


The Four Northern Islands in Prehistoric Period


The Four Northern Islands belong to the same cultural area as the main island of Hokkaido.

The human footprint in the Four Northern Islands dates back to the Old Stone Age culture of 15,000 years ago. The Jomon culture, which used earthenware, the Epi-Jomon culture, which began using iron, the Okhotsk culture, the Satsumon culture and the Ainu culture


have all passed through the Four Northern Islands, and so far, 132 sites have been discovered. These prehistoric cultures spread from the cultural sphere of each period on the main island of Hokkaido to the Four Northern Islands, with rich regional characteristics.




Pit dwelling ruins at the Yanbetsu Dune Site (from Epi-Jomon to Okhotsk cultures)




Yanbetsu guard house ruins on Kunashiri Island (Meiji to Showa periods)




Nishikishoro Lake Konpira Mountain Chashi (Ainu culture)
Chashi are Ainu forts built from the 13th to the 19th century.




Shimoda-no-sawa-style earthenware (Epi-Jomon culture, excavated on Kunashiri Island)




Okhotsk-style earthenware (Okhotsk culture, excavated on Kunashiri Island)




Stone tools (stone arrowheads, excavated at the Nikishoro site on Kunashiri Island)



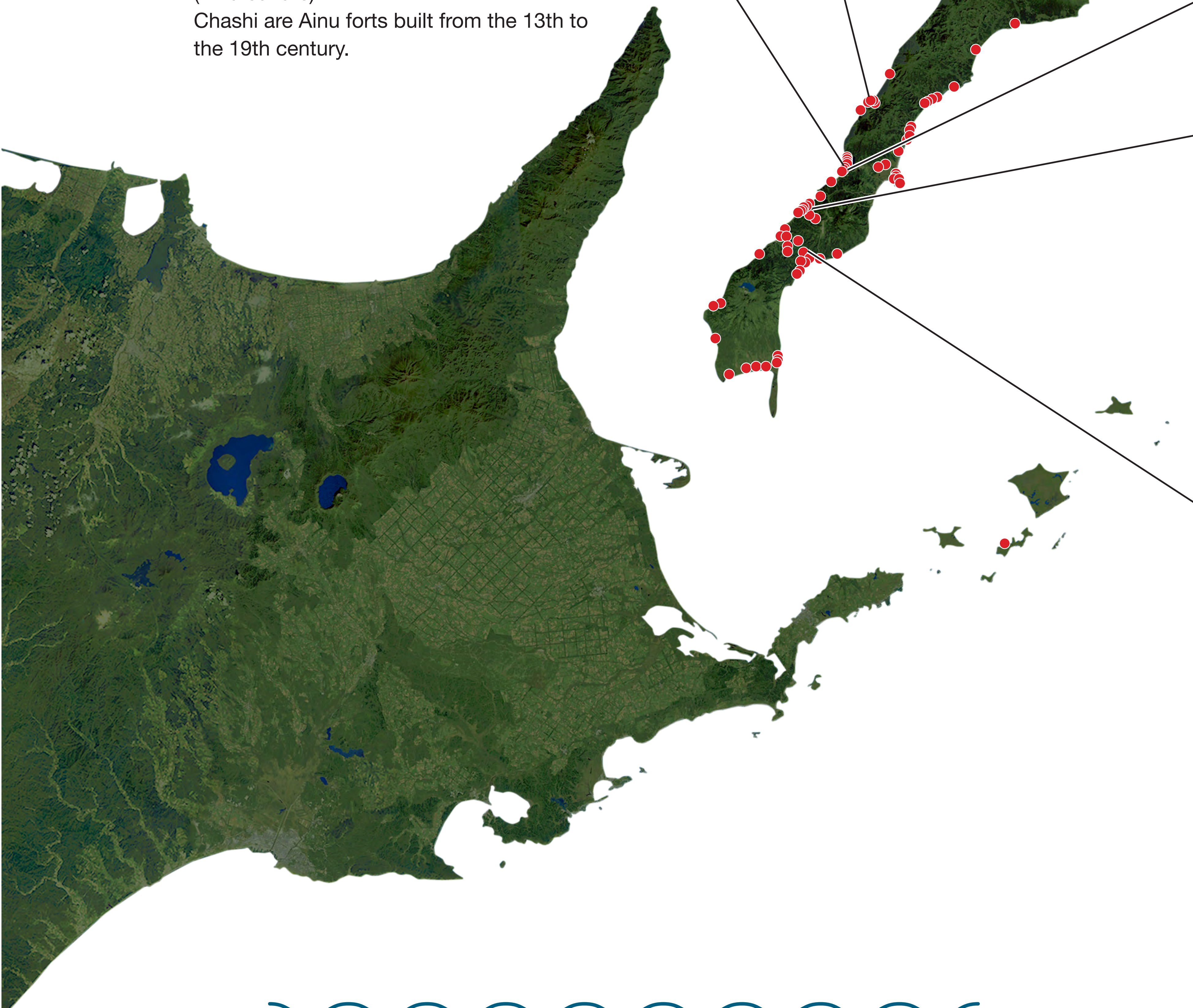
Satsumon earthenware (Satsumon culture, excavated at the Chichikaribetsu site on Kunashiri Island)



Kitazutsu-style earthenware (Jomon culture, excavated at the Tofutsu site on Kunashiri Island)



Stone tools (knives, excavated at the Maiachinui site on Kunashiri Island)



Number of confirmed sites: 132 (94 on Kunashiri Island, 22 on Shikotan Island, 15 on Etorofu Island, 1 on the Habomai Islands)
Photos and archaeological data provided by Ushiro Hiroshi, expert on the history and culture of the Four Northern Islands

The same culture as that of Hokkaido main island has been spreading in the Four Northern Islands since ancient times!

