

Historical Tracking Tour

「Archaeological Sites Tour」



A Route to the archaeological sites tour

Questions of this tour !

1 Which areas did people live in, during the Jomon and Yayoi Periods (about 2 300 to 13 000 years ago)?

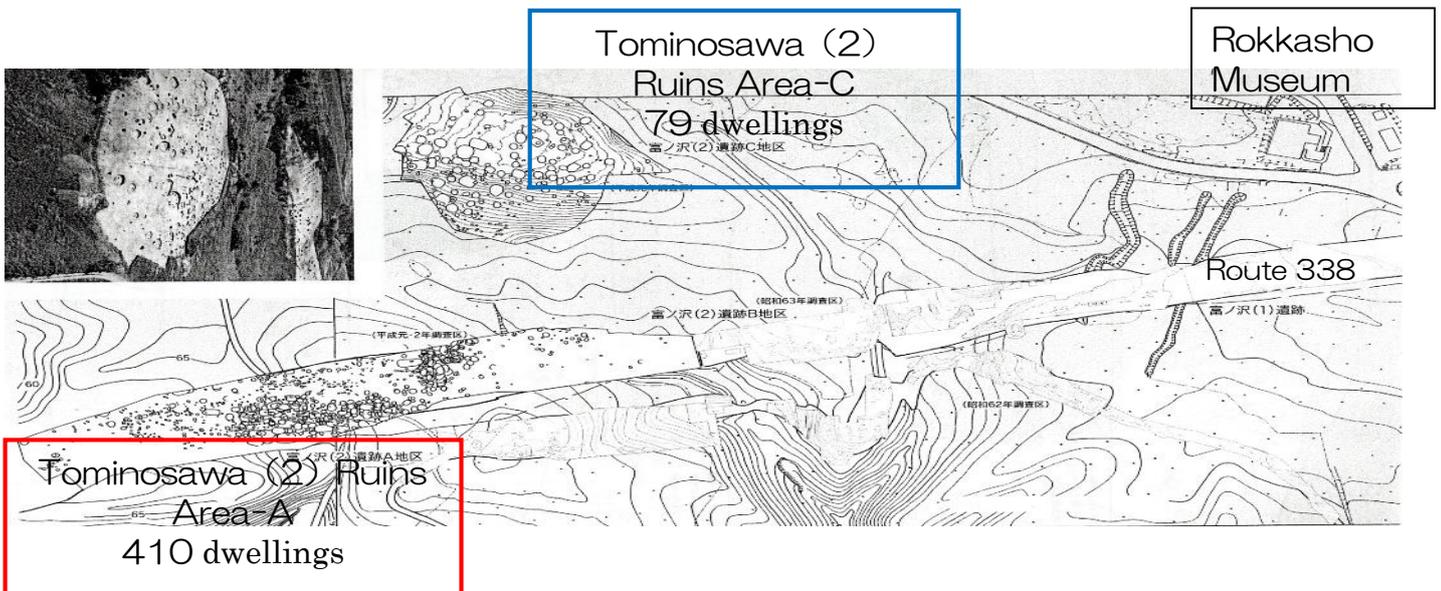
2 Which areas were ruins and remains discovered in?

3 Try to look for remains in the field. You will most likely be able to find some pieces of earthenware and stone tool.

(1) Tominosawa ruins (A village from the Jomon period, about 4 000 years ago)

The Tominosawa ruins are at the western side of the Rokkasho museum. It was a big village which had lasted for more than 500 years. Why did the early people establish their village in this area? Let's think about it.

1. They have three waters spring nearby the village.
2. There is the Obuchi March rich in fishery products in the southern area of the village, and the Oippe River, in the northern area, where salmons and trouts return from the Ocean.
3. A road runs east and west and it lies right between the Pacific Ocean and Mutsu Bay.
4. There is a place for hunting near by the village.



(2) The mystery about the decline of the largest village in Tominosawa(2)Ruins at area-A

In the village in Tominosawa(2)ruins in area-A, from the Jomon period, the culture of producing cylindrical pottery suddenly declined, and as a new culture from the southern region, producing Daigishiki pottery in area- C emerged all in sudden.

The reason is veiled in mystery.

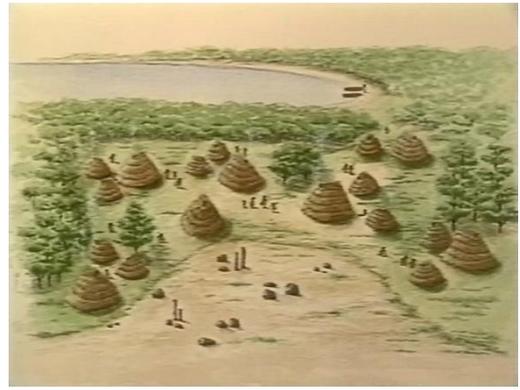


Image of a village in Jomon Period

(3) Oishitai Ruins (late JOMON Period about 3,000 years ago and Yayoi Period about 2,000 years ago)

In the Oishitai Ruins on the east side of Rokkasho Museum, housing from residence of the late Jomon Period as well as the YAYOI Period were found.

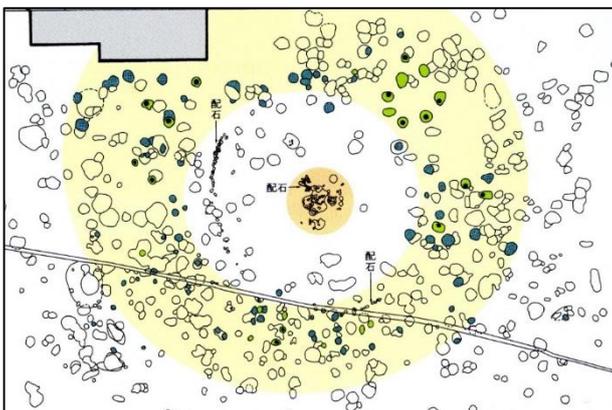
In the Jomon period, this site was used for praying. Traces of stones, arranged in circles and multiple holes, which indicate former columns, give evidence for buildings. In this period, this residence had lasted for 500 years.

In the same area, during the Yayoi period, nine dwellings were built, which lasted for 200 years. A route near by the village lead to the Oippe River. However, unfortunately no traces of rice paddy fields, ect have been found.

Let's think about reasons why early people had been living in this area for a long period.



Oishitai Ruin



Traces of stones in the late Jomon

Traces of stones ranged in circular shapes were found and multiple holes were found surrounding central traces of stone (Green spots in left drawing). It may have been used as a place for special events and prayer.

(4) Ruins of Kamiobuchi (late JOMON Period)

In the southern area of Rokkasho Museum, 6 dwellings were built in early Jomon, during next period 9 dwellings were built, 27 dwellings in the golden age and 4 dwellings in the last period over 1000 years. The cause for this sudden rise in population is unknown. It might be caused by a natural in population or by migration.

Several pillars were constructed at the open space of a cemetery. The dwellings were built to the southwest of the cemetery to form a village. Even now 5 fountains are gushing there.

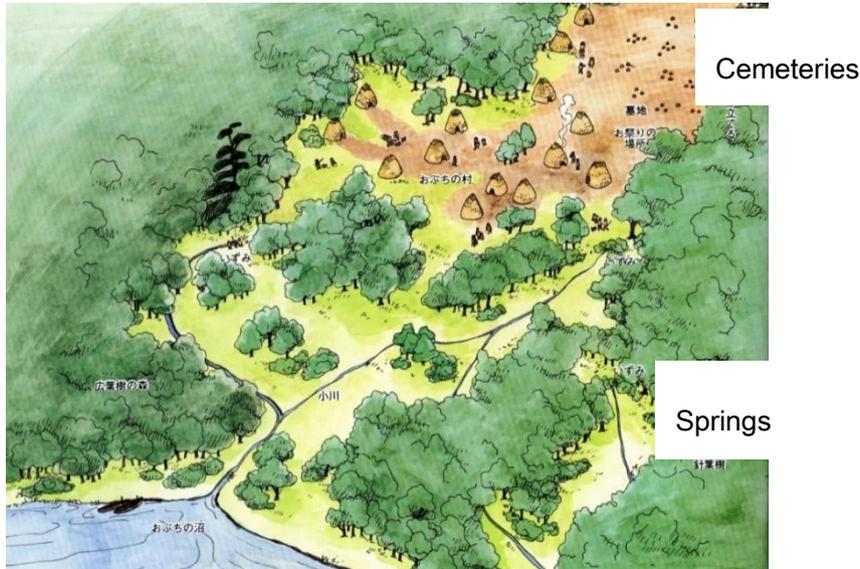


Image of a village with graves

(5) Obuchi Ruin (hunting site during Jomon period)

Some pitfalls for hunting were found on the terrace height behind the Rokkasho village office. There were two types of pitfalls, a round one and an oval one. The round pitfall was used for wild boars and the other one was used for deer hunting.



Images for hunting with pitfalls



Pitfalls in Hacchazawa (1) Ruin

(6) Ishikawa Ruins (Jomon period, Yayoi period and Heian period)

The Ishikawa Ruins, are near the Ishikawa River. Ancient people have used the river as a water source for household. At present, you can easily find round stones or small pieces of earthen vessels in the field. People would carry round stones from the river or the beach to this place.



Ishikawa Ruin



Round stones

(7) Oippe Ruins (Nara period, Heian Period, about 1 000 years ago)

These ruins from the Nara and Heian periods were discovered during the construction of a bridge across the Oippe River. You can find pieces of earthen vessels in the flat field. These pieces are earthen vessels from the Heian period about 1000 years ago. Let's look for these pieces and take pictures.



Oippegawa Ruin



Pieces of earthen vessel