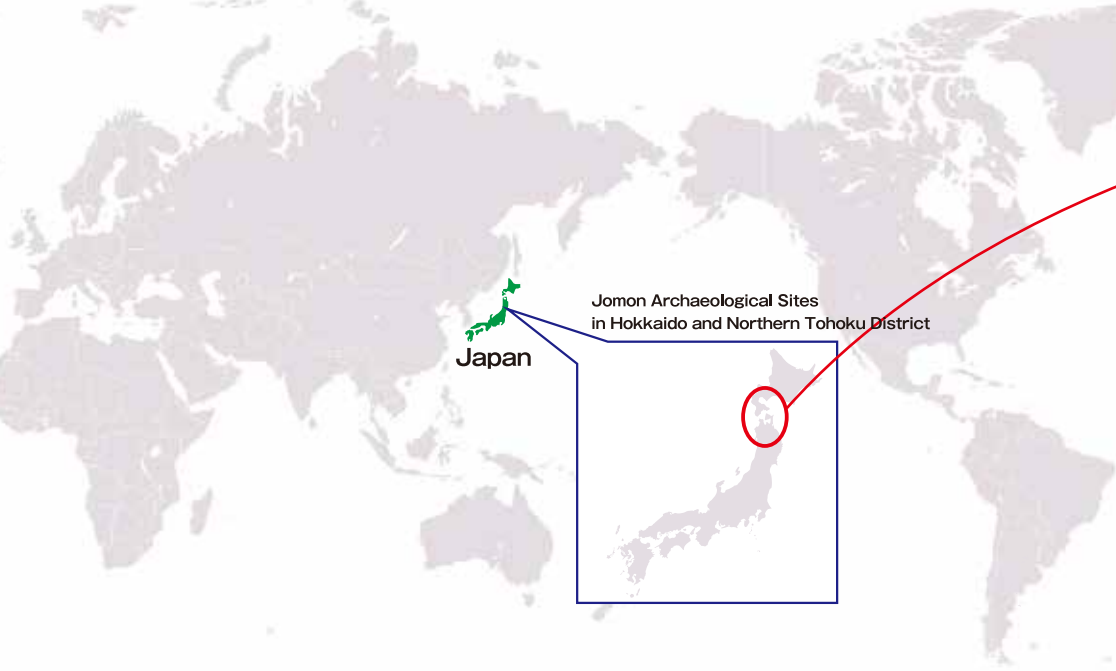
Threefold stone circle (Komakino Site·Aomori City Diameter 55 meter)



A little elliptical stone circle (Ohmori-Katsuyama Site·Hirosaki City Major Axis 48,5 meter)

Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku

Jomon archaeological sites in Hokkaido and northern Tohoku District are composed of national special historical sites and historical sites. They are precious historical sites showing the picture of Jomon Culture.



Chronological table of Jomon Times and world history

Period	Before Christ	About 13,000BC	About 9,000BC	About 5,000BC	About 3,000BC	About 2,000BC	About 1,000BC	About 300BC
Main events in Japan	Paleolithic Age	Jomon Times						
		Beginning period	Very early period	Early period	Middle period	Late period	Final period	Yayoi Age
	· Microlith culture spread.	· People began to use clay potteries and bow and arrow. And they developed settlement, giving birth to hamlets.	· Global warming progressed and the sea level rose. (Jomon Transgression) · Appearance of shell midden.	· Ento-Doki (Cylindrical clay pottery) culture was formed. · The number of settlement increased and central settlement, a representative of the area appeared. · The technology to make use of lacquer developed.	· Large scale central settlement developed. · Trade of jade and obsidian became active.	· Large scale central settlement decreased and settlements became decentralized. · A stone circle appeared.	· Kamegaoka Culture prospered. · Tools for religious rites such as Shakoki-Dogu (Clay figure with sunglasses) and clay mask were made in large number, and personal ornaments became various. · Rice farming was introduced to the northern Kyushu.	· Yoshinogari Site prospered.
Main events in the world	· The Peking Man (Homo erectus pekinensis) became active. · The wall painting in Lascaux Cave was drawn.	· The oldest shrine was constructed in Turkey. (Gobekli Tepe)	· Rice-paddy cultivation began in lower reaches of Yangtze River. · Farming began in Mesopotamia.	· The beginning of Chinese Civilization. · Farming began in Mesopotamia.	· The beginning of Indus valley civilization. · King Khufu constructed Pyramid.	· Code Hammurabi was formed. · Yin dynasty was formed. · King Tutankhamun ascended the throne.	· Spring and Autumn Period. · Warring States Period.	· Qin dynasty unified China. · Colosseum was constructed.
	Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku District	· Odai-Yamamoto Site	· Kakinoshima Site (~late period)	· Kitakogane Shell Midden · Sannai-Maruyama Site (~middle period) · Tagoyano Shell Midden (~middle period) · Futatsumori Shell Midden (~middle period) · Irie Shell Midden (~late period) · Korekawa Site (~late period)	· Ofune Site · Goshono Site	· Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles · Takasago Shell Midden (~late period)] · Komakino Site · Oyu Stone Circles · Isedotai Site	· Omori-Katsuyama Site · Kamegaoka Site	



Sannai-Maruyama Site

Aomori City/About 6,000-4,000 years ago
Special Historical Site Designated in 2,000



A large pillar building (Restored) and a large pit dwelling (Restored)



A pottery mound piled about 2.8 meter high



"Jomon Pochette" in which walnuts were put

The largest scale vestige of settlements in Japan

The largest scale village vestige in Japan where people led life for as long as 2,000 years. Pit dwellings, graves, a pillar building, pottery mounds, storage pits, paths and so on are well arranged in a planned way. Numerous amount of remains including clay potteries and figures have been unearthed in a good state of preservation.

Jades produced in Hokuriku District (Region west of Tokyo on Japan Sea side in Japan) were discovered. It's been known that people made exchanges and trades with other regions. It's considered this was the center in Hokkaido and Tohoku Districts at that time.



The number of unearthed clay figures has exceeded 2,000 pieces, number 1 among lots of sites in Japan. Each of them has individual and personal shape and look.

Q&A

Q How large is the pillar building?

A The diameter of unearthed pillar hole is about 2 meter and its depth is more than 2 meter. A pillar of chestnut tree with about 1 meter diameter was discovered from the hole. It's considered from the soil analysis and existing chestnut trees investigation that it was a large building with nearly 20 meter height.



A pillar hole of the large pillar building (Sannai-Maruyama Site)

Q What kind of food did they eat?

A It's considered that about 80 % of foodstuffs people ate was vegetable, and it seems they mainly ate chestnuts and walnuts.

As for fish bones about 50 sorts mainly such as yellowtails and mackerels have been unearthed, and almost all of them are caught in Mutsu Bay even today. As for animals main foods were wild boars and deer in the country level, but at Sannai-Maruyama Site it seems that people ate mainly small animals such as hares and flying squirrels.

Related Facilities

Jomon-Jiyukan Museum



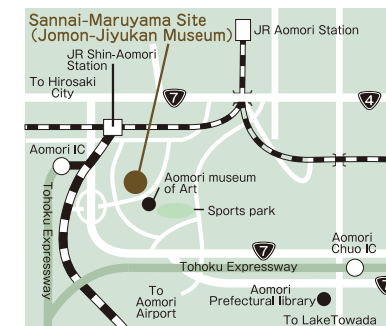
The entrance to Sannai-Maruyama Site. There are a Jomon theater and an experiencing studio as well as Sanmaru Museum where Jomon pocchette, a national important cultural property, large flat, plate-like clay figures are stored and exhibited.

Attention!!

Exhibited numerous unearthed remains tell us people's life including environment and eating habits at that time.

[Opening Hours] June-September/9:00am-6:00pm (October-May/Until 5:00pm) New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission Free.

[Address] 305 Sannai-Maruyama Aomori City [TEL] 017-781-6078



[Inquiry]

Sannai-Maruyama Historical Site Preservation and Utilization Promotion Office (Jomon Jiyukan), Cultural Properties Protection Division, Aomori Prefectural Board of Education (TEL 017-781-6078)



Komakino Site

Aomori City/About 4,000 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 1995



A stone circle composed of plural rings



Stones placed alternately lengthwise and breadthwise



Discovered more than 400 pieces of triangular stone plaques

Gigantic Stone Circles transmitting spiritual culture

This site is mainly composed of almost perfectly accomplished stone circles which were made by excellent civil engineering technology. The stone circles were formed by triple circles and the fourth circle was placed in their outer circumference. The diameter of the whole circles is about 55 meter. The vestige of pit dwellings, pit graves, as well as clay figures and triangular stone plaques considered to be used for religious rites have been discovered.



The stone circle among the four are regularly placed alternately lengthwise and breadthwise by flat stones. Stone circles of this type of structure is rare in the country and peculiar.

Q&A

From where were the stones for stone circles carried in?

Almost all of about 2,900 stones discovered so far are andesite which is considered to have been carried in from the upper reaches of the River Tsutsumi, away 500 meter-1 kilometer to the east from the site. The average weight of a stone is about 10.8 kilogram.

What's the use of a stone circle?

There is a public square of about 500 square meter in the inside of stone circles where many people can gather. It is considered that it had the character of "the place for religious rites." Clay potteries for burial were discovered and it was also used as cemetery.



The square in the center of the stone circle

Related Facilities

Komakino Site Preservation Museum



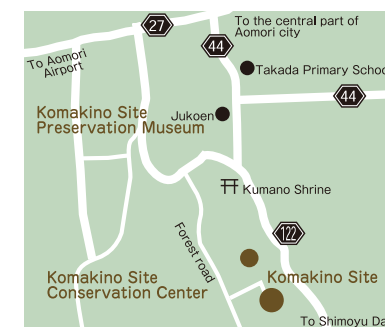
Exhibition and storage facility made use of the building of closed former Nozawa Primary School. The fruits of excavation investigation into the site and Jomon People's life are introduced to be understood easily by unearthed remains and panels.

Attention!!

There are excavation experiencing corner, clay pottery restoring corner, and full scale model of a part of Stonehenge (England). Children as well as adults can enjoyably study.

[Opening Hours] 9:00am-5:00pm New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission Free.

[Address] 108-3 Sawabe Nozawa Aomori City
[TEL] 017-757-8665



[Inquiry]

Cultural Assets Section, Aomori City Board of Education(TEL017-761-4796)



Odai-Yamamoto Site

Sotogahama Town/About 15,000 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 2013



A view from the sky (The circular mark shows the location of the site)



Stone arrowhead

Japan's oldest clay pottery fragment unearthed

Japan's oldest clay pottery fragment and arrowhead as well as stone tools with special characters of Paleolithic Age have been unearthed.

Checking the cooking scar (carbide) sticking to the fragment, it is pointed that it was probably used about 16,500 years ago. The fragment was a part of a pottery with no straw-rope pattern. We can say that's the character of the oldest clay pottery.



The oldest class clay pottery fragment in Japan



The discovery of an arrowhead at Odai-Yamamoto Site let us know that the appearance of bow and arrow dated back to the same period when clay pottery appeared.

Q&A

Q What shape did Japan's oldest pottery have?

A As unearthed fragments of clay pottery were just a few, we don't know its accurate shape. But it's considered that it was a small-sized and flat-bottom pottery.

Q What kind of houses did they live in?

A It's considered that as there were no posthole and hollow in the space where people lived, the dwelling must have the structure without digging down the ground unlike a pit dwelling.



Scene of excavation

Related Facilities

Sotogahama town Oyama Furusato Museum



A museum making use of former Ohya Primary School building.3 exhibition rooms introducing folk materials of Sotogahama Town as well as an exhibition room showing unearthed remains at Odai-Yamamoto Site are prepared.

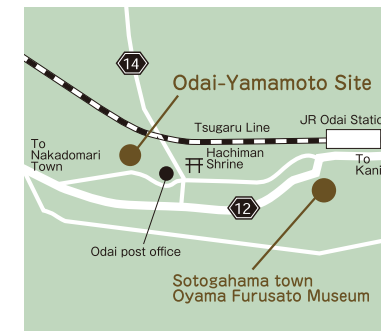
Attention!!

Visitors can observe Japan's oldest pottery fragment with no straw-rope pattern. Soot and burnt rice remain black on the fragment.

[Opening Hours] 9:00am-4:00pm Mondays (if a Monday is a national holiday, then the next day)・New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission Free.

[Address] 34-3 Odaisawabe Kanita Sotogahama Town

[TEL] 0174-22-2577



[Inquiry]

Social Education Department, Sotogahama Town Municipal Board of Education(TEL0174-31-1233)



Kamegaoka Site

Tsugaru City/About 3,000-2,300 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 1944



"Shakochan" Square



"Saimon-Bachi-gata" pottery in vivid color



Shakoki-Dogu
(A clay figure with sunglasses, replica)

The site for Shakoki-Dogu to have been unearthed at

Numerous beautiful clay potteries and figures have been unearthed at this site. There are dwelling site and cemetery on the plateau in the central area of the site and lots of remains have been unearthed at the low wetlands to the south and north. Especially the large Shakoki-Dogu unearthed in 1887 is well known and its molding is highly praised not only in Japan but also overseas. Additionally, many remains including lacquer coated clay pottery, vegetable basket called "Rantai-Shikki" (Bamboo lacquer-ware), comma-shaped bead made of jade and so on have been unearthed.



A large Shakoki-Dogu's name was derived from its molding. It was so named because the expression of large eyes resemble sunglasses to avoid glare of snow.

Q&A

Q What's the ingredient of red lacquer which was coated on clay potteries and figures?

A Bengala (Red oxide of iron) or red pigment made from mercury is put in raw lacquer and then red lacquer is produced. It's considered that people in Kamegaoka crushed red stones to make bengala and mixed the powder with raw lacquer to coat clay potteries and so on. Bengala can be gathered around Imabetsu Town on Tsugaru Peninsula.

Q What are the features of Kamegaoka-style pottery?

A Kamegaoka-style potteries are roughly classified to crude pottery and refined pottery. It's considered that crude potteries were mainly used for cooking and refined potteries which were often processed with ornamental patterns and red lacquer were mainly used for religious rites.



Refined pottery

Related Facilities

Tsugaru City Kamegaoka
Archaeological Collections
(KARCO)



Many remains unearthed at Kamegaoka Site and other sites in the city are being exhibited. A doll which speaks ancient words receives visitors at the corner where living life including restored pit dwelling in Jomon Times are revived.

Attention!!

Visitors can observe unearthed remains with high technique at that time such as reproduced Shakoki-Dogu, spout pottery and jar-shaped pottery with unique molding and beautiful patterns.

[Opening Hours] 9:00 am-4:00 pm Mondays (if a Monday is a national holiday, then the next day) · New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission (Adult 200 yen) etc
[Address] 59-1 Wakamidori Kizukuri Tsugaru City
[TEL] 0173-426490



[Inquiry]

Social Education and Culture Division, Tsugaru City Board of Education
(TEL) 0173-49-1194



Tagoyano Shell Midden

Tsugaru City/About 6,000-4,500 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 1944



Current Situation



Human bones of about 6,000 years ago



A bracelet made of White-lined Bittersweet

A bracelet producing factory in Jomon Times

One of a few shell middens on the side of Japan Sea in the country. Lots of shellfishes such as corbicula japonica as well as bones of fishes such as crucian carp and mackerel, bones of birds such as white-fronted goose and wild duck, bones of hare, Japanese serow and bones of large mammal including whale have been discovered. Furthermore, about 60 pieces of bracelets made of White-lined Bittersweet have been unearthed. As all of them were unfinished and damaged products, it's considered that it was a processing factory of bracelet.

MEMO As a bracelet made of White-lined Bittersweet was unearthed at a site in Hokkaido and obsidian produced in Hokkaido was discovered at Tagoyano Shell Midden, it's considered that trading exchange was made across Tsugaru Strait and beyond production and distribution.

Q&A

Q Why does the shell midden exist though the location is inland?

A Wide inland sea called "Ko-Jusanko" (Ancient Lake Jusan) was spread under people's eyes. It's considered that people made use of the place where aquatic resources were abundant.



The peak period of Jomon Transgression (About 7,000-6,000 years ago) and Tagoyano Shell Midden·Kamegaoka Site ("Environmental change in Tsugaru City and Jomon sites"-From "Tsuiji-Sano 2015")

Q What do you know from unearthed human bones?

A Human bones of about 6,000 years ago were discovered at the shell midden. It's a rare case that human bones were unearthed in the northeastern area on Japan Sea side. It's known that the bones were a woman with a history of delivery.

Related Facilities

Tsugaru City Kizukuri
Kamegaoka
Archaeological Material



Many remains collected by local people as well as remains unearthed at Tagoyano Shell Midden and Kamegaoka Site are being exhibited.

Attention!!

Visitors can observe Shakoki-Dogu and lacquer coated clay potteries unearthed at Kamegaoka Site as well as stone pike and large stone stick unearthed at Tagoyano Shell Midden.

[Opening Hours] 9:00 am-4:00 pm Mondays (if a Monday is a national holiday, then the next day)·New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission (Adult 200 yen) etc

[Address] 195 Byobusan Tateoka Kizukuri Tsugaru City
[TEL] 0173-45-3450



[Inquiry]

Social Education and Culture Division, Tsugaru City Board of Education
(TEL 0173-49-1194)



Omori-Katsuyama Site

Hirosaki City/About 3,000 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 2012



Current situation (Revived stone circle)



Excavating investigation scene



A disk-shaped stone article

A stone circle at the foot of Mt. Iwaki

A rare stone circle of about 3,000 years ago was created on the plateau which people spread earth and levelled the ground.

Its major axis is 48.5 meter and minor axis is 39.1 meter. A little elliptical shape. A large pit dwelling vestige with about 13 meter diameter, a dumping ground, clay potteries, stone tools, stone plaques for religious rites and stone sword have been unearthed.

Mt. Iwaki is located on the straight line with the large pit dwelling site and the stone circle.



As many as about 250 pieces of disk-shaped stone products processed to circle shape have been unearthed. It's considered that they are tools for religious rites relating to a stone circle.

Q&A

Q How was this stone circle made?

A People levelled the ground flatly, put soil up on the ground like round and square combined mound shape, and then placed 77 pieces of combined stones around it. There are various shapes of combined stones such as circular, placed in a line, assembled and so on.

Q What's the character of large pit dwelling?

A The pit dwelling is located about 100 meter to the southwest of the stone circle and there is hearth vestige surrounded by stones with about 1.4 meter diameter in the center. 4 large holes of pillar surrounding the hearth were discovered.



A large pit dwelling

Related Facilities

Hirosaki Susono Gymnastics Culture Exchange Center



In the corner of the building lobby an exhibition corner introducing historical sites in Tsugaru District in Jomon-Yayoi Times including Omori-Katsuyama Site, Tokoshinai Site, and Sunazawa Site is arranged.

Attention!!

Clay potteries and stone tools unearthed at Omori-Katsuyama Site, and photos of excavating investigation are being exhibited.

[Opening Hours] 9:00am-9:00pm Mondays (if a Monday is a national holiday, then the next day)・New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission Free.

[Address] 8-9 Kutsuwa Totsurazawa Hirosaki City

[TEL] 0172-99-7072



[Inquiry]

Cultural Assets Section, Hirosaki Municipal Board of Education (TEL 0172-82-1642)



Futatsumori Shell Midden

Shichinohe Town/About 6,000-4,000 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 1998



Restored pit dwelling



Piled strata of Shell Midden



A sculpture decorated comb made of antler bone

A prominent large scale shell midden in Tohoku District

The settlement site accompanied with the largest class shell midden.

We can understand the state of global scale Transgression and Regression from shell sedimentation strata. Shells of corbicula japonica and clams, fish bones of sea bass and red sea-bream, bird bones of swan and wild duck, animal bones of deer and wild boar, and bone tools have been unearthed. Additionally, a grave where a dog was courteously buried has been discovered.



A comb made of antler bone which was unearthed here is decorated with marvelous sculpture. High ornament sense and production technique of ancient people at that time can be imagined. Furthermore, a dragon-sword-shaped bone tool made of whale bones was unearthed. Each of them has been designated Aomori Prefectural Important Cultural Property.

Q&A

Q Why is the Shell Midden located far away from the sea?

A The sea level was about 5 meter higher than today in early period of Jomon Times because of global warming. This location was near to the coastline at that time. It's considered that people could easily collect shellfishes.

Q Why was the grave for dog made?

A Jomon People cherished dogs. It may be true that it was a watchdog or a hunting partner to play the role of discovering and driving games.



Buried dog bones

Related Facilities

Shichinohe Central Community Center



The base facility of lifelong study in Shichinohe Town. A library and a large hall are prepared. An exhibition corner of Futatsumori Shell Midden is arranged in the lobby on the second floor.

Attention!!

Visitors can observe remains such as clay potteries, stone tools, bone tools, and shells as well as 5 replicas of Aomori Prefectural important cultural treasures including an antler bone comb made with 3D printer.

[Opening Hours] Monday-Friday/9:00am-9:00pm (Saturday·Sunday/Until 6:00pm) Holidays·New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission Free.

[Address] 210 Morinokami Shichinohe Town
[TEL] 0176-68-2920



[Inquiry]

World Heritage Management Office, Shichinohe Town Municipal Board of Education (TEL0176-58-5530)



Korekawa Site

Hachinohe City/About 6,000-2,300 years ago
Historical Site Designated in 1957
(Additionally designated in 2004 and 2013)



Korekawa Archaeological Institution (Korekawa Jomon Kan)



Human bone dyed
reddish with pigments



The condition of unearthed
wooden lacquerware

Numerous remains unearthed, passing down the beauty of Jomon

The site is composed of Hotta, Ichioji, and Nakai Sites. Especially Nakai Site is one of representative sites of Kamegaoka Culture. Various remnants such as living area, cemetery area, processing plant, dumping site, and the place for religious rites have been discovered. Remains include many clay potteries and figures with beautiful molding. A red lacquer coated clay pottery and a vessel made of bark were also unearthed at the wetland at Nakai Site.



A leaching place to remove harshness of Japanese horse chestnuts has been discovered at the vestige of swamp at Nakai Site. Besides, wooden fish spear installed with a spearing unit 3 which is considered to have been used for catching salmon was unearthed. From these information Jomon People's life making use of watering place can be imagined.

Q Why did wooden products of several thousand years ago remain?

A A dumping site was discovered at the vestige of wetland at Nakai Site. As ground water is abundant and remains didn't expose to air, nuts, bones, lacquerware remained without being rotten.



The condition of unearthed lacquer coated comb

Q Who are Izumiyama brothers whose bust exists in Korekawa Jomon Hall?

A Iwajiro Izumiyama (Elder brother) and Ayajiro Izumiyama (Younger brother) made excavating investigation in early 1920s. The two preserved unearthed remains with great care and donated about 5,000 pieces of them to Hachinohe City.

Related Facilities

Korekawa Archaeological Institution (Korekawa Jomon Kan)



Fruits of excavating investigation and unearthed remains at sites located in Hachinohe City including Korekawa Site and Kazahari 1 Site are exhibited. Experiencing study classes and Jomon lectures are also held.

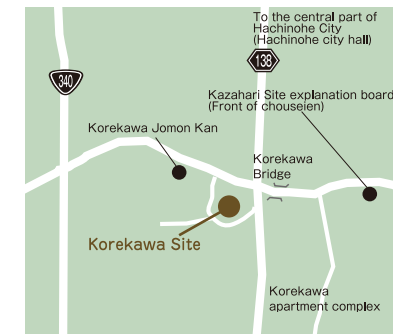
Attention!!

At the corner of "lacquer beauty" many wooden lacquerware, bamboo lacquerware, and clay potteries are being exhibited

[Opening Hours] 9:00am-5:00pm Mondays (if a Monday is a national holiday, then the next day. But the first Monday in a month open) · New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission (Adult 250 yen) etc

[Address] 1 Yokoyama Korekawa Hachinohe City

[TEL] 0178-38-9511



[Inquiry]

Korekawa Archaeological Institution (Korekawa Jomon Kan) (TEL 0178-38-9511)

Jomon in the world

We continue the activity to transmit Jomon, too.

General Incorporated Association Sannai-Maruyama Supporters Group

(Aomori City)

Volunteers of more than 100 members act as Visitors guide and teach Jomon experiences including making comma-shaped beads and clay figures. Besides they take part in various events held inside and outside of the site to spread Jomon Culture.

[Inquiry] General Incorporated Association Sannai-Maruyama Supporters Group
(TEL) 017-783-3339



Non-Profit Corporation Sannai-Maruyama Jomon Information Association

(Aomori City)

We publish "Jomon File" transmitting the latest information of Jomon, carry out "Jomon Lecture," and hold events such as "Sannai-Maruyama Moonlight Concert" in fall every year, spreading the attractions of Jomon to the world.

[Inquiry] Non-Profit Corporation Sannai-Maruyama Jomon Information Association (c/o Planning group PRISM inc. (TEL)017-773-3477



Hirosaki Jomon Society

(Hirosaki City)

We make activities to study Jomon and transmit its attractions through study classes, events concerning Jomon and tours to various Jomon sites and related facilities. Visitors can bodily feel Jomon Culture in the nature at the foot Mt. Iwaki when "Omori-Katsuyama Jomon Festival" is held.

[Inquiry] Hirosaki Jomon Society
(TEL) 0172-32-9272 (Chairman Imai's Residence)



H a c h i n o h e J o m o n Preservation Association

(Hachinohe City)

We make activities of dissemination and enlightenment of Jomon Culture such as planning events at Korekawa Archaeological Institution(Korekawa Jomon Kan) and supporting volunteers. Experiencing corner and foods menu are substantial at Korekawa Jomon Festival hosted by us. We tackle to preserve and make use of the sites in a united body by the whole region.

[Inquiry] Hachinohe Jomon Preservation Association(c/o Korekawa Archaeological Institution (Korekawa Jomon Kan) TEL 0178-38-9511)



General Incorporated Association K o m a k i n o S i t e Preservation Use

(Aomori City)

We operate and manage Komakino Site Preservation Museum where remains unearthed at the site are exhibited. Komakino Site conservation center neighboring to the site. Visitors can fully enjoy seasonal events at the site, project exhibitions concerning Jomon Culture, and various kinds of workshop.

[Inquiry] General Incorporated Association Komakino Site Preservation Use council (TEL) 017-757-8665



Non-Profit Corporation Tsugaru Jomon Society

(Tsugaru City)

We make activities to transmit information and propaganda of Kamegaoka Site and Tagoyano Shell Midden. We live up events in a united body by the whole region when "Jomon Kamegaoka Site Festival" and "Tagoyano Shell Midden Walk" are held, and promote the activities to bring up volunteer guides of senior high school students and preserve the regional treasures.

[Inquiry] Non-Profit Corporation Tsugaru Jomon Society (TEL) 0173-42-2218 (Director Kawashima's Residence)



O mori-Katsuyama Site Preservation Use Promotion Council

(Hirosaki City)

9 neighborhood associations at the region, private bodies, companies, and administration make coordination and cooperation to preserve and make use of Omori-Katsuyama Site, promoting its registration to world heritage. We held "Omori-Katsuyama Jomon Festival" at the site in August every year.

[Inquiry] Cultural Assets Section, Hirosaki Municipal Board of Education (TEL) 0172-82-1642



Futatsumori Shell Midden World Heritage Promotion Society

(Shichinohe Town)

We make activities including mowing at the historical park, smoking out of restored pit dwelling, and cleaning mainly by people in the region. Besides, we spread the place to play active part by guiding visitors at the site as Volunteer Guide Group.

[Inquiry] Futatsumori Shell Midden World Heritage Promotion Society TEL 0176-56-4365 (Chairman Kamamoto's Residence)



Aiming at the Entry to World Heritage List together
with Jomon Historical Sites in Aomori Prefecture

Jomon Sites in Hokkaido, Iwate, and Akita Prefecture



Kius Grave-Site with Circular Embankment

Hokkaido Chitose City
Historical Site/About 3,200 years ago

8 graves were made in the center of the low ground, surrounded by doughnut-shaped embankment. Maximum diameter is 75 meter. The structure is rare among prehistorical cultures in the world.

[[Inspection Facility] Chitose City Educational Board Buried Cultural Properties Center (Osatsu 42-1, Chitose, Hokkaido Tel 0123-24-4210)

[Inquiry] Chitose City Educational Board Buried Cultural Properties Center



Kitakogane Shell Midden

Hokkaido Date City
Historical Site/About 7,000~5,500 years ago

A large scale ruins of settlements and main components are 5 shell middens. They are in good preservation and many remains including shells are unearthed. The remnant of a watering place considered the site for religious rite is rare.

[[Inspection Facility] Historical Site Kitakogane Park (Kitakogane-cho 75, Date, Hokkaido TEL 0142-24-2122)

[Inquiry] Historical Site Kitakogane Shell Midden Park



Irie-Takasago Shell Midden (Irie Shell Midden)

Hokkaido Toyako Town
Historical Site/About 5,500~2,800 years ago

Many kinds of tools showing active exchange among other regions and development of fishery culture have been discovered. Among them there are remains such as wild boar tusk products unavailable to obtain in Hokkaido.

[[Inspection Facility] Irie・Takasago Shell Midden Hall (Takasago-cho 44, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido TEL 0142-76-5802)

[Inquiry] Toyoko Town Educational Board Social Education Division TEL 0142-74-3010



Irie-Takasago Shell Midden (Takasago Shell Midden)

Hokkaido Toyako Town
Historical Site/About 5,500~2,800 year ago

Located about 600 meter away from Irie Shell Midden. A significant historical site with a large scale graveyard showing the ancient people's life to adapt to environmental change for a long time.

[[Inspection Facility] Irie・Takasago Shell Midden Hall (Takasago-cho 44, Abuta-gun, Hokkaido TEL 0142-76-5802)

[Inquiry] Toyoko Town Educational Board Social Education Division TEL 0142-74-3010



O-fune Site

Hokkaido Hakodate City
Historical Site/About 5,200~4,000 years ago

A large scale dwelling site. A residential area composed of more than 100 pit dwelling houses, a large scale pottery mound, and more than 100 hole-shaped graves including graves and storage pits have been confirmed.

[[Inspection Facility] O-fune Site Administrative House (Ofune-cho 575-1, Hakodate, Hokkaido Tel 0138-25-2030)

[Inquiry] Hakodate City Jomon Culture Center

TEL 0138-25-2030



Kakinoshima Site

Hokkaido Hakodate City
Historical Site/About 9,000~3,000 years ago

A site showing people's settlement for as long as about 6,000 years. A large scale U-shaped pottery mound of more than 160 meter length is the biggest class in the country and considered the place for religious rites to send off the spirits of the dead.

[[Inspection Facility] Hakodate City Jomon Culture Center (Usujiri-cho 551-1, Hakodate, Hokkaido TEL 0138-25-2030)

[Inquiry] Hakodate City Educational Board Cultural Properties Division TEL 0138-21-3563



Goshono Site

Iwate Prefecture Ichinohe Town
Historical Site/About 4,500~4,000 years ago

A large scale settlement site. Remnants show the structure of the settlement. The investigation into the burned-down settlement site made it clear that pit dwelling houses were thatched with soil.

[[Inspection Facility] Goshono Jomon Museum (Goshono 2, Iwate, Ichinohemachi, Ninohe-gun, Iwate prefecture TEL 0195-32-2652)

[Inquiry] Goshono Jomon Museum



Oyu Stone Circle

Akita Prefecture Kazuno City
Special Historical Site/About 4,000~3,500 years ago

A special historical site mainly of 2 large stone circles (Manza, Nonakado). Pillar buildings and storage pits sites are concentrically placed to surround them.

[[Inspection Facility] Oyu Stone Circle Center (Manza 45, Oyu, Towada, Kazuno, Akita prefecture TEL 0186-37-3822)

[Inquiry] Oyu Stone Circle Center



Isedotai Site

Akita Prefecture Kita-Akita City
Historical Site/About 4,000~3,700 years ago

A historical site mainly of 4 stone circles. Lots of Dogu (clay figures), animal-shaped clay products, mushroom-shaped clay goods, stone plaques, and tools such as swords for religious rites have been unearthed.

[[Inspection Facility] Isedotai Museum (Ogatanakata 100-1, Wakigami, Kitaakita, Akita prefecture TEL 0186-84-8710)

[Inquiry] Isedotai Museum

●What's the value of Jomon Culture for human beings?

©Tetsuo Kikuchi

Aomori prefecture is a treasure house of Jomon archaeological sites. Especially Sannai-Maruyama Site in Aomori city as well as Oyu Stone Circle in Kazuno city, Akita prefecture is a national special historical site, so called a national treasure of archaeological site. It's a matter of course that Kamegaoka Site and Korekawa Site are prominent historical sites known to the whole country since old times, and that stone circles at Komakino Site and Omori-Katsuyama Site are quite extraordinary. That's why we became determined to recommend typical Jomon historical sites in Aomori, Akita, Iwate prefecture and Hokkaido to world heritage as

Japan's typical Jomon cultural heritage.

But national recommendation as world heritage candidate and registration as world heritage by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) aren't fulfilled, however important it may be in Japan and however wonderful Japanese people may insist on. In order to realize the purpose it's necessary that their universal worth and significance common to all humankind must be highly valued in the world.

What's "the distinguished and universal value" of Jomon Culture? In my opinion the following three items are even more

significant than excellent earthenware culture which is quite extraordinary in the world and high spiritual culture seen in Dogu (a clay figure). Firstly, Jomon Culture is an unprecedented case in which people formed and sustained the sedentary settlement for as long as 10,000 years, not by full scale agriculture and stock-farming like western Neolithic Culture, but by gathering, fishing, hunting, plant management and initial plant growth in deciduous broad-leaved forests. Secondly, Jomon society co-existed between people and nature on Japanese islands rich in biodiversity, which is quite rare in the world, and was sustained, adjusting to

changing natural environment. Thirdly, Jomon people never waged war.

These give human beings living today and going forward to the future a very precious hint. Another important point is that it's Jomon Culture that formed the foundation of Japanese people and Japanese culture after Yayoi Culture and that it's "Mother culture".

I have no doubt that this unique prehistoric culture which was developed on Japanese islands in East Asia is indispensable to provide a new model to the whole world history and to re-construct really universal human history.

Tetsuo Kikuchi

A chairman of a group of Jomon Sites World Heritage Registratin Promotion Expert Committee

Born in Hakodate city, Hokkaido in 1939. Graduated from both Waseda University Literature Department and Tokyo University Literature Department. Completed Tokyo University Graduate School Humanities Course Master's Degree Course (Archaeology). Emeritus professor at Waseda University and director of Mahoron (Fukushima Cultural Property Center, Shirakawa Branch) at present. Have written many books including "First step of Archaeology (Published by Asahi Student Newspaper Company, 2013)".



<Illustrations providers>

Aomori Prefectural Board of Education

Aomori Prefectural Museum

Aomori Prefectural Archeological Artifacts Research Center

Aomori City Board of Education

Korekawa Archaeological Institution (Korekawa Jomon Kan)

Hachinohe City Museum

Hirosaki Municipal Board of Education

Tsugaru City Board of Education

Sotogahama Town Municipal Board of Education

Shichinohe Town Municipal Board of Education

Hokkaido Archaeological Operations Center

Date City Institute of Funkawan Culture

Toyako Town Board of Education

Hakodate Municipal Board of Education

Ichinohe Town Municipal Board of Education

Kazuno City Municipal Board of Education

Kitaakita City Board of Education