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Welcome

Japanese Art History
ARTH 2071
Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

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The Rich Aesthetic of Japanese Art

1 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

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Jomon Culture 11,000 – 400 BC

- Religion: 1,500 – 1,000 BC created stone circles for rituals
- Social: 11,000 – 2,500 BC hunter-gatherer society, about 20,000 people scattered around Japan
- Social: 2,500 – 1,500 BC simple cultivation of crops, larger villages, perhaps 250,000 people
- Social: 1,500 – 400 BC collapse of population to 70,000 people, concentrated on the coasts, around Tokyo
- Artistic: 16,000 BC evidence of world's oldest ceramic producing culture in Japan

2 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

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Geography

3 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC

Incipient Vase
10,000 – 8,000 BC
Mason fig. 2 *

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC

Early Jomon Vase
5,000 – 2,500 BC
Mason fig. 5 *

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Jomon
11,000 – 400 BC



Middle Jomon Vase
3,000 – 2,000 BC
H: 22.5 inches

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Jomon Vase, 3,000 – 2,000 BC
H: 22.5 inches

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Jomon
11,000 – 400 BC




Middle Jomon Jar
3,000 – 2,000 BC
H: 21 W: 22 inches

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Jomon
11,000 – 400 BC

A



*Deep Bowl with
Sculptural Rim*
c. 1,500 BC
H: 13 in.
Metropolitan
Museum of Art
Mason Fig. 7 *

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In Other Cultures



Chinese Storage Jar
3,000 BC earthenware
painted and burnished
H: 14.25 inches
Minneapolis Institute of Art

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Oyu Stone Circle, c. 2000 BC
Kazuno, Akita Prefecture
Mason fig. 14 *

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In Other Cultures



Stonehenge, England
2,950 – 1,600 BC

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Bottle
1,500 – 1,000 BC
H: 7.5 inches
Met. Museum

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Ewer With Bridge Handle
1,500 – 1,000 BC
H: 8.75 inches
Mason fig. 15

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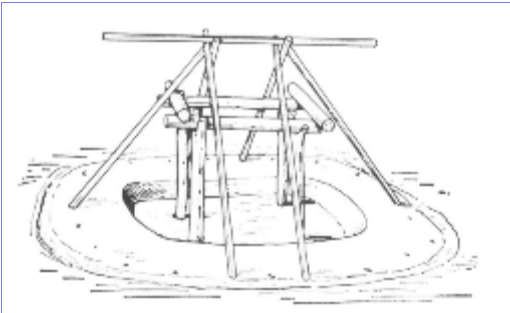
In Other Cultures



Wine Jar With Taotie Design
China 1,300 – 1,000 BC
H: 24 inches
Tokyo National Museum

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Reconstruction of Early Jomon Pit House
Mason fig. 4

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Dogu (Clay Figure)
3,000 – 2,000 BC
H: 10 inches
Mason fig. 10

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Jomon
11,000 – 400 BC



Spouted Vessel With Human Figure
2,000 – 1,000 BC
H: 7 inches
Tokyo National Museum

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC





Dogu #2
1,000 – 400 BC
H: 14 inches
Tokyo Nat.
Mason fig. 11

Venus of Willendorf
24,000 – 22,000 BC
H: 4.4 inches

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC



Small Figurine
1,000 – 400 BC
H: 2.5 inches
Metropolitan Museum

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Yayoi Culture 400 BC – 300 AD

- Political: women held significant positions of power among Yayoi elite
- Religion: beginning of ceremonial graves and use of the three treasures – sword, mirror and jewel
- Economic: bronze and iron objects now manufactured; skills developed quickly
- Social: agricultural based society developed, cultivation of rice and larger settlements
- Artistic: most common ceramic objects are jars with faces found in burials; most dramatic artwork are *dotaku* bronze bells


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Geography - Yayoi



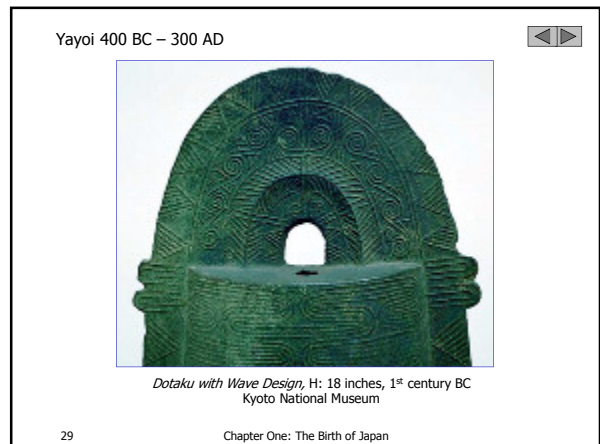
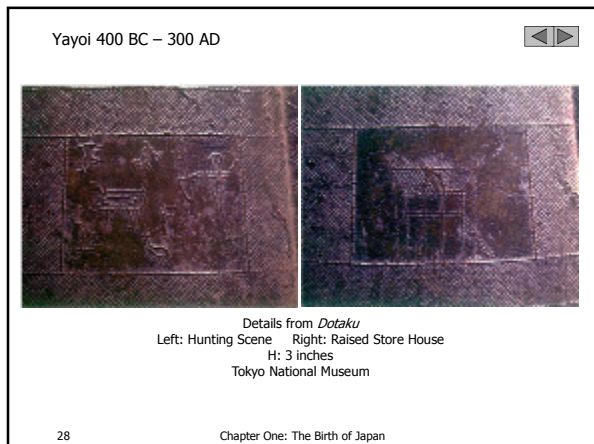
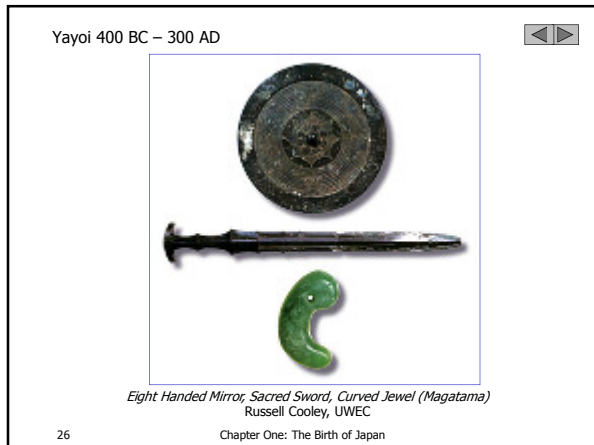
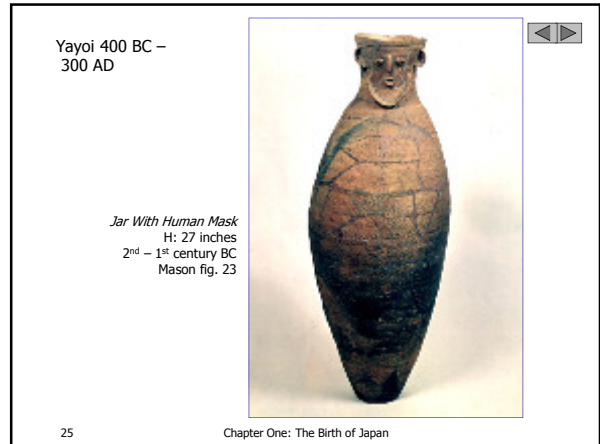
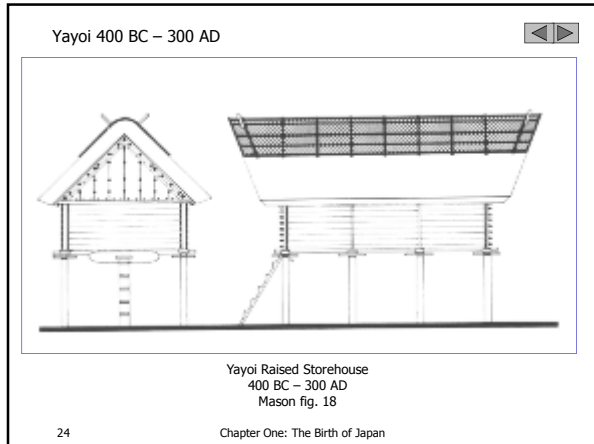
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Yayoi 400 BC – 300 AD



Yayoi Pit Houses, 300 BC – 300 AD
Yoshinogari Archeological Site

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Yayoi 400 BC – 300 AD

A

Dotaku (Bronze Bell)
H: 17 inches
2nd – 1st century BC
Mason fig. 20



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Kofun Culture 300 – 710 AD

- Political: Yamato Dynasty centralized power in the area around Nara and Kyoto
- Political: large keyhole tombs for emperors and aristocrats were erected all around Japan; Haniwa figures were placed around the tombs.
- Religion: Shintoism practiced by Japanese
- Economic: Kofun period grave goods included iron weapons, bronze mirrors and jewelry, including gold.
- Social: communities traded in regional areas
- International: First evidence of Chinese and Korean influences seen in grave goods.

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Geography – Kofun



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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Aerial View - Emperor Nintoku's Tomb
Length: 1,580 feet, Osaka, Japan

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD

Contour Plan,
Tomb of Emperor Nintoku
L: 1,580 feet
Mason fig. 25



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Kofun 300 – 710 AD

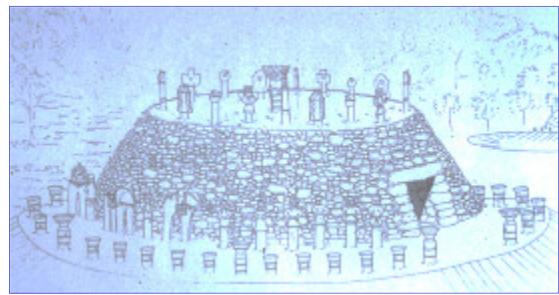


Diagram of Haniwa Placement
Kofun Era Tomb
Source: Dr. M. Hirayama

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Yakigata Haniwa
Kofun Period
Dr. Hirayama

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Haniwa of Musicians, Kofun Period
Japanese National Museum of History

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Dansi Warrior Haniwa
Kofun Period
Source: Dr. M. Hirayama

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Dog Haniwa
6th century H: 15 inches
Kyoto National Museum

39 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan


Kofun 300 – 710 AD



A *Warrior In Keiko Armor*
6th century H: 51 inches
Tokyo National Museum
Fig. 28 *

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Iron Sword with Silver Inlay, 5th – 6th century
Tokyo National Museum

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Chokkomon Mirror Back
300 – 450 AD
Diameter: 11 inches
Mason fig. 34

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Mirror with Designs of Divinities
4th – 5th century Diameter: 15 in.
Tokyo National Museum

43 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan


Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Pair of Gold Earrings
5th century
L: 8.5 inches
Mason fig. 36

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Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Takehara Tomb, 6th – 7th century
Mason fig. 40

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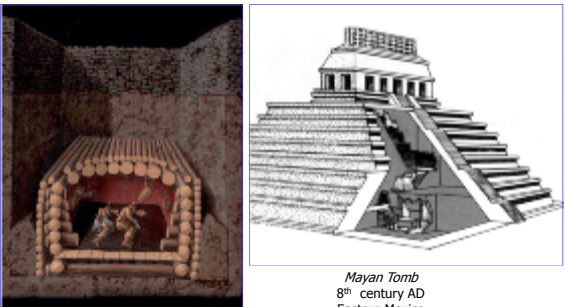
Kofun 300 – 710 AD



Takamatsu Tomb Female Attendants
7th – 8th century
Mason fig. 43

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In Other Cultures



Scythian Tomb
6th – 4th century BC
Central Asia


Mayan Tomb
8th century AD
Eastern Mexico

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Jomon 11,000 – 400 BC

A

*Deep Bowl with
Sculptural Rim*
c. 1,500 BC H: 13 in.
Metropolitan Museum
of Art



48 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

Yayoi 400 BC – 300 AD

A

Dotaku (Bronze Bell)
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Mason fig. 20



49 Chapter One: The Birth of Japan

Kofun 300 – 710 AD

A

Warrior In Keiko Armor
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Tokyo National Museum
Fig. 28 *



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