

ど ぐう こ 土偶に込められた じょう もん 縄文人の心

Ceramic figures showing the Jomon spirit

The oldest clay figure does not have a representation of a face, but has that of breasts.

Clay figures in the shape of women continued to be made for about 10,000 years until the end of the Jomon period, and represented wishes for easy childbirth, the growth of children and safety from disasters.

What was the beginning of clay figures?



Physical representation

The oldest clay figure
(Aidanikumahara Site
in Shiga prefecture)

12,000 years ago

It has no representation of a face but represents a woman.



Representation of a pose

Squatting clay figure
(Kamioka Site
in Fukushima City)

3,500 years ago



Standing in an expression of self-reliance

Jomon Goddess
(Nishinomae Site
in Yamagata prefecture)

4,000 years ago



Human face

Flat clay figure
(Sannai-Maruyama Site
in Aomori prefecture)

5,500 years ago



Decorative expression

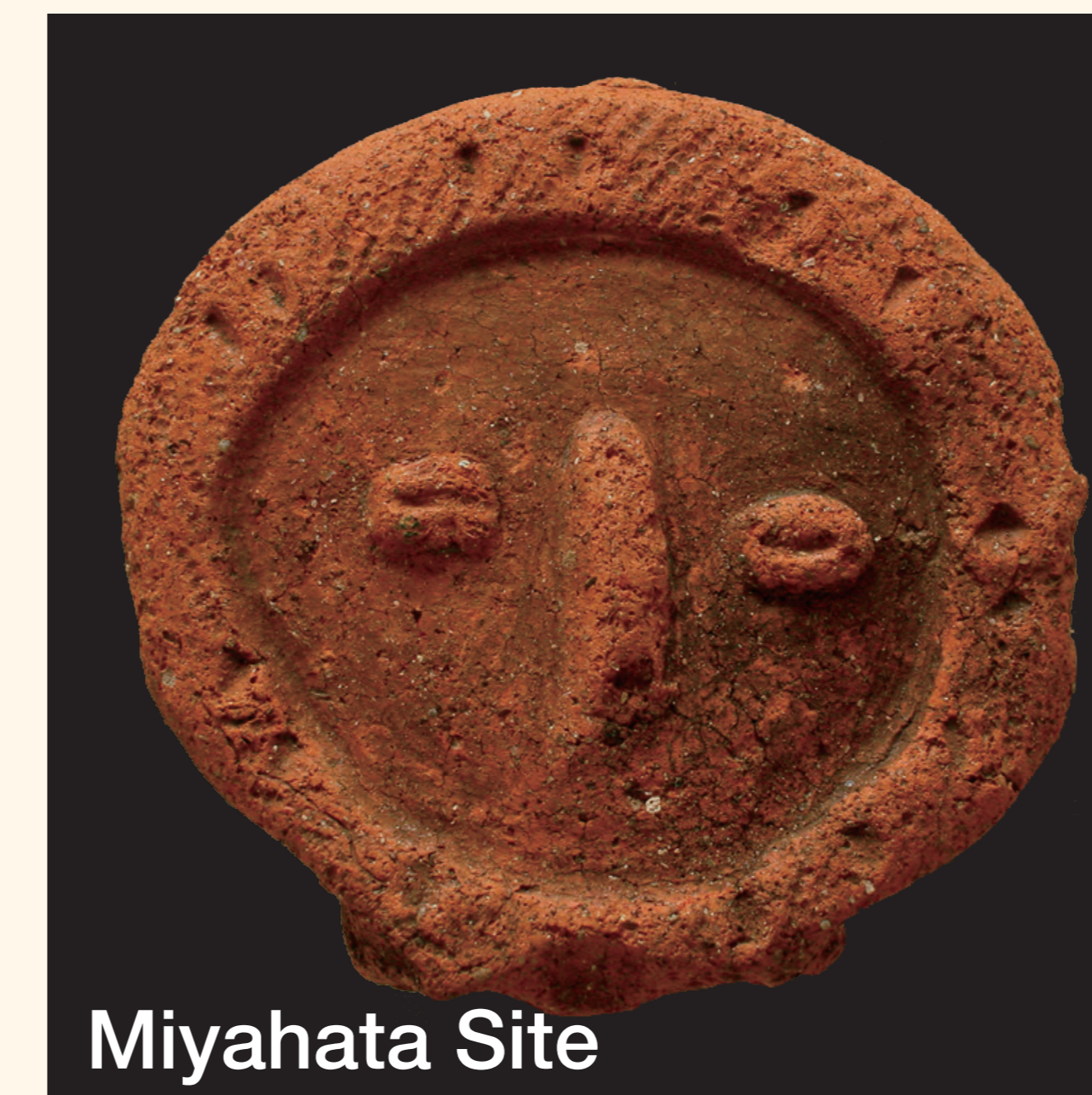
Goggle-eyed clay figure
(Kamegaoka Site
in Aomori prefecture)

2,500 years ago

Clay figures were always modelled after women

Clay figures with various expressions

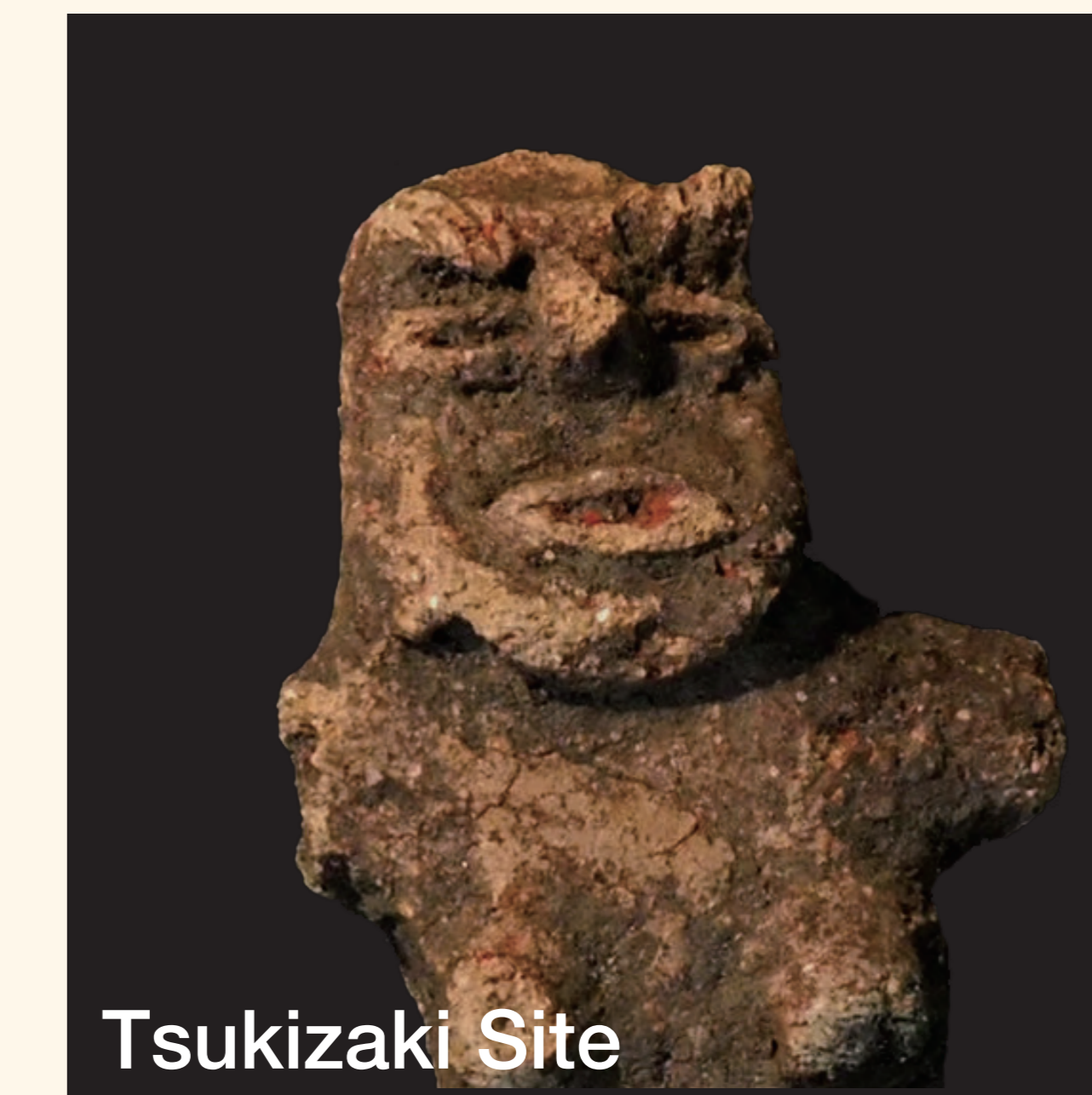
While clay figures represent women, they do not have feminine faces. They have swollen eyes or mouths, or holes in their heads. They are thought to represent the appearance of a shaman, who gives prayers, wearing a mask or with feathers attached to the head.



Miyahata Site



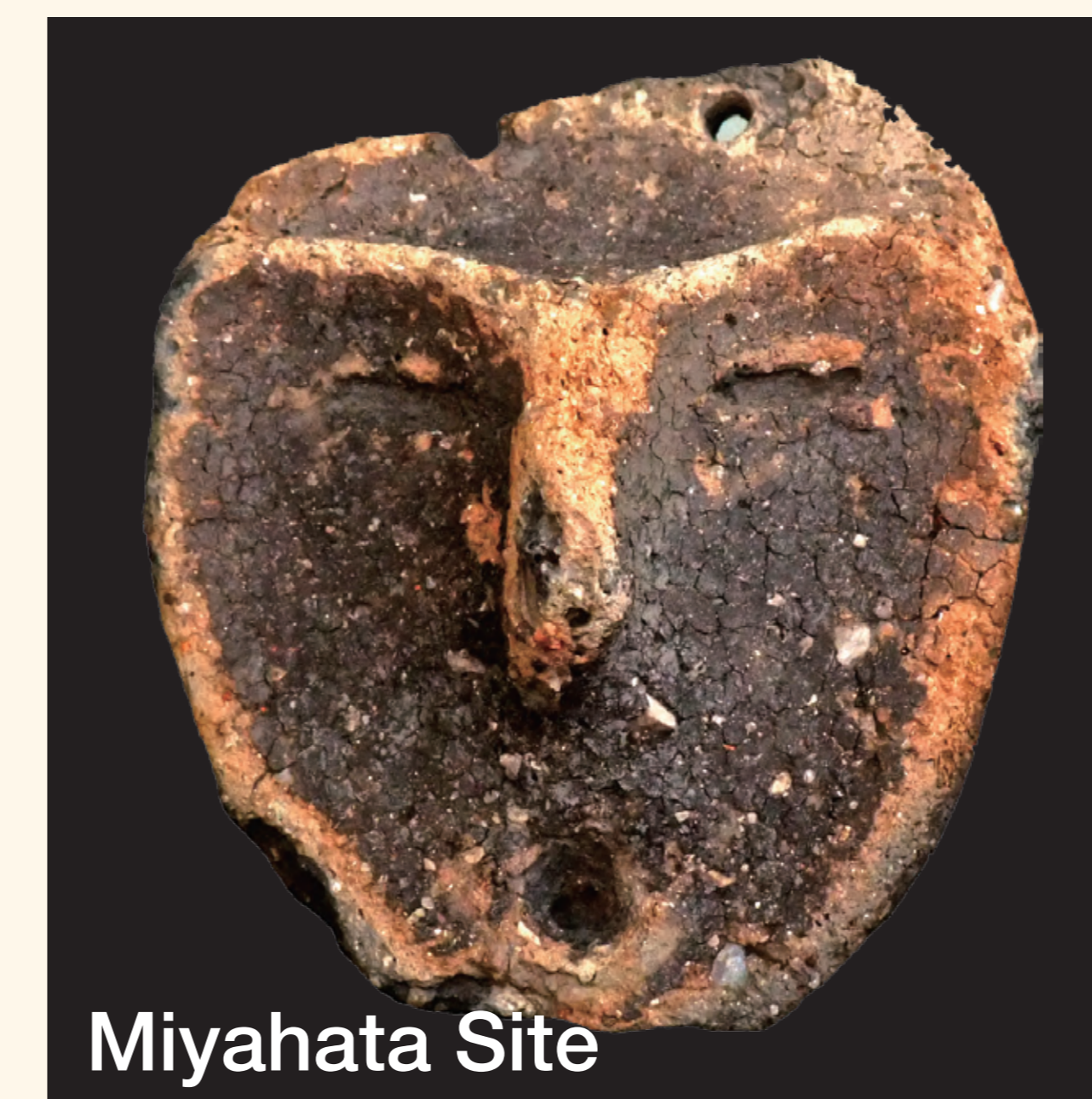
Wadai Site



Tsukizaki Site



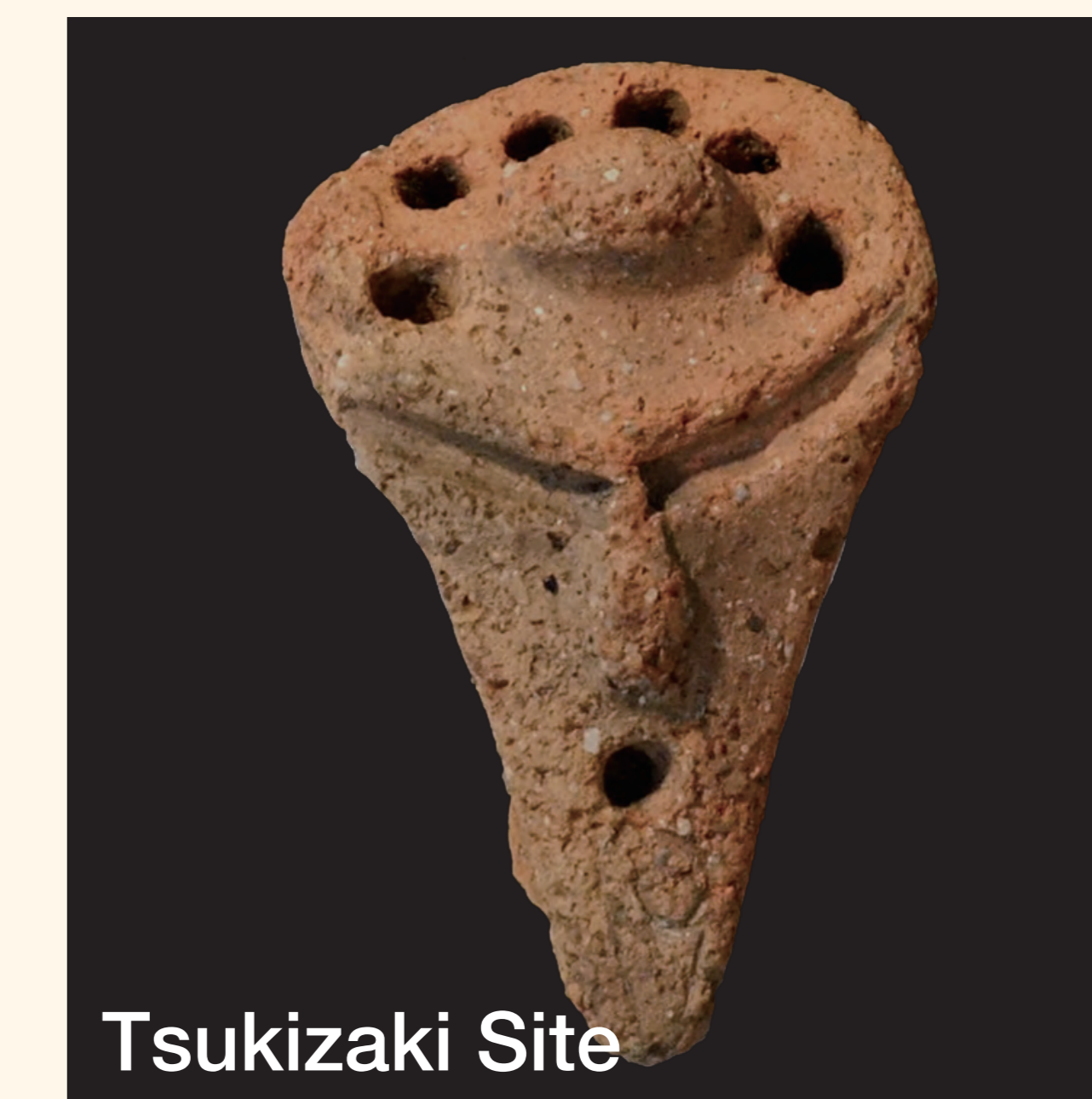
Wadai Site



Miyahata Site



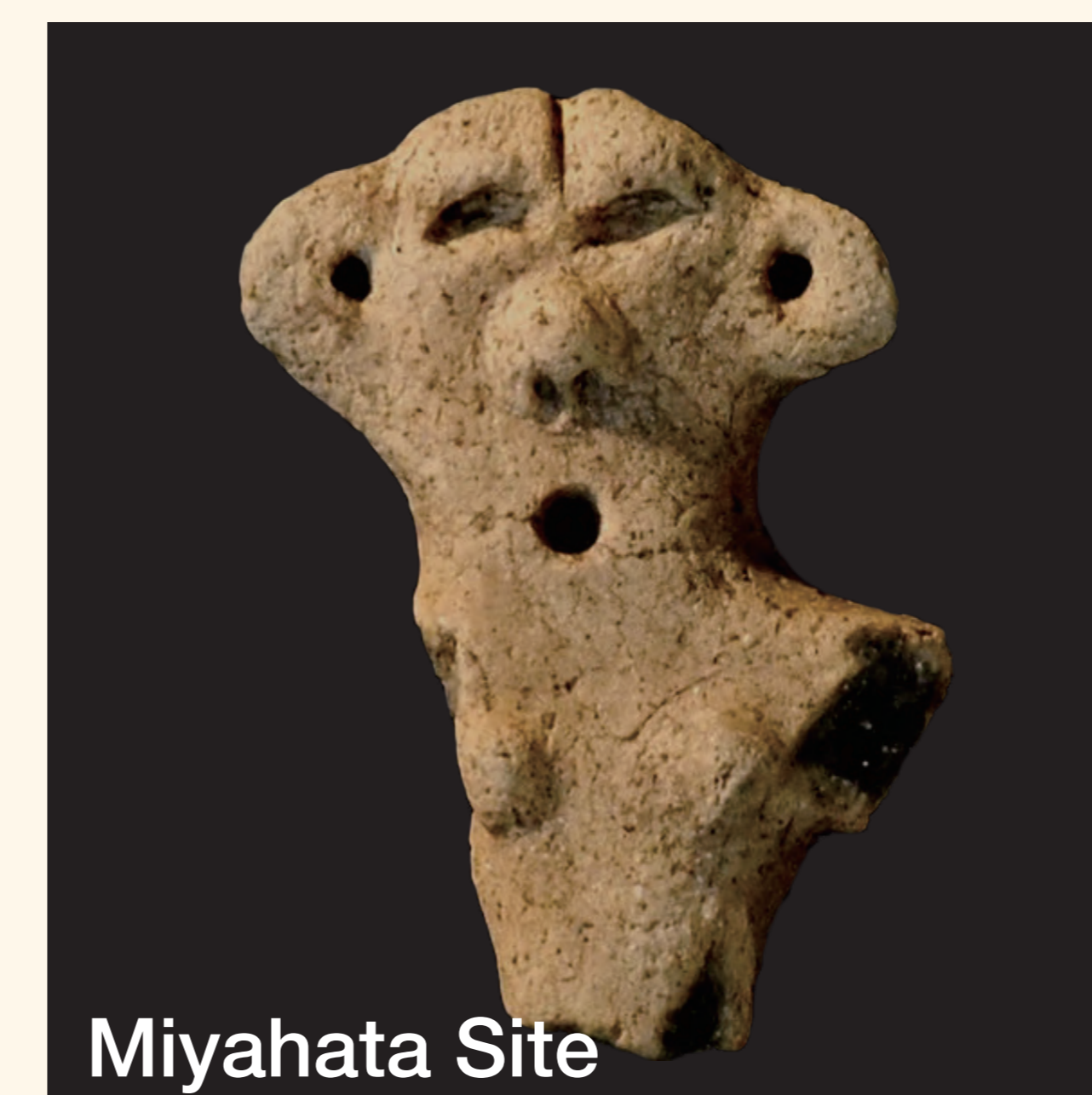
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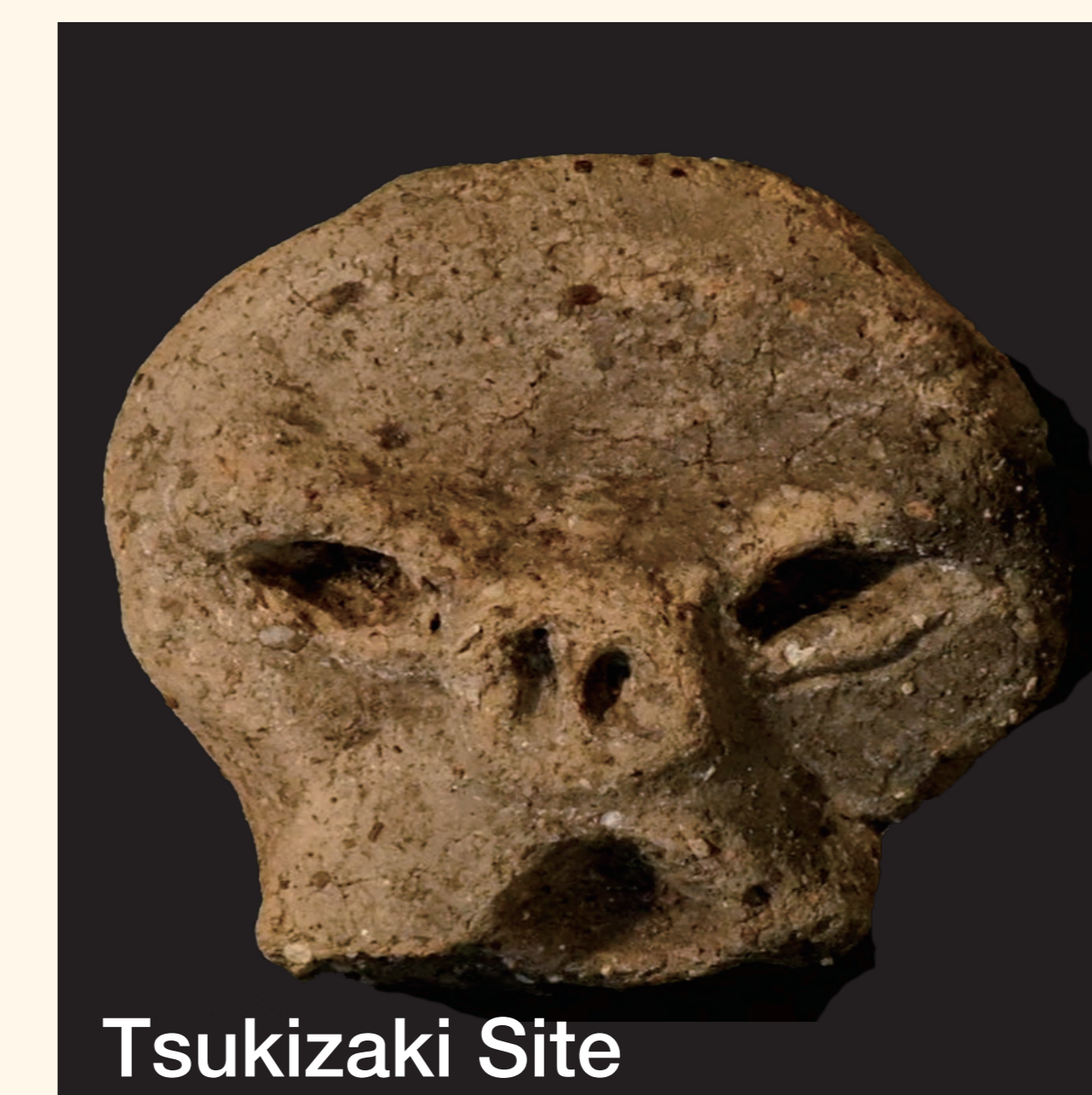
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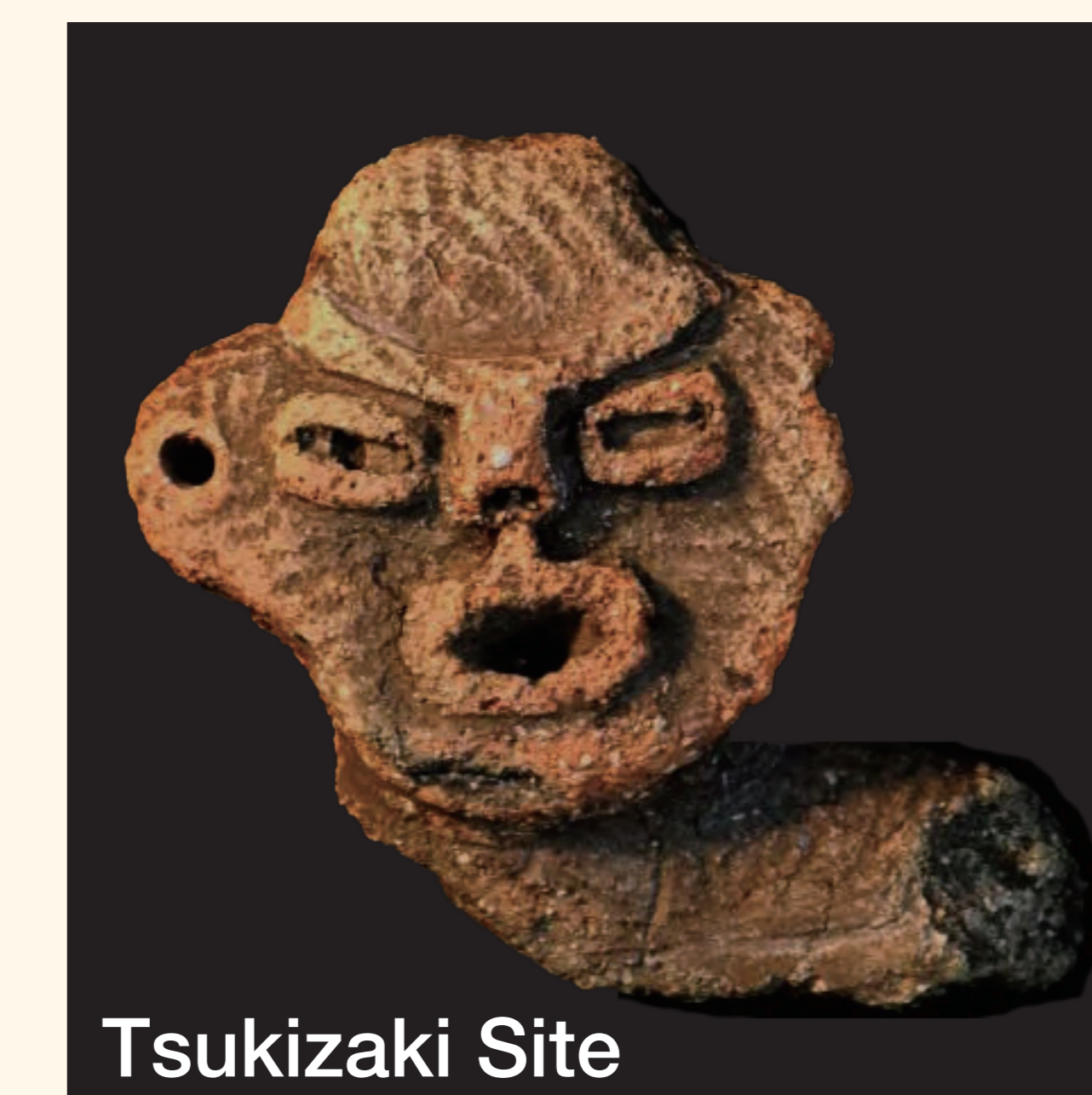
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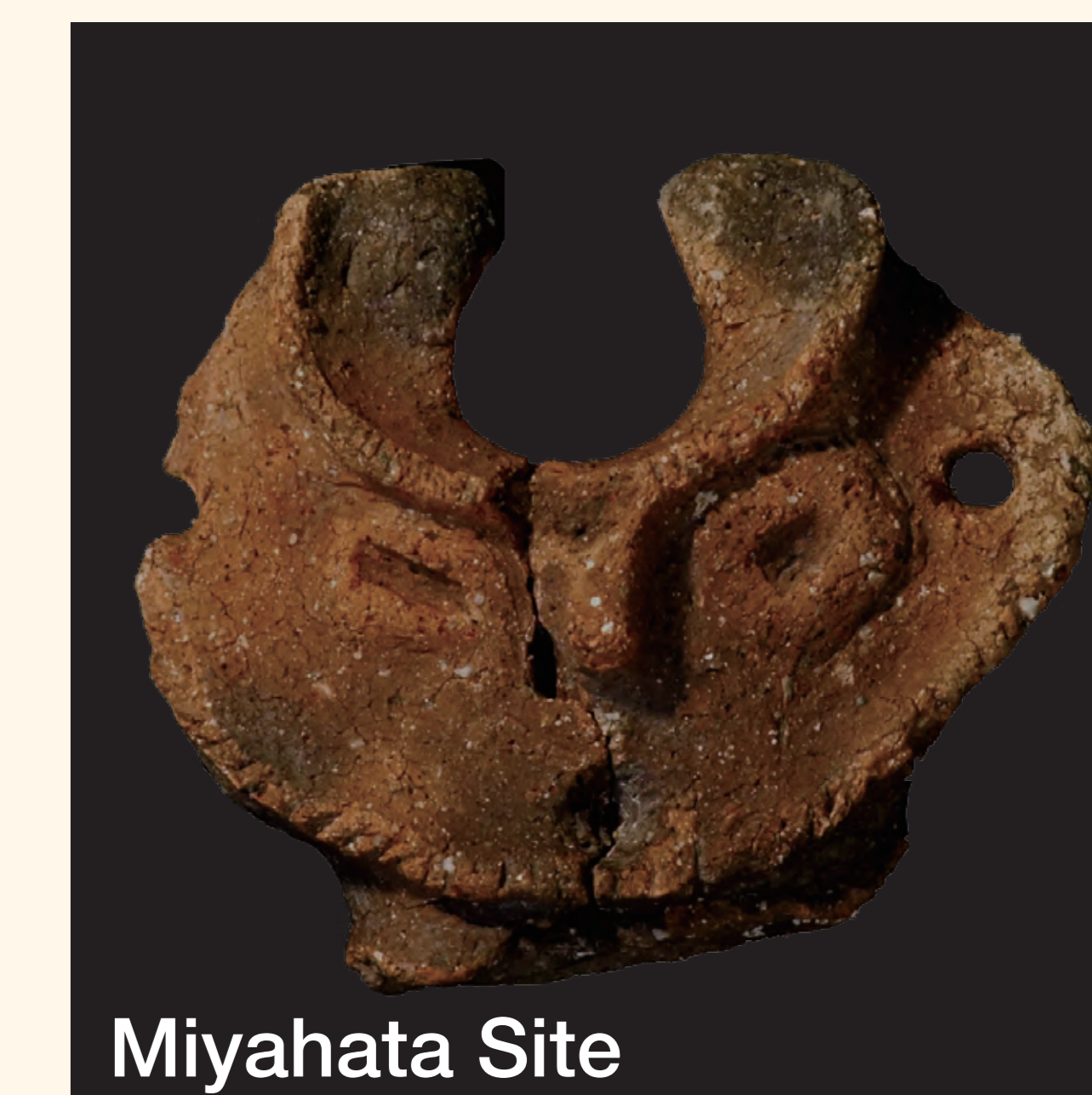
Miyahata Site



Tsukizaki Site



Tsukizaki Site



Miyahata Site

Ear, nose, and mouth-shaped earthen products
(Hatten Site in Iwate prefecture)



They are thought to be parts that were attached to masks made of leather or cloth.

Earthen face
(Tenjinbira Site in Fukushima City)



Earthen faces were thought to have been worn by the Jomon people as masks for prayers and rituals and have also been discovered in Fukushima City.

A person wearing feather decorations
(Goshono Site in Iwate prefecture)



A person wearing feather decorations on their head depicted in pottery. It is thought to have represented the appearance of a shaman.