

Post-Jomon Culture

Across most of Japan, the Neolithic Jomon period (13,000–500 BCE) was followed by the Yayoi period (300 BCE–300 CE), when rice cultivation, iron, and bronze were introduced from Eurasia and spread from the south as far as the northern tip of Honshu. But in Hokkaido, less than 100 kilometers farther north, people continued to survive by hunting and gathering. Though some new technologies, such as metal tools, were adopted through trade, rice cultivation did not take root, in part because Hokkaido's climate was too cold. Instead, the same abundant natural resources that had sustained life during the Jomon period continued to support the traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle, which defined the culture that developed here. This period of Hokkaido history is called the post-Jomon or epi-Jomon period (500 BCE–600 CE). Villages were located on the coast, where people could fish, hunt, and forage. Over time, communities moved inland, using rivers as transport and trade routes.