

なぜ、幼児は土器に埋葬されたのか？

Why were children buried in ceramic pottery vessels?

In the Jomon period, when infants died they were placed in pottery and buried to be sent to the next world.

They were buried in the place where their mother lived, such as in or near the house. It is thought that this was in the hope that they would return to the belly of their mother's womb.

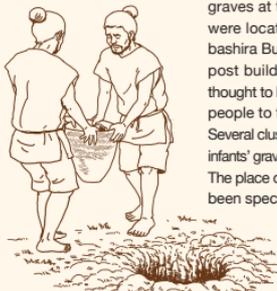
Graves of adults



Adults were sent to the next world in a hole dug in the ground.

No adult tombs have yet been discovered for either the middle, late, or last period at the Miyahata site. The location of adult graves seems to have been far away from that of ordinary life.

Infant Graves



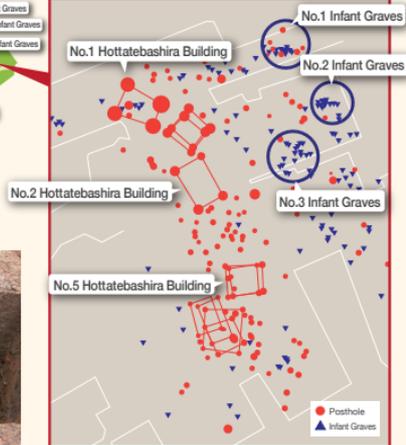
The final-Jomon period infant graves at the Miyahata Site were located near Hottatebashira Buildings (earth-fast post buildings) which were thought to be facilities to send people to the next world. Several clusters of ten or more infants' graves were discovered. The place of burial might have been specific to each family.



No.4 Infant Grave (the poles show where the pottery is buried)



Infant Graves near the Hottatebashira Building (earth-fast post building)



Excavation situation of the infant's grave