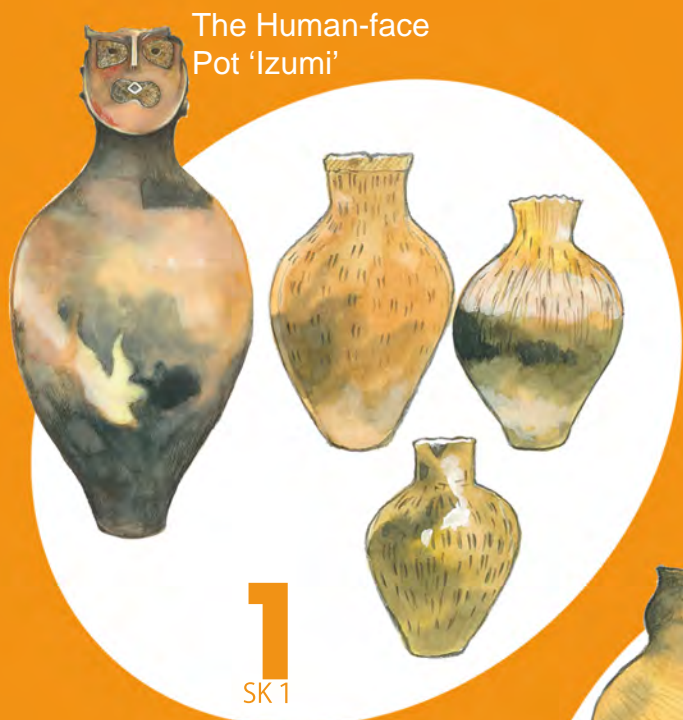


いづみのツボ



Izumi no Tsubo
(English version)

In fall 2017, the Izumisakashita Site was designated a National Historic Site and the unearthed jar with a human face, Izumi, along with 53 jars, two incomplete water jars, and five talc beads were designated Important Cultural Properties.



1
SK1

The Izumisakashita Site is a Yayoi period reburial grave site in Hitachi Omiya City, Ibaraki Prefecture.



The Izumi-sakashita Site



3
SK3



4
SK4



5
SK5

Crux of the
Izumisakashita Site
Crocks



2
SK2



SX1

Guidebook for the Izumisakashita Site,
a National Historic Site

Izumi no Tsubo

Published on December 1, 2017
Editing and illustrations by Hiroko Sakai
With cooperation from Motoyuki Suzuki
Published by the Education Committee of Hitachi Omiya City
3135-6 Nakatomi-cho, Hitachi Omiya City,
Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan 319-2292
TEL: 0295 52 1111 (Switchboard)



26
SK26



6
SK6

Illustrated Explanation of the Izumisakashita Site 2

The Izumisakashita World 4

The Izumisakashita Site looks different from the Yayoi period in textbooks 6

The Yayoi Period in Ibaraki Prefecture 8

The Izumisakashita Site is a Yayoi Period Burial Site! 10

All about Reburial Graves!! 12

The 53 Jars of Izumisakashita 14

A Parade of Jars with Human Faces 16

How were the Jars Used? 18

Tell us, Izumi! 20

A Reburial Festival 22

What did Yayoi Period Faces Look Like? 24

The Yayoi Lifestyle as Seen from Archeological Remains in Omiya 26

Achievements of the Archeological Survey 30

In the autumn of 2017, the Izumisakashita Site was designated a National Historic Site, and the 61 items unearthed at the site, including the earthenware jar with a human face, Izumi, became Important Cultural Properties.

Designation of Important Cultural Properties
Name: Unearthed artifacts at the Izumisakashita Site, Ibaraki Prefecture
Content: One jar with human face
53 (narrow-necked) jars (*tsubo*),
2 incomplete (wide-necked) water jars (*kame*)
5 talc beads

What is a National Historic Site?

Under the Law for The Protection of Cultural Properties, the Japanese government protects especially important sites as government-designated sites. Roughly 1,800 sites in Japan, including 28 sites in Ibaraki Prefecture, have been designated National Historic Sites by the government.

What is an Important Cultural Property?

Important Cultural Properties are tangible cultural properties such as buildings, works of arts and crafts, archeological materials, historical materials located in Japan that are thought to have special historical, artistic or academic value. These are designated by the government as Important Cultural Properties under the Law for The Protection of Cultural Properties.

This "Guidebook for the Izumisakashita Site: Izumi no Tsubo" is an illustrated guide explaining what the site is, what we have learned from it so far and why it is so amazing. We hope that this will help to provide the motivation for protecting these treasures in the future.

* This guidebook uses the word "jar" for the term *tsubo*, a narrow-necked jar.

Hitachi Omiya City lies in the northwest of Ibaraki Prefecture.

It is a city of natural beauty, lying between the Naka River and the Kuji River on the eastern slopes of the Yamizo Mountain area.

The Izumisakashita site is in the eastern part of the city, on the west bank of the Kuji River, close to where the Tama River flows into the Kuji River.

The Izumisakashita site is on a low terrace, a little higher than the Kuji River.

In 2006, an archeological dig found a large number of Yayoi period reburial graves at the site. An earthenware jar with a human face was also unearthed. This opened a new page in the research on reburial graves.

Illustrated Explanation of the Izumisakashita Site

There should be Yayoi reburial graves and the remains of a place where Jomon stone rods were made here...

The first hint that stone rods were made here came from Mr. Eiichi Kikuchi, who has now passed away. He found an earthenware jar and an unfinished stone rod, which he donated to the Omiya Town History and Folk Materials Museum (as it was at the time). This was the beginning of the story.



In 2006, Mr. Motoyuki Suzuki, a local archaeologist researching stone rods, carried out an archaeological research dig here with his companions.

He found many reburial graves. The jar with a human face, Izumi, was discovered on the first day of that dig.

Because the site he had found was a valuable one, the Education Committee of Hitachi Omiya City carried out a test dig from 2012 to 2015 to confirm the size of the site.



Please see the reports for details!

Izumi Timeline

5th century BCE	4th century BCE	3rd century BCE	2nd century BCE	1st century BCE	1st century CE	2nd century CE	3rd century CE
BC600	BC400	BC300	BC200	BC100	0	100	300
← Jomon Period		Early Yayoi period			Late Yayoi period		(Tumulus period →)
[Izumisakashita Site] Late Jomon period pit dwellings have been found at the site.		Early Yayoi period earthenware jars found		Izumisakashita Reburial graves	No remains from this period found at the Izumisakashita Site		Late Yayoi period earthenware jars (Juodai-style jars) unearthed

[Hitachi Omiya City]

2

Sites spread around the middle reaches of rivers Akaiwa Site

Yamane Site, Kajihaba Site
Tsuboiue Site, Fujiyama Site
Kamiwase-Fujiyama Site

3

* Soot and burned food found on the earthenware jars at the Izumisakashita Site have been radiocarbon dated.

The timeline may change greatly with advances in Yayoi period research

The Izumisakashita World

“Around 2,300 years ago, close to where the Tama River flows into the Kuji River, the houses of one to four households of relatives formed a small settlement here. There were rich forests with vegetables and nuts in their territory.”

Did they have wet rice fields?

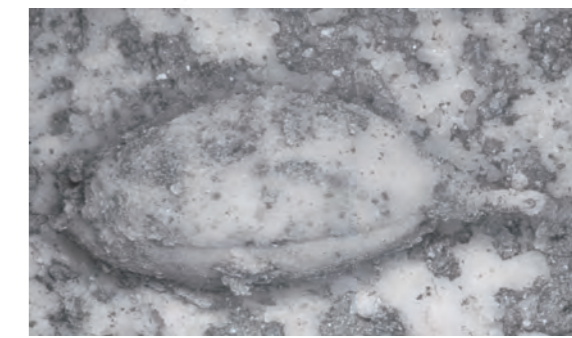
The remains of Yayoi period wet rice fields have not been discovered in Ibaraki Prefecture. None have been found in the area around the Izumisakashita Site.

But the imprint of rice seeds on the surface of Izumisakashita jars tells us that the Yayoi people who lived at Izumisakashita knew about rice.

When they were making the jars, there were rice seeds scattered around. So perhaps they were able to grow rice.

If they made wet rice fields, maybe they made them in the back marsh.

This is a question for the future.



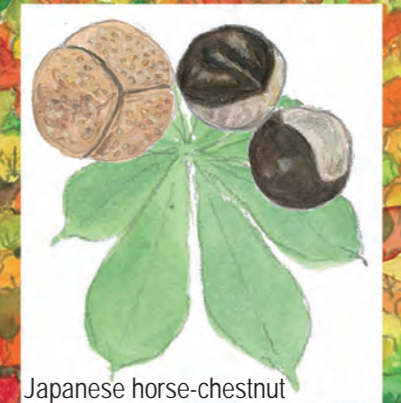
Impression of a rice seed remaining on Jar 10 in Pit No.26. This was made by pouring silicon into the depression to make a replica of the rice seed.



Back marsh



Japanese walnut (*Juglans ailantifolia*)



Japanese horse-chestnut (*Aesculus turbinata*)



Soapberry (*Sapindus mukorossi*)

A large amount of carbonized (burned) shells of Japanese walnut, Japanese horse-chestnut, soapberry and chestnuts were found in the soil in Pit No.26.

The course of the Kuji River in the Yayoi period is unknown.

A piece of the lower part of a wild boar's head was found in the covering soil of Pit No.3.

A trochlea from a deer's leg was found in the second layer of Zone 2 in the 2006 dig.

The Izumisakashita Site looks different from the Yayoi period in textbooks

That's right. The bell-shaped bronze vessels and iron swords, wet rice fields and tall buildings seen in textbooks may have existed only in a few places in Japan. The Yayoi culture was a culture that was rich in regional variety. The first area in the Japanese archipelago to come into the "Yayoi period" was northern Kyushu. This region is very close to the Korean Peninsula and mainland China. The Izumisakashita "Yayoi period" is very different from the far-off Kyushu we learn about in textbooks. Let's look at the remains and locations of the main Yayoi period sites around Japan to see how different the Yayoi period was in different regions.

What is the Yayoi period? It is the period after the Jomon period and before the Tumulus period.

Iron arrowhead
Nakatakase Kannonyama Site (Gunma Pref.)

Comma-shaped bead, Mikumo Minamikoji Site (Fukuoka Pref.)

Tall buildings drawn on earthenware remains in the Karako-Kagi Site (Nara Prefecture)

Nishidani Tomb No.3, a mounded tomb with four extended corners (Shimane Prefecture). Starfish-shaped tumuli were built only in the San-in and Hokuriku regions.

Post-Jomon period in Hokkaido

Cone snail bracelets from the southern islands have been found at the Usumoshiri Site (Hokkaido)

The impressions of seeds such as elderberry, rice and millet remain on earthenware jars at the Yubunazawa Site (Iwate Pref.)

The characteristic culture of 'reburial graves' is found mostly in the north Kanto area, where the Izumisakashita Site is located. (Please see p.12 for 'reburial graves')

Iwana-tenjinmae Site (Chiba Pref.)

The site where reburial graves were first confirmed (see p.12)

Moated settlement

Otsuka Site (Kanagawa Pref.)
Around 90 pit dwellings and, from a different period, around ten raised-floor granaries were built inside a moat (200m wide at the widest part and 130m wide at the narrowest part). The Saikachido Site, with 25 square-moat burial mounds, lies just to the south.

Yayoi dog "Kaito-kun"
The Yayoi dog "Kaito-kun" was reconstructed from a dog found below a burial mound with square moat. The Shikoku dog was used as reference. Kamei Site (Osaka Pref.)

There seem to be many differences around Japan in the Yayoi period. Various cultures were changing at different speeds. New discoveries are still being made by archaeological digs. This is making Yayoi period research very interesting. There are still many things that are not understood. Research is still continuing on rice growing, bronzeware technology, and how the "Yayoi culture" seen in textbooks spread. The image of the Yayoi period is still very fluid! The textbooks may have to be rewritten in the near future.

Earthenware vessels unearthed at the Asahi Site (Aichi Pref.)

At the Asahi Site, moats were dug and fences were built as defenses around the village. Many sharpened sticks were also hammered into the ground.

Bell-shaped bronze vessel
Unearthed at Nishiura, Habikino City (Osaka Prefecture)

Iron axe made in the northeast part of the Chugoku region (Reconstructed image) Hiei Site (Fukuoka Pref.)



A jar made in northern Kyushu discovered in South Korea



Footprint in the remains of a rice field at the Itazuke Site (Fukuoka Pref.)



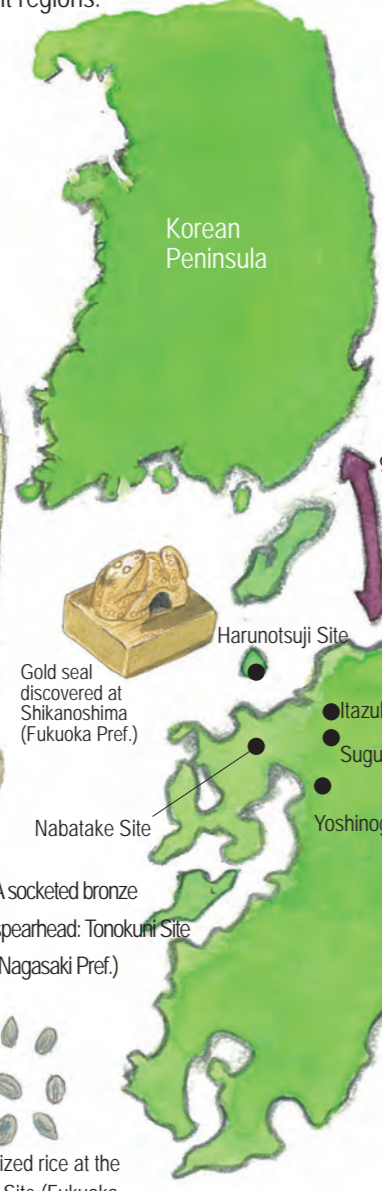
A Yayoi human has been reconstructed from human bones unearthed at the Takutanishibun Site in Saga Pref.

The shell mound culture was still continuing on Okinawa

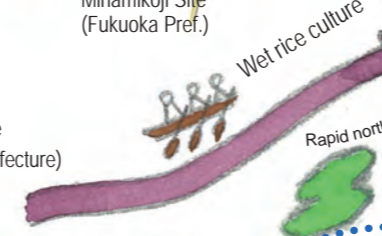
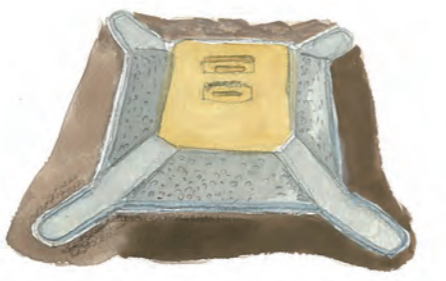


Cone shells

Cone shell bracelets Miyanomoto Site (Nagasaki Pref.)

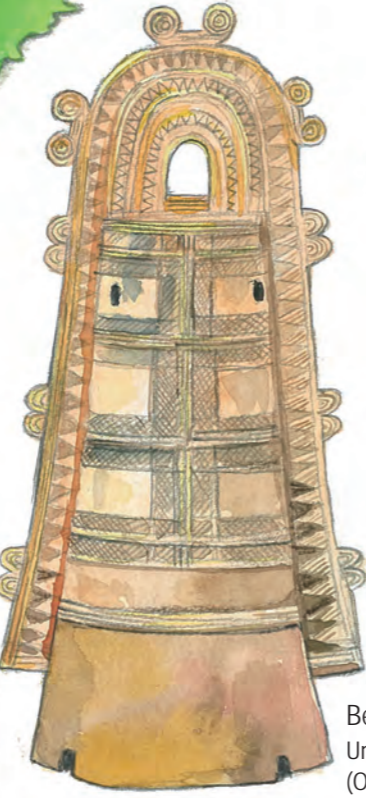
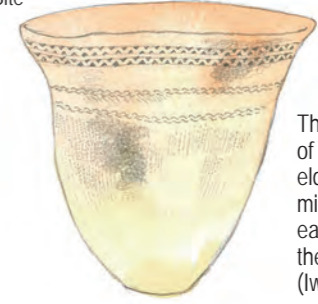
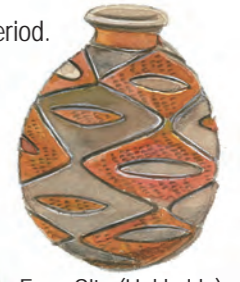


Frequent exchanges



Wet rice culture

Rapid northern migration up the Japan Sea route!

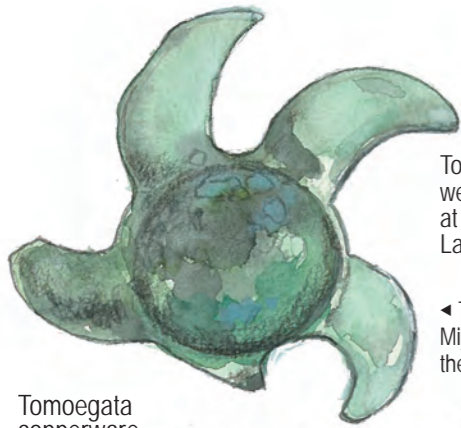


The Yayoi Period in Ibaraki Prefecture

On this page, we introduce the main Yayoi period sites in Ibaraki Prefecture. The Yayoi period began in this region around the 4th century BCE, about 500 years later than in northern Kyushu.

The reburial graves of the Izumisakashita Site were dug in the Early-Middle Yayoi period.

Several reburial grave sites have been found in in the prefecture. Three of these sites are in Hitachi Omiya City. Perhaps this is the center of the reburial grave culture!



Tomoegata copperware made in western Japan has been found at residential sites, etc. from the Late Yayoi period.

◀ These were found at the Miyadaira Site (Ishioka City) and the Ipponmatsu Site (Oarai Town)

Tomoegata copperware



The Chiragra spider conch (Harpago chiragra)

The Chiragra spider conch is thought to have been the model for Tomoegata copperware. In the Tumulus period, they were used as decorative metal fittings for shields and quivers. Sakurababa Site (Saga Pref.) About 6cm in diameter



Angled stone axe

Nishihara Site (Hitachinaka City)

The age of reburial graves lasted for about 100 years.

A village was built at the Akaiwa Site in the Late-Middle Yayoi period, about 100 years after the reburial graves at the Izumisakashita Site.

In the Late Yayoi period, about 200 years later, important changes took place in the prefecture. Large-scale villages began to be built in many places.

(In Hitachi Omiya City, the remains of Late Yayoi period villages have been discovered at the Tsuboieue Site and Fujiyama Site.)

Iron Axe
Dangouchi Site (Oarai Town)

◀ Glass beads
Takanosu Site (Hitachinaka City)



The form of the "Kamiinayoshi-style earthenware jar," a type of Late Yayoi period jar found widely in the south of the prefecture, is closer to the shape of a water jar (kame). Its characteristic is that there are grain-like pieces of clay attached to the rim. Haradeguchi Site (Tsuchiura City)

Kamiinayoshi-style earthenware jar

The Juodai-style jar is representative of the Late Yayoi period.

The characteristic of this jar is that its neck has been decorated with detailed patterns such as vertical lines and arc-like marks using a tool like a comb, and the lower part has been decorated with a detailed rope pattern.

It is a strange jar, as it is not clear if it has the shape of a water jar (kame) or a (narrow-necked) jar (tsubo).

Research into the Yayoi period is still ongoing. Why don't you think about doing research on the Yayoi period?



Juodai-style jar

Kajihaba Site (Hitachi Omiya City)

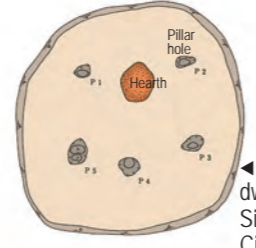
What kind of houses did the Izumisakashita Yayoi people live in?

Unfortunately, the remains of Yayoi period houses have not been found at the Izumisakashita Site. Looking at other Yayoi period sites, their houses were pit dwellings with a hearth inside. We hope a house constructed by the people who lived at the Izumisakashita site will also be found one day.



◀ Reconstructed house (left) and reconstructed raised-floor granary (below) at the Toro Site ▼

At archeological digs, only the hollowed out remains of pit dwellings are found. Based on structural remains and unearthed materials, and using takadono (large, tall houses), haniwa (clay figures) and pictures on bell-shaped bronze vessels, the historical architect Mr. Masaru Sekino was able to reconstruct the buildings at the site for the first time.



◀ Remains of a pit dwelling (Fujiyama Site, Hitachi Omiya City)

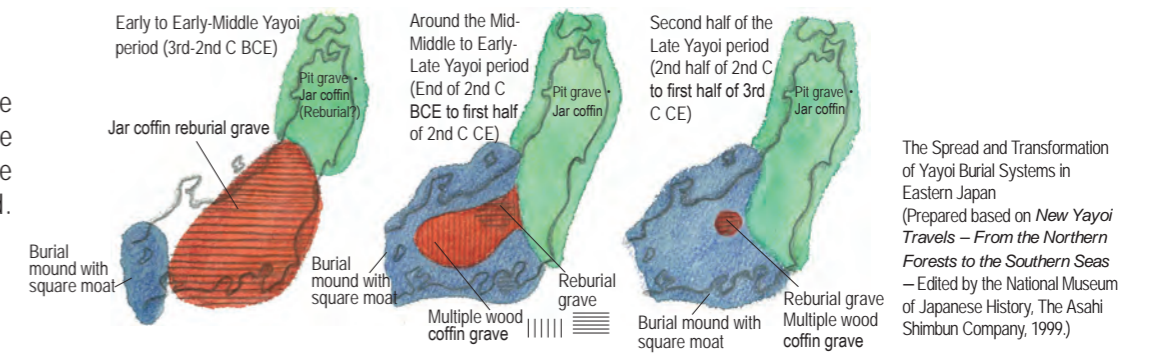


Bronze arrowhead
Funakubo Site (Hitachinaka City)

The Izumisakashita Site is a Yayoi Period Burial Site!

Not only reburial graves but various other types of graves were constructed during the Yayoi period. Some of them are introduced here. It is thought that the changes in grave styles are due to differences and changes in culture, so research into graves is one of the important themes of research into Yayoi culture.

A lot of reburial graves were constructed, but people stopped making them in the Early-Middle Yayoi period. Why was that?



Reburial grave

(*Yayoi period reburial grave)

The body is first buried in the earth, for example, and the bones are later dug up. Some of the bones are put into an earthenware jar, which is then reburied. From one to about 15 jars are found in reburial graves.

* This name is sometimes used because reburial graves were also dug in other periods, such as the Jomon period.

In Ibaraki Prefecture, reburial graves are found at the Izumisakashita Site, the Onotenjinmae Site and the Nakadai Site in Hitachi Omiya City as well as at the Ozakata Site (in Chikusei City) and the Kaigo Site (in Naka City).

Around 140 sites have been found in a broad area of eastern Japan, from Aichi Prefecture in the west to Iwate Prefecture in the east. Of these, the three prefectures of Ibaraki, Tochigi and Fukushima have the largest number of sites. Different types of beads were used as grave goods.



Earthenware jar coffin grave

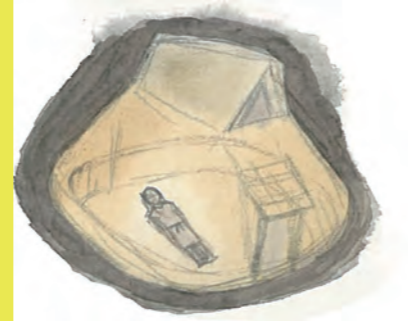
Large jars (both wide- and narrow-necked) were used as coffins and buried in pit graves. These are thought to be children's graves.

These are found at the Ashiarai Site (Kitaibaraki City), Fujiyama Site (Hitachi Omiya City), Nishihara Site (Tsuchiura City), Tenjinbara Site (Fukushima Pref.), and others. Beads and shell bracelets were used as grave goods.



Pit grave

A hole was dug in the earth and the body buried in the hole. A group of pit graves laid out in a row has been found at the Sashibu Site (Hitachinaka City) in Ibaraki Prefecture. Different types of beads were used as grave goods.



House grave

A hole was dug inside a building and the body buried in the hole there. It is possible that sometimes a person was buried directly in the floor of his or her house.

In some cases, the house was set on fire and burned after the burial.

It is thought that house-shaped graves exist, for example, at the Ipponmatsu Site (Oarai Town), Ninosawa B Site (Mito City), Odoshimogo Site (Ibaraki Town) and Takanosu Site (Hitachinaka City) in Ibaraki Prefecture. Human bones have also been detected at sites in Nagano Prefecture, such as at the Enokida Site.

Different types of beads were used as grave goods. At the Ipponmatsu Site, Tomoegata copperware is also thought to have been used as a grave good.



Double-jar coffin grave

The body was placed in two large earthenware jars made specially for the purpose. The mouths of the jars were joined together and the jars were then buried. This is also called a "double-jar coffin." These are seen in northern Kyushu. Swords and other objects were buried along with the double-jar coffin.

The Yoshinogari Site in Saga Prefecture is well known. These double-jar coffins are not seen in Ibaraki Prefecture.



Dolmen

A grave that uses a large stone, these graves are seen in northern Kyushu. The center of this burial system is in the Korean Peninsula. They are also seen widely in the northeastern region of China. Dolmens are not seen in Ibaraki Prefecture.

A stone coffin or wood coffin is buried beneath the dolmen. Some of these graves also used earthenware jar coffins.



(A dolmen at Kanghwa Island, Korean Peninsula)



Burial mound with square moat

A low mound is constructed inside a square moat, and the body was buried in the earth at the center of the mound. There are also round and keyhole-shaped (square at the front and rounded at the rear or rounded at the front and square at the rear) burial mounds.

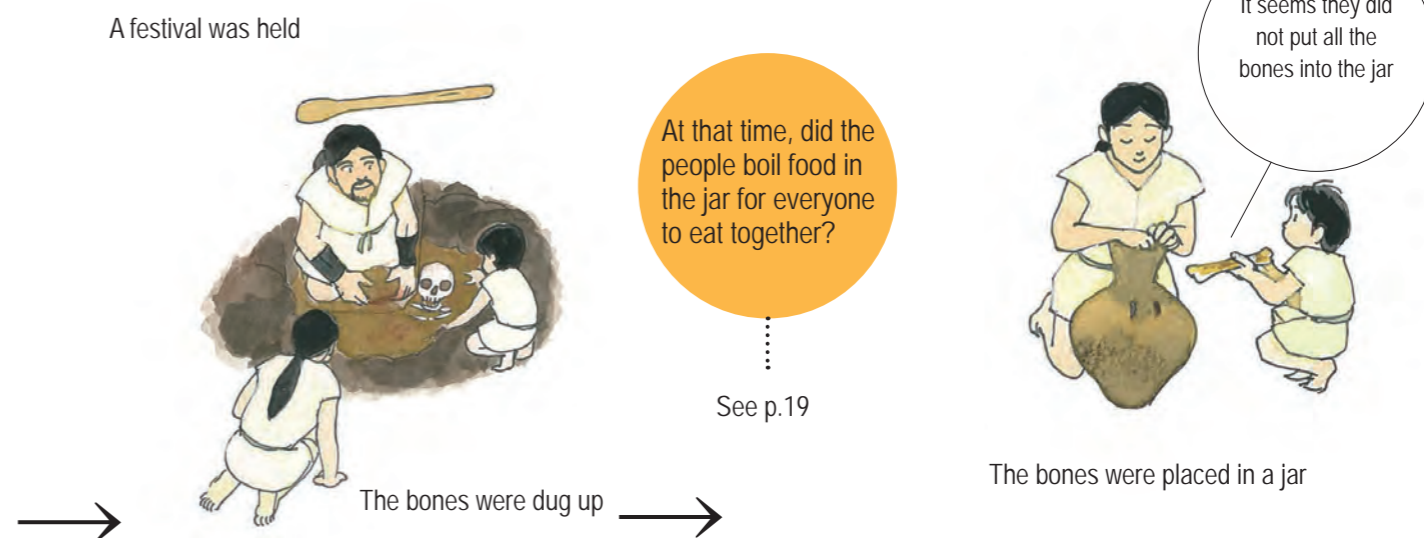
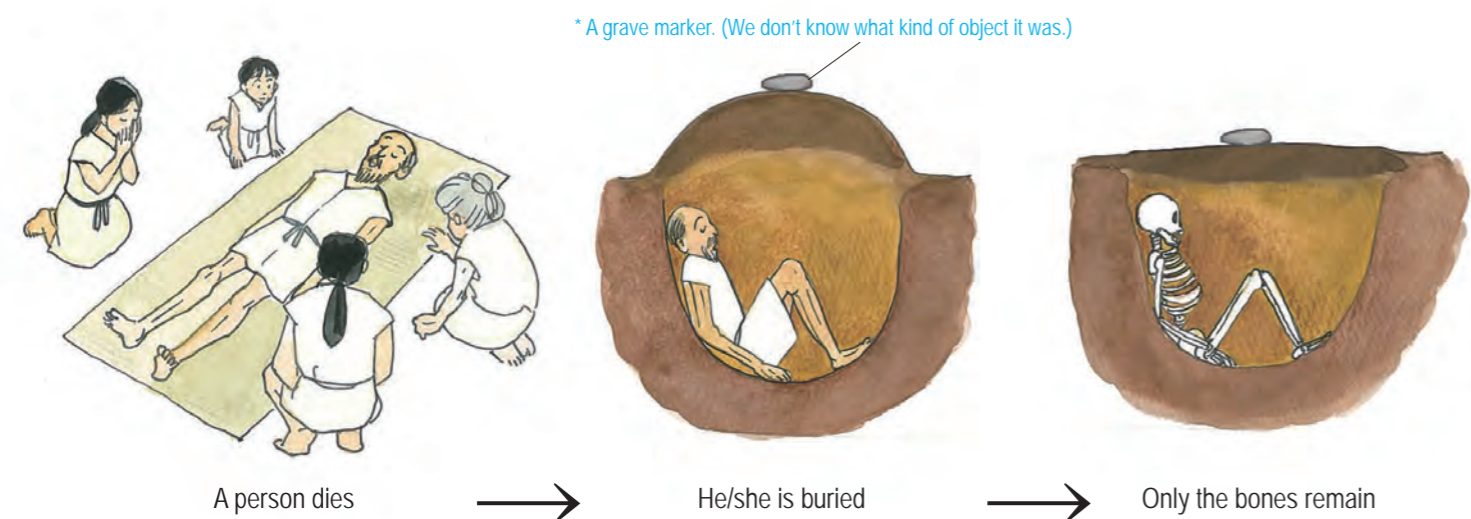
In Ibaraki Prefecture, these were not built until the Tumulus period. They have been found at the Zuiryu Tumulus Group (Hitachi Ota City) and other locations.



All about Reburial Graves!!

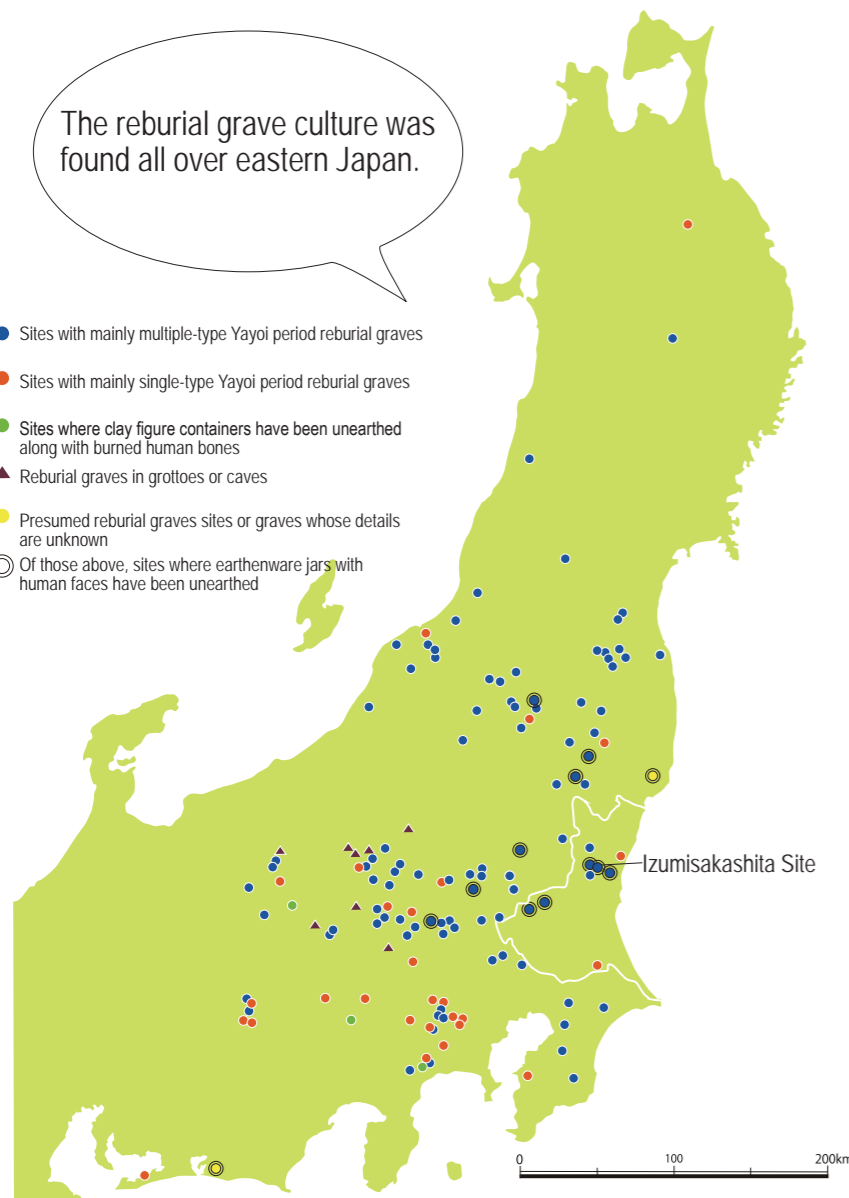
Having been buried once, the bones of the ancestor are dug up and placed in a jar. Several of these jars are then reburied together in a pit. This is a reburial grave. Let's imagine how a reburial grave was made.

"... When someone died, the people would dig a grave at Izumisakashita, a place with deep connections to their ancestors, and the body was buried."



The reburial grave culture was found all over eastern Japan.

- Sites with mainly multiple-type Yayoi period reburial graves
- Sites with mainly single-type Yayoi period reburial graves
- Sites where clay figure containers have been unearthed along with burned human bones
- ▲ Reburial graves in grottoes or caves
- Presumed reburial graves sites or graves whose details are unknown
- ◎ Of those above, sites where earthenware jars with human faces have been unearthed



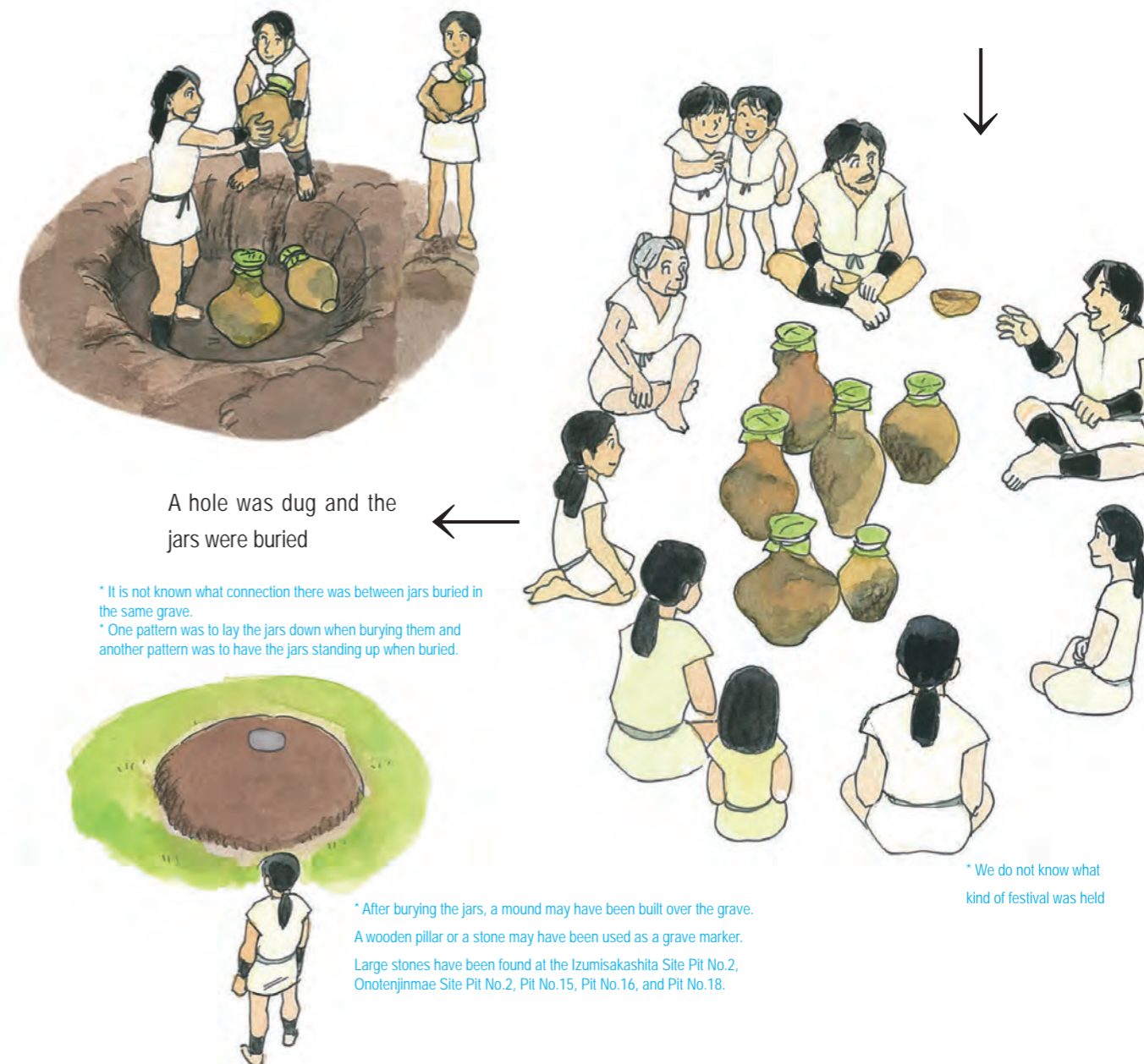
The reburial grave story



In 1963, it was realized that when many jars containing remains were found in a pit, this was a reburial grave. In that year, an archaeological dig was conducted at the Iwatenjinmae Site (Chiba Pref.) by Meiji University. Adult bones were discovered in jars there. That's how the researchers came to understand about reburial graves.

◀ Distribution of Yayoi period reburial grave sites

Prepared based on Hiromi Shitara, Yayoi Reburial Graves and Society, Hanawa Shobo, 2008.



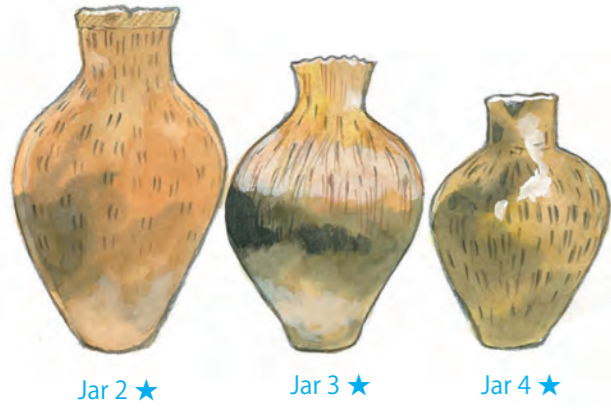
The 53 Jars of Izumisakashita

A large number of jars used for reburial have been unearthed from the Izumisakashita Site reburial graves. The earth in all the jars that were taken out of the ground was investigated by a method called 'washing and sorting' to see what was inside them.

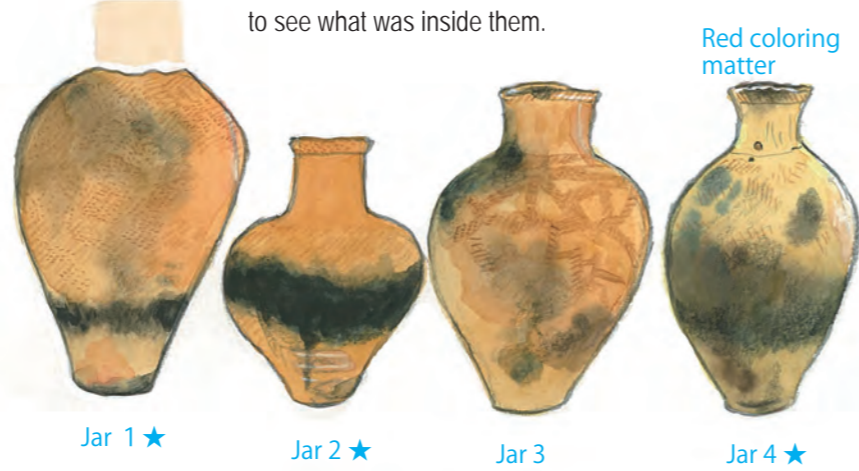
The jars were used for boiling food! Looking carefully at the jars, there is soot on the outside and burned food stuck to the inside. It looks like the jars were used for cooking food. While wide-necked jars were usually used for cooking, why were these narrow-necked jars used for cooking? Before the reburial, did the people hold a festival at which they had a meal together? It also seems that the jars were not made as urns (for bones) for use in reburial only. There are many things we can learn from the soot and burned rice, such as the period when the jars were made and what was cooked inside them. (* indicates jars for which dating has been carried out)

Important Cultural Property

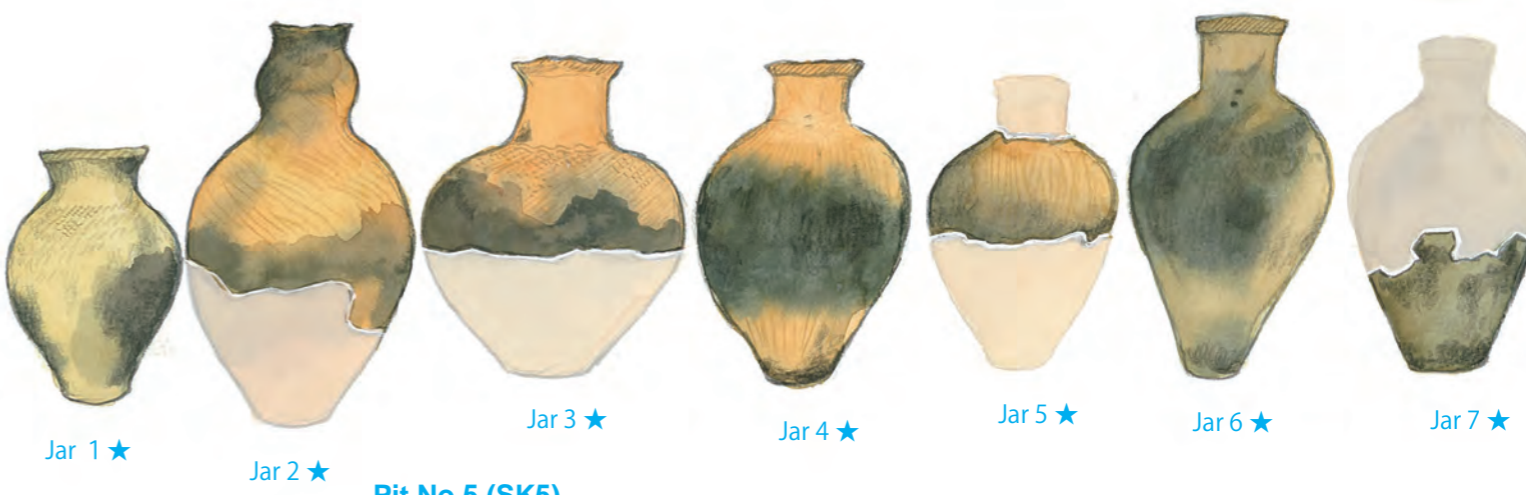
Pit No.1 (SK 1)



Pit No.2 (SK 2)



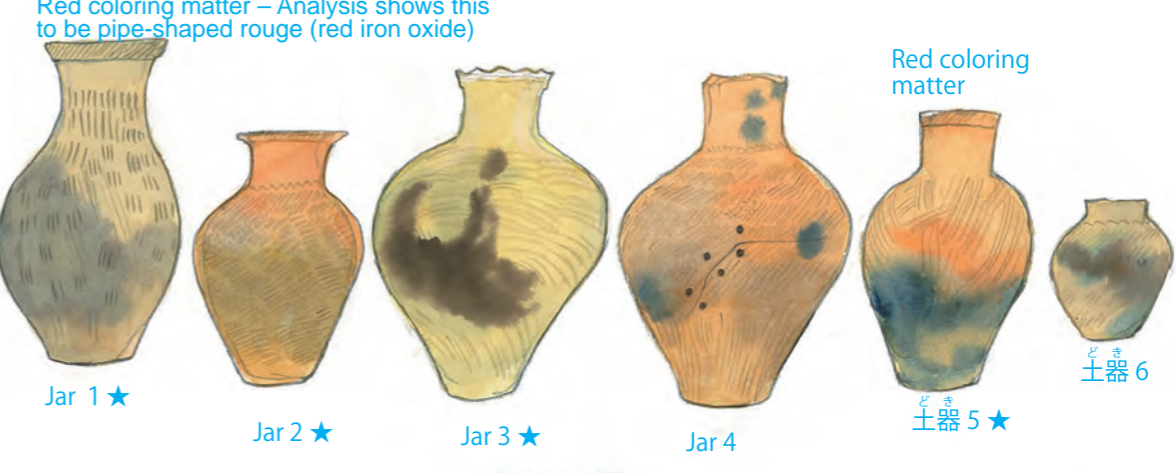
Pit No.3 (SK 3)



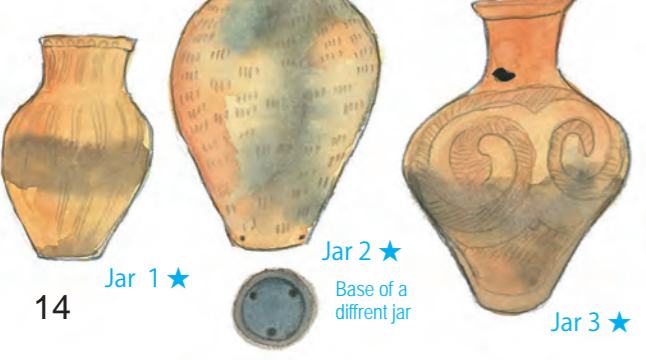
Pit No.4 (SK 4)



Pit No.5 (SK5)



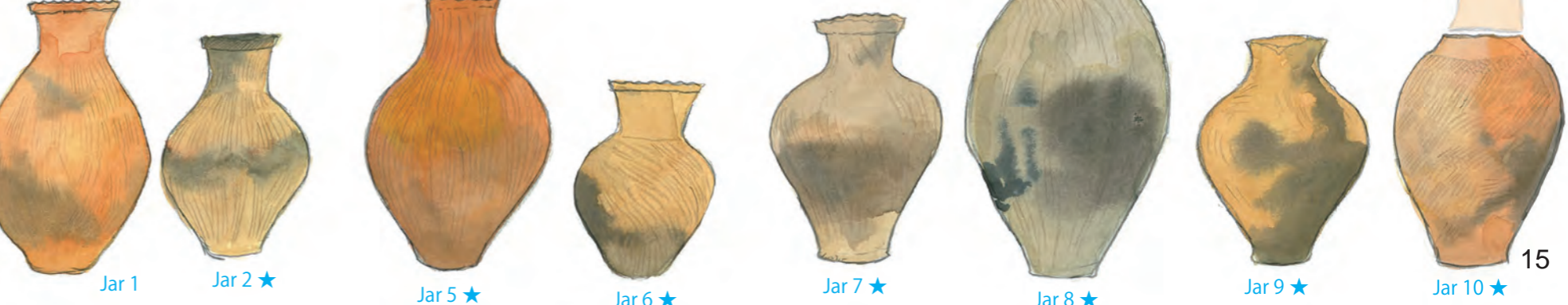
Pit No.6 (SK 6)



Remains No.1 (SX 1)



Pit No.26 (SK 26)



A Parade of Jars with Human Faces

Jars with human faces are not often found. Only 17 examples have been found from 14 reburial sites. So, *Izumi* is a very valuable discovery. *Izumi's* whole jar was also in good condition and the way the face has been made is wonderful. Four jars with human faces have been found in Hitachi Omiya City, including *Izumi*. This may have been a special area.

The illustrations on this page have been drawn to show the damaged or lost parts of the jars.

Designated a National Important Cultural Property

Izumisakashita Site,
Hitachi Omiya City,
Ibaraki Prefecture
(*Izumi*)
77.7cm

Nozawa Site
Utsunomiya City,
Tochigi Prefecture,
(Head only)

Ozakata Site
Chikusei City,
Ibaraki Pref.,
68.5cm

* All three jars here have been designated as Important Cultural Properties of Ibaraki Prefecture.

All three jars were unearthed at Onotenjinmae Site Hitachi Omiya City, Ibaraki Prefecture

44.5cm

(Head only)

(Only the head and part of the abdomen)

Designated an Ibaraki Prefecture Important Cultural Property

Boryo Site
Aizuwakamatsu City,
Fukushima Prefecture
(Head only)

Kaigo Site
Naka City,
Ibaraki Prefecture
42cm

Joshikimen Site
Fukaya City,
Saitama Prefecture
47cm

Designated a Fukushima Prefecture Important Cultural Property

25.3cm

Takinomori B Site
Shirakawa City,
Fukushima Prefecture
* Both of these on the left and right

(Head only)

Designated a National Important Cultural Property

Izuruhara Site
Sano City,
Tochigi Prefecture
21.6cm

Kakue Site
Hamamatsu City,
Shizuoka Prefecture
(Head only)
* Possibly an earthenware figure

Designated a Fukushima Prefecture Important Cultural Property
Toriuchi Site
Ishikawa Cho,
Fukushima Prefecture
(Head only)

Banjochi Site
Iwaki City,
Fukushima Prefecture
(Part of the face only)

How were the jars used?

Water jars (*kame*) and narrow-necked jars (*tsubo*)

Many narrow-necked jars have been found at the Izumisakashita Site. It is usually thought that narrow-necked jars were used for storing grain and other kinds of food. But many of the narrow-necked jars at the Izumisakashita Site have soot or burnt food attached to them. It seems they were also used for boiling food. Let's try to imagine how they were used.

It is thought that wide-necked jars were used for cooking.



Wide-necked jar Narrow-necked jar

It is thought that narrow-necked jars were usually used for storing food.

Storage?

Were important grain seeds stored in the jar?



The pieces of wide-necked jars found in Remains No.1 (SX1) at the Izumisakashita Site are also Important Cultural Properties. (The figure shows restored images.)



Pit No.26 (SK26)



Jar 10, Pit No.26



There are "marks" remaining on the jars

Marks left by rice seeds can be seen on the surface of Jar 10, found in Pit No.26. (Pointers indicate where the marks are.)

What kind of crops were grown at Izumisakashita?

The "impression replica method" is a method used for investigating plants and other objects. In this method, impression marks on the jars are used like molds to make a replica of the original object.

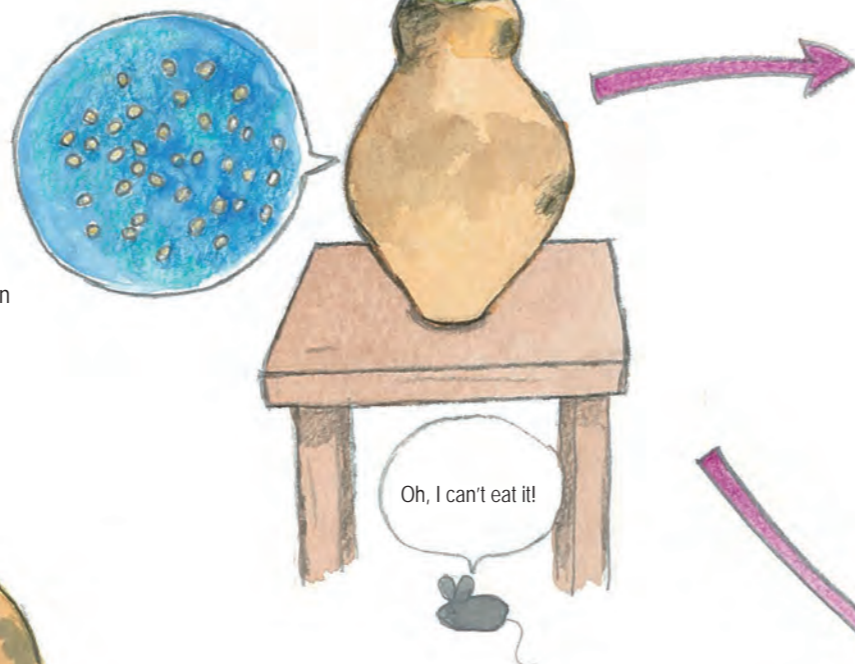
Careful observation of the surface or cross-sections of broken pieces of jars shows that impression marks have been left by seeds or insects. Silicon resin is poured into the depression to make a replica of the original object. It is easy to see if the object was a seed or an insect by examining it under a microscope. (Please see p.5 for the silicon resin replica made from the impression on Jar 10 in the photo.)

A narrow-necked jar is made

In fact, we don't know whether men or women made the jars.



The people did not use a potter's wheel. They placed a leaf or piece of cloth on the ground.



Oh, I can't eat it!



Sowing seed

Were these wheat, barley, rice, or hemp seeds?

Was food boiled at the reburial grave festivals?

When the insides of the jars were examined, it was found that nuts and animals had been cooked in them.



Did everyone eat a meal together?

Some researchers think the reburial grave jars were made just for reburials.

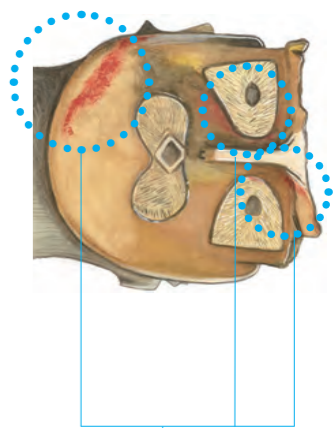
Did they use the jars for boiling food for everyday meals?



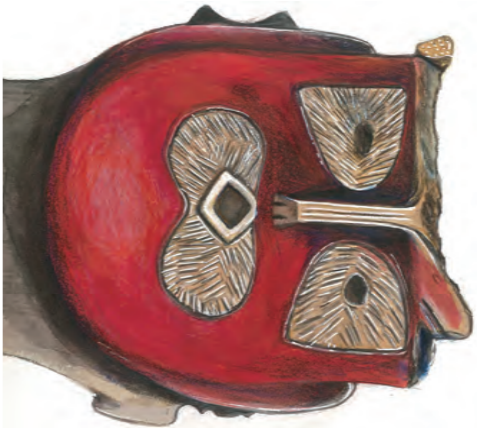
Did they make special meals using the narrow-necked jars?

Reburied





These parts were originally painted red. You can still see the red color remaining here and there.



The shapes of the left and right eyes are slightly different.



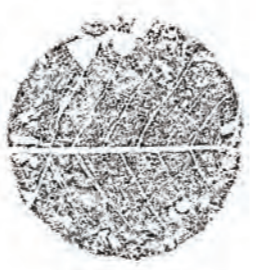
The chin is nicely formed. This kind of expression is unusual. It's similar to Kakue-chan in Shizuoka.



Parts of the rim are broken off, but it was used as it was. The evidence for this is that the rim has been worn down where pieces had broken off.



The ear lobe has a pierce mark.

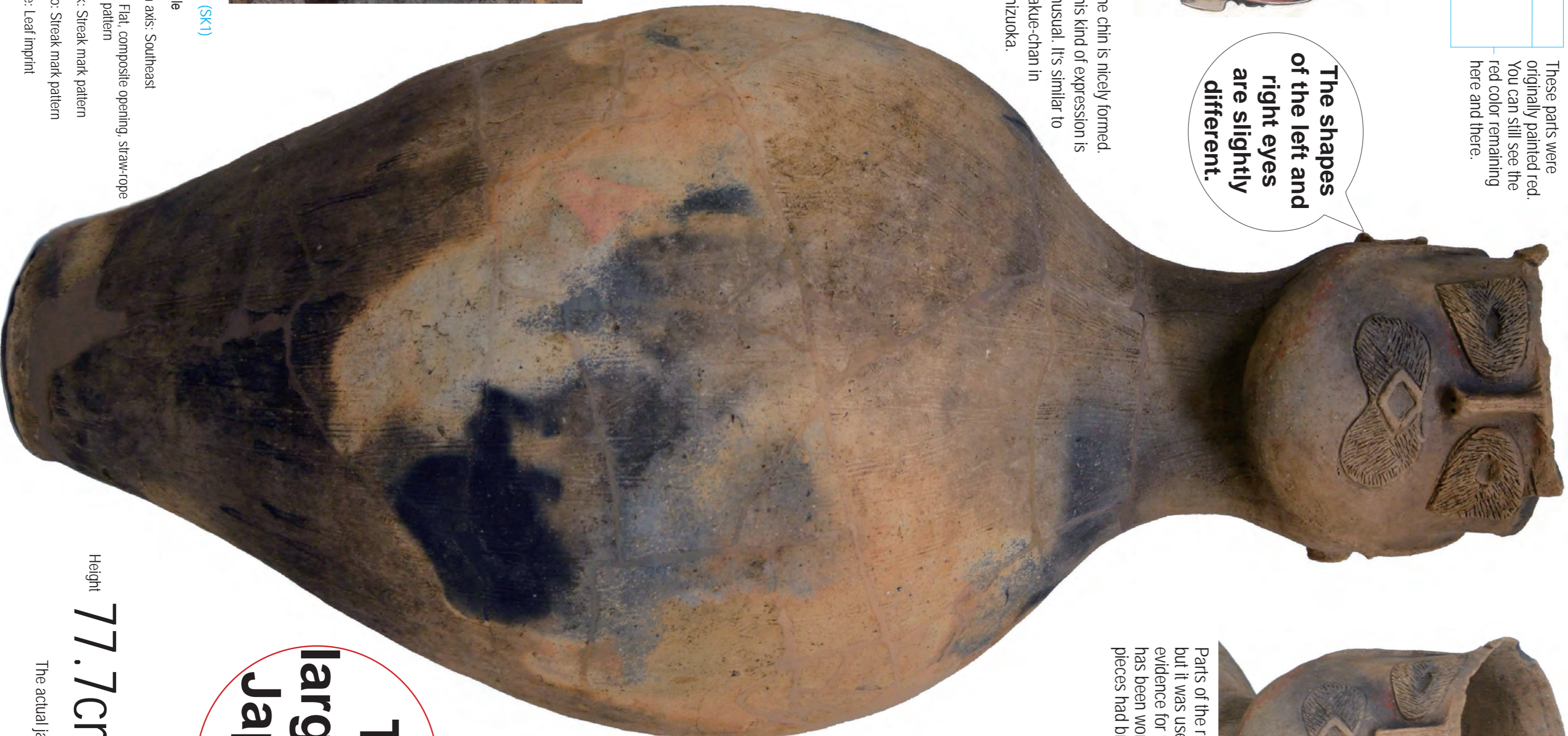


There is a leaf imprint on Izumi's base.

Please see p.25 for a view of the back of Izumi's head.



Here we are when we were first unearthed. I was discovered in Pit No.1 (SK1) with three other jars.



The largest in Japan!!

Height 77.7cm

The actual jar is twice this size.

Tell us, Izumi!

Jar 1, Pit No.1 (SK1)

Profile

Main axis: Southeast

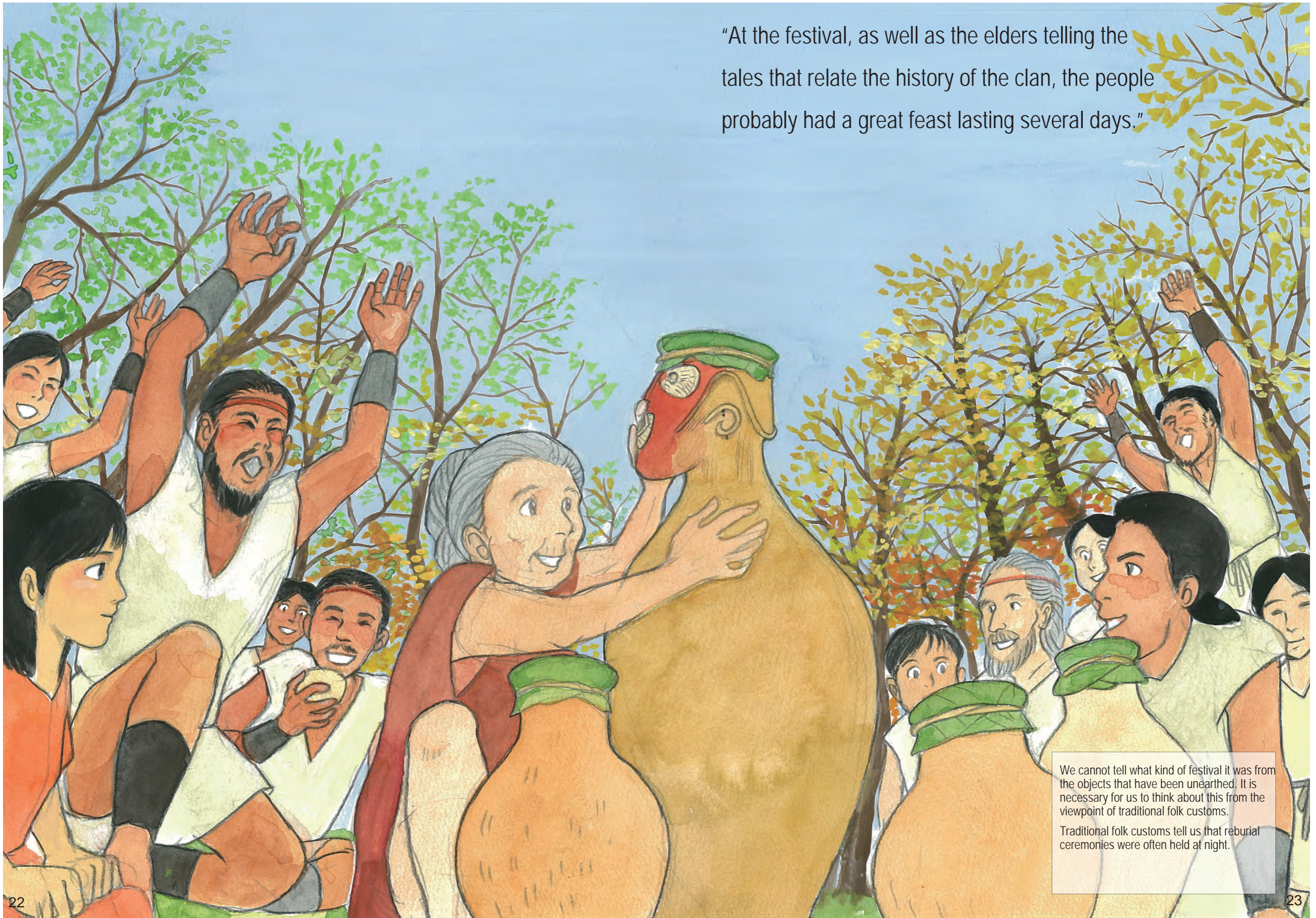
Rim: Flat, composite opening, straw-rope pattern

Neck: Streak mark pattern

Torso: Streak mark pattern

Base: Leaf imprint

"At the festival, as well as the elders telling the tales that relate the history of the clan, the people probably had a great feast lasting several days."



We cannot tell what kind of festival it was from the objects that have been unearthed. It is necessary for us to think about this from the viewpoint of traditional folk customs.

Traditional folk customs tell us that reburial ceremonies were often held at night.



A wooden mask:
Makimuku Site (Nara
Pref.)



What did Yayoi Period Faces Look Like?

What is the face we can see on the jars with human faces? Is this the face of the Yayoi people?

Izumi's cheeks are puffed out. There are lots of short lines around the eyes and mouth. Are these tattoos? The diamond-shaped mouth is very characteristic, isn't it?

We drew the face on the left based on Izumi and by assuming that the marks around the eyes and mouth were tattoos.

It is possible that this is not a human, but perhaps the image of a spirit, or something else. We wonder what kind of faces the Yayoi people of Izumisakashita had.

Scale-shaped
earthenware
artifact: Myoji Site
(Yamaguchi Pref.)



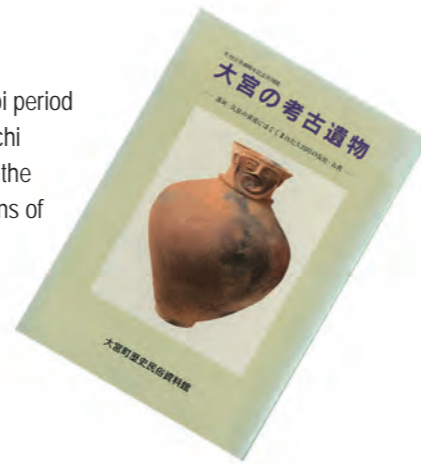
Jar with
human face:
Kamidai Site
(Kanagawa
Pref.)



The Yayoi Lifestyle

As seen from "Archeological Remains of Omiya"

Here we introduce the Yayoi period remains discovered in Hitachi Omiya City as described in the book "Archeological Remains of Omiya"



▲ Kajihaba Site ▼



Takasu-Kawaidai Site



American-type arrowheads

Continuing on from the Jomon period, stone (chert) arrowheads are also found from the Yayoi period. The characteristic of these is that the triangular arrowhead is cut deeply at both sides near the base. These are called American-type flint (chert) arrowheads. The distribution of these arrowheads in Japan is limited to the Tohoku (northeast) and Hokuriku regions.

Why are they called American-type flint arrowheads?

The arrowheads have been given this name because they have a similar shape to arrowheads used by the indigenous peoples of America (native Americans).



Spiral-shaped artifacts

Kamiwase-Fujiyama Site

Earthenware comma-shaped beads

Kamiwase-Fujiyama Site



Beads



Five beads (Important Cultural Properties) made from talc were found in the *tsubo*-type jar (Jar 1) in Pit No.6 (SK6) at the Izumisakashita Site.



Spinning thread with a spindle



Izumisakashita Site

What kind of clothes did the Izumisakashita Yayoi people wear?

The imprints of cloth can be seen on the bases of earthenware jars found at Izumisakashita and Akaiwa Sites. The people definitely had cloth, but we don't know what kind of cloth it was. Was it perhaps hemp or ramie (*Boehmeria nivea* var. *nipponnivea*)? Or was it made from some other raw material? We imagine that the people used a handloom. It is thought that the people wove cloth that was about as wide as a person's shoulders.



Using the patterns from the jars, perhaps they looked like this.

Cloth imprint on the base of a jar



Image of weaving

Spindles



Kajihaba Site



Fujiyama Site

A spindle is a tool for spinning thread. Spindles have been discovered at the Fujiyama and Kajihaba Sites.

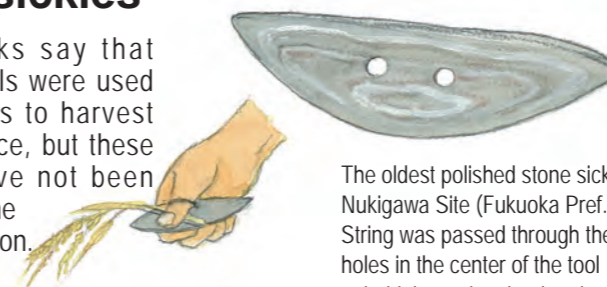
A reconstruction of the clothes worn in the Yayoi period has been made based on an article in the 'Gishiwajinden' (Account of the Wa People). The clothes are called *kantoi* - (a large piece of cloth with a hole in the middle for the head, without sleeves, and extending as far as the knees.) A line-drawing figure of a priestess has been engraved on a jar found at the Shimizukaze Site (Nara Pref.).



During the long period of the rich Yayoi culture that existed throughout Japan, it is unlikely that the same clothes were worn everywhere. Unfortunately, we do not know what they really looked like.

The mysterious stone sickles

Textbooks say that stone tools were used as sickles to harvest ears of rice, but these tools have not been found in the Kanto region.



The oldest polished stone sickle: Nukigawa Site (Fukuoka Pref.) String was passed through the holes in the center of the tool to hold the tool to the thumb or fingers.

Himiko's garments (left) as reconstructed by the Museum of Yayoi Culture in Osaka, and 'Yayoi-chan's' garments (right) as shown in materials by Yoshinogari Historical Park.

