

# Hokkaido Jomon Culture

## Preface

The Jomon culture is an ancient culture that developed across the Japanese archipelago over the more than 10,000 years between 13,000BC and 500BC. The Jomon people lived rich lives centered on hunting, fishing and gathering in modest harmony with the harsh but abundant nature based on their philosophies of coexistence and the circle of life. In Hokkaido especially, even after most of the Japanese archipelago had gone on to adopt the rice-farming Yayoi culture, agriculture was never fully integrated, and a unique history flourished, giving birth to the Zoku-Jomon (post-Jomon), Okhotsk, Satsumon and Ainu cultures. For this reason, philosophies that place importance on coexistence with nature and respect towards all living things are rooted deeply in Ainu culture even today. The spirit of “coexistence with nature” that was so important in the Jomon culture has universal value when considering not only today’s society but also future societies. This booklet has been designed to help deepen people’s understanding of the Jomon culture as well as explore and convey the unique characteristics of Hokkaido’s history and beauty.

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Important Cultural Property  
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National Treasure  
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Bottom center: Clay animal figure Bibi Site No. 4 (Chitose City)  
Important Cultural Property

