

The Appearance of Enormous Monuments

Around 4,000 years ago, large-scale monuments started appearing in the southwest of Hokkaido. A stone circle with a circumference of 37m has also been found in the Washinoki Site (Mori Town) and is recognized as a valuable monument proving Hokkaido's connection to the culture of northern Tohoku. On the other hand, grave sites with large circular embankments began to appear around 3,500 years ago in central Hokkaido. The embankments were created by piling the dirt left over from digging out the circular burial yard, the largest one measuring 75m in circumference. These types of mass graves have been found across the Ishikari Depression and extended up to eastern Hokkaido (Shuen Burial Circles of Shari Town), but have not been observed in Honshu and are unique to Hokkaido. In the Kakinoshima Site (Hakodate City) in the south of Hokkaido, a U-shaped earthwork mound with a length of 160m and height of 2m was discovered.



Investigation of the Stone Circle, Washinoki Site (Mori Town)



Investigation of the Earthwork Burial Circle, Bibi Site No. 4 (Chitose City)

Conveying Techniques and Culture

Living lives based on hunting, gathering and fishing, the Jomon people also actively sought out cultural exchange and trade beyond the boundaries of their own local culture. This came to its peak in the late Jomon period, where jade accessories, lacquerware and asphalt to be used as adhesive were introduced into Hokkaido from Honshu. On the other hand, there are examples of northern culture being introduced into the south, such as obsidian made in Hokkaido excavated from the Sannai-Maruyama Site (Aoyama City) in Honshu's north. As for Hokkaido's relationship with the Asian continent, a special type of arrowheads on blade was introduced from the north around 7,000 years ago and spread through Hokkaido's northeast. Some arrowheads have even been found in the southwest, and there are some examples of culture reflecting the same geographical conditions as the Asian continent being introduced into Hokkaido.



Jade ornaments, Kiusu Site No. 4 (Chitose City)



Lacquered combs Karinba Site (Eniwa City) Important Cultural Property



Spouted pot coated with red lacquer Nodai Site No.1 (Yakumo Town) Tangible Cultural Property Designated by Hokkaido Prefecture



Tip of a harpoon covered with asphalt Funadomari Site (Rebun Town) Important Cultural Property



Lump of asphalt in a pot Toyosaki Site N (Hakodate City)



Stone tools from the microlithic culture, Yubetsu-ichikawa Site (Yubetsu Town)