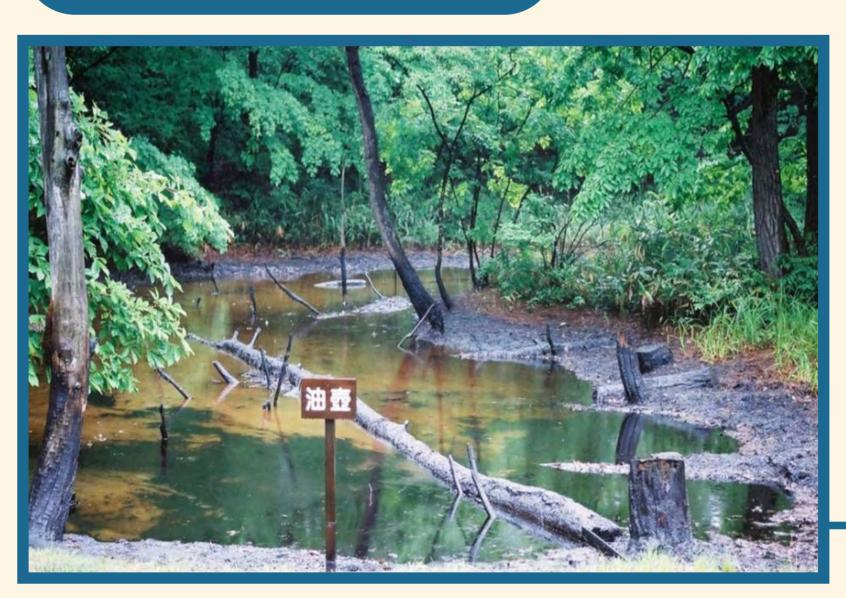
じょう 網文時代に アスファルト? **Asphalt in the Jomon Period?**

Natural asphalt is found in the oil fields on the Sea of Japan coast. In the Toyokawa oil field in Akita Prefecture, large-scale oil drilling was conducted in the Meiji period.



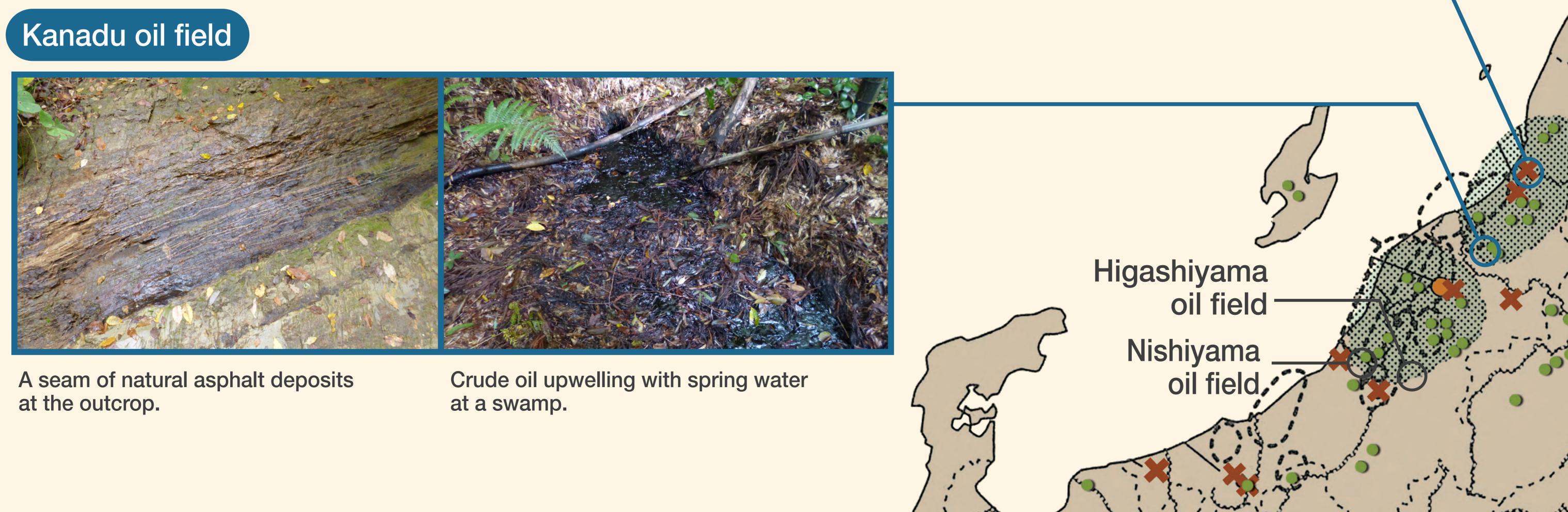
The Toyokawa oil field in the 30th decade of the Meiji period (1897-1906). Dorekisei (natural asphalt) was surface-mined.

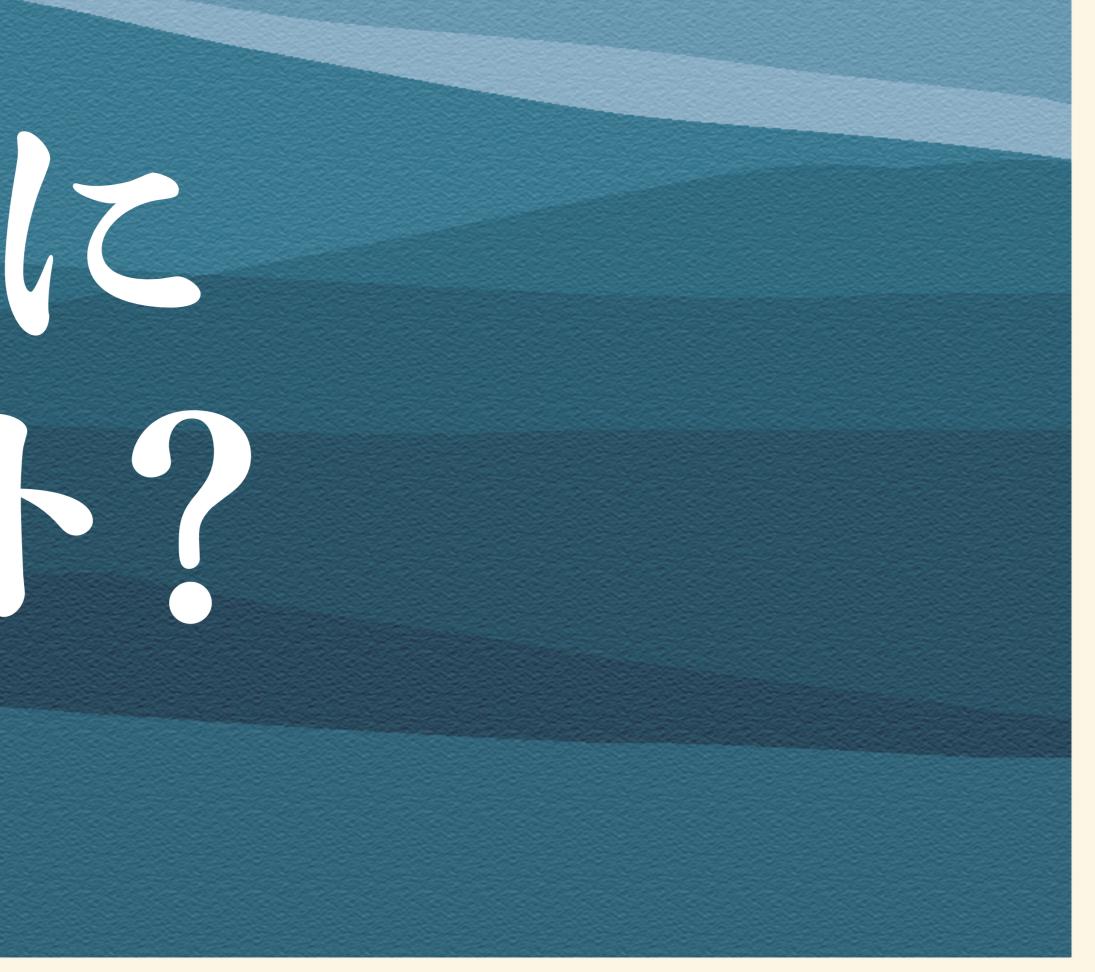
Kurokawa oil field



Crude oil upwelling at an oil cistern.











The current remains of the mining site

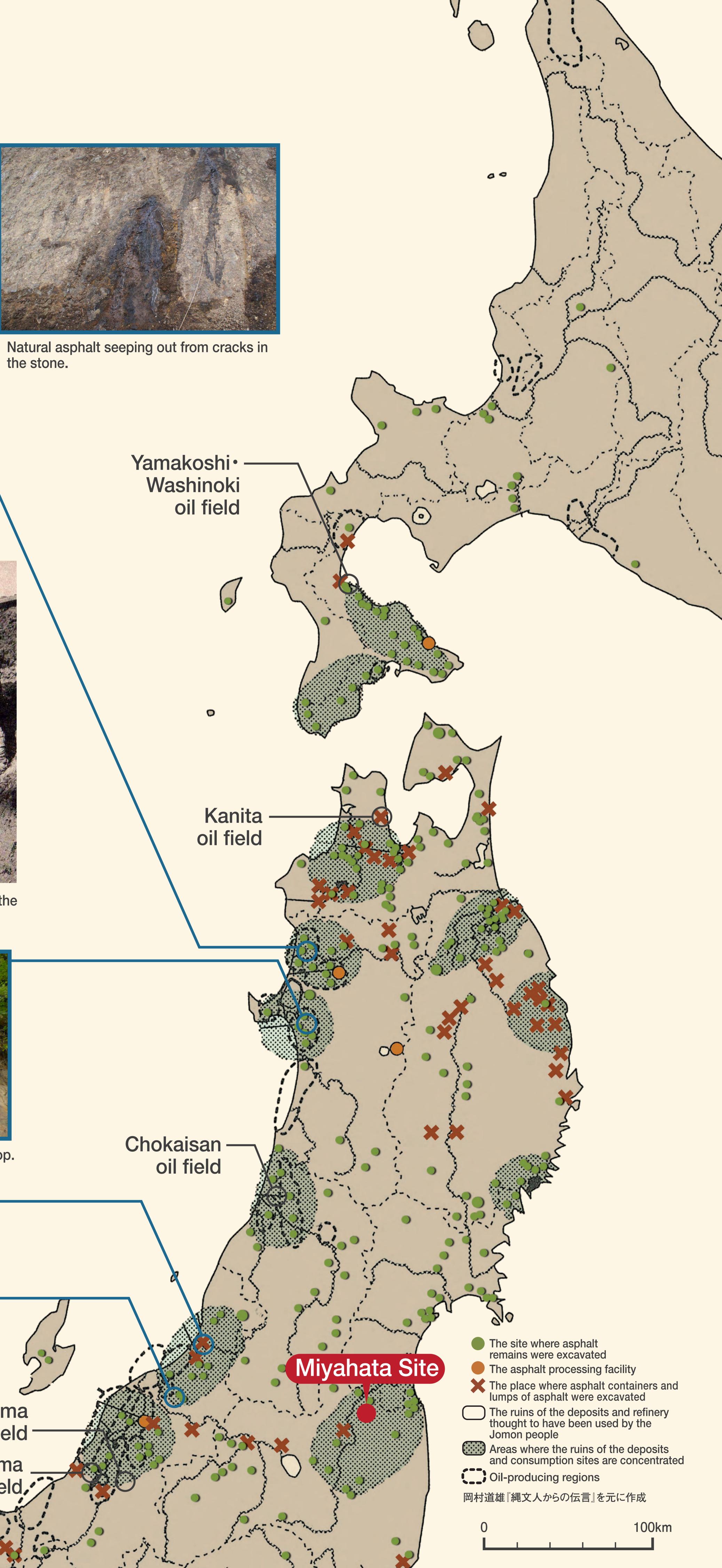
Toyokawa oil field







A panoramic view of oil sands mining site



The mining operation at the Toyokawa oil field in the early Taisho period

Natural asphalt seeping out from the outcrop.