



The Exhibition Guide of
MOZU MOUNDED TOMBS

in Sakai City Museum



Welcome

The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group was inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage list in 2019. The Mozu Group in Sakai City consists of 44 existing tombs, including 23 mounds shown as 21 properties on Unesco's list.

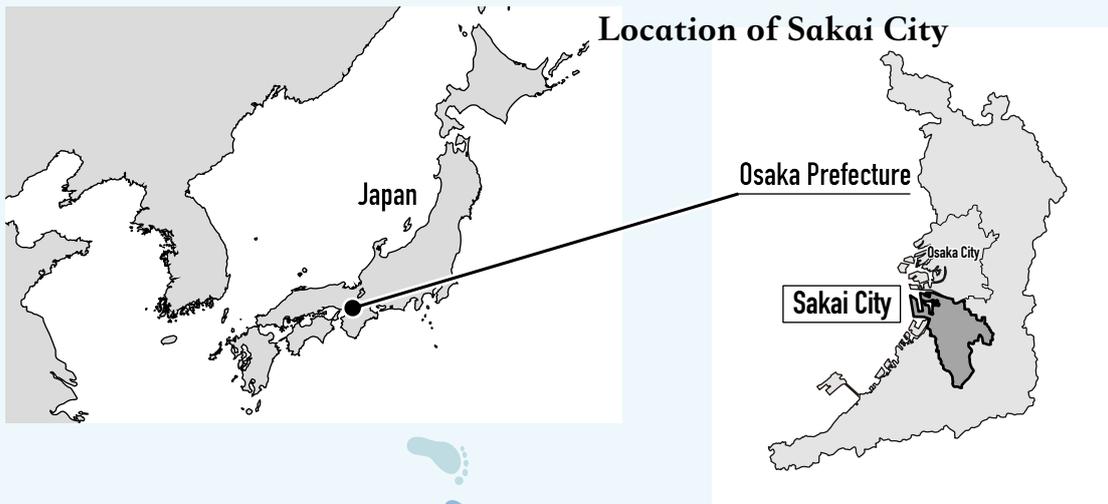
Keyhole mounds, the main Kofun in this group, are considered to be the burial sites of powerful leaders, kings and royal families who lived in the fifth century, and have become attractive monuments that tell many stories of the ancient society in Japan.

At Sakai City Museum, you can experience the charm of the Mozu Mounded Tombs through the original materials on display. In addition, we have produced this booklet in Japanese and English to share the value and importance of the site with as many people as possible.

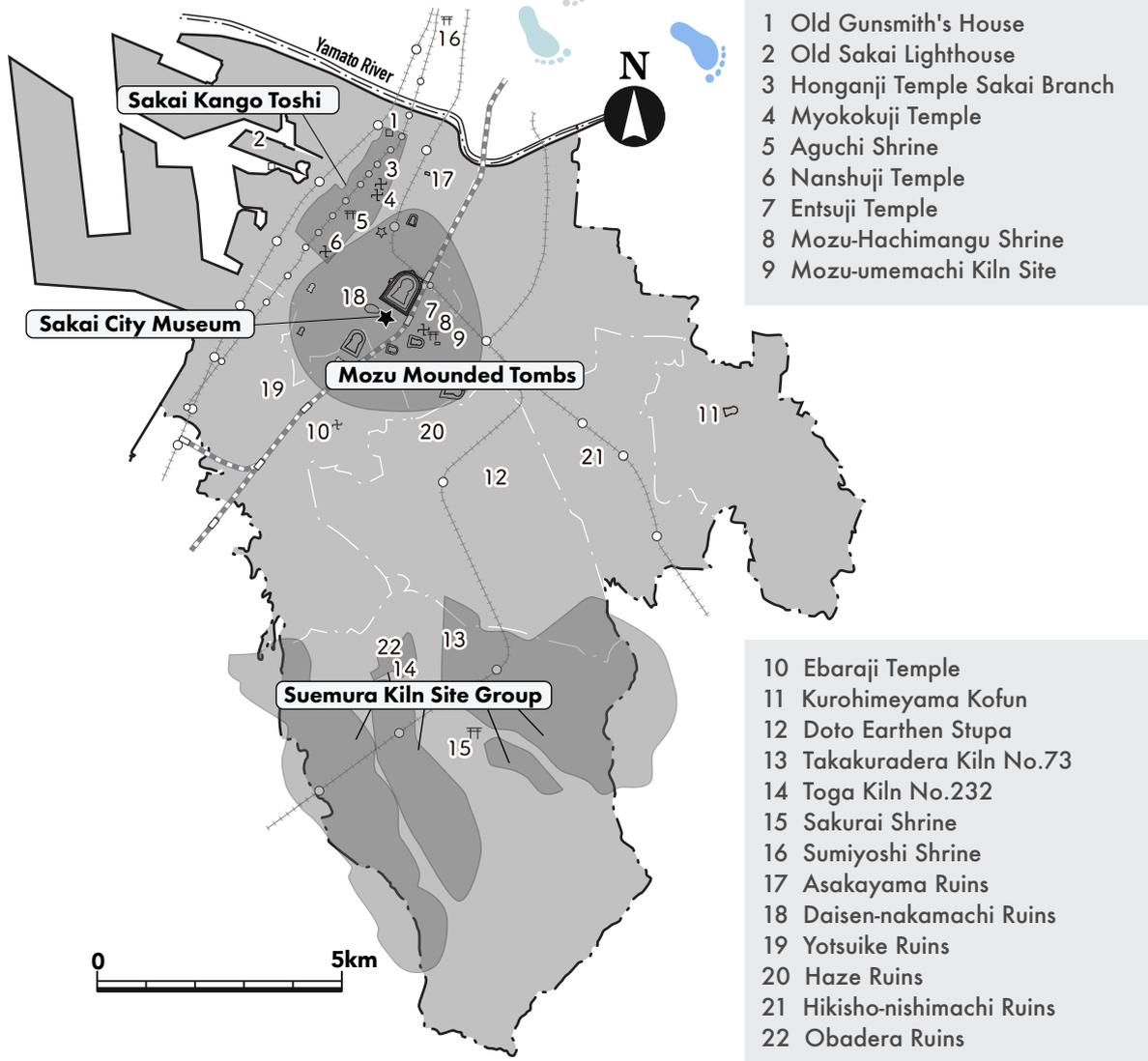
It includes descriptions of the 13 Kofun mounds shown in our permanent exhibition, with each one written and edited by the museum's researchers of archaeology.

We hope this booklet offers a helpful introduction to the Mozu Mounded Tombs.

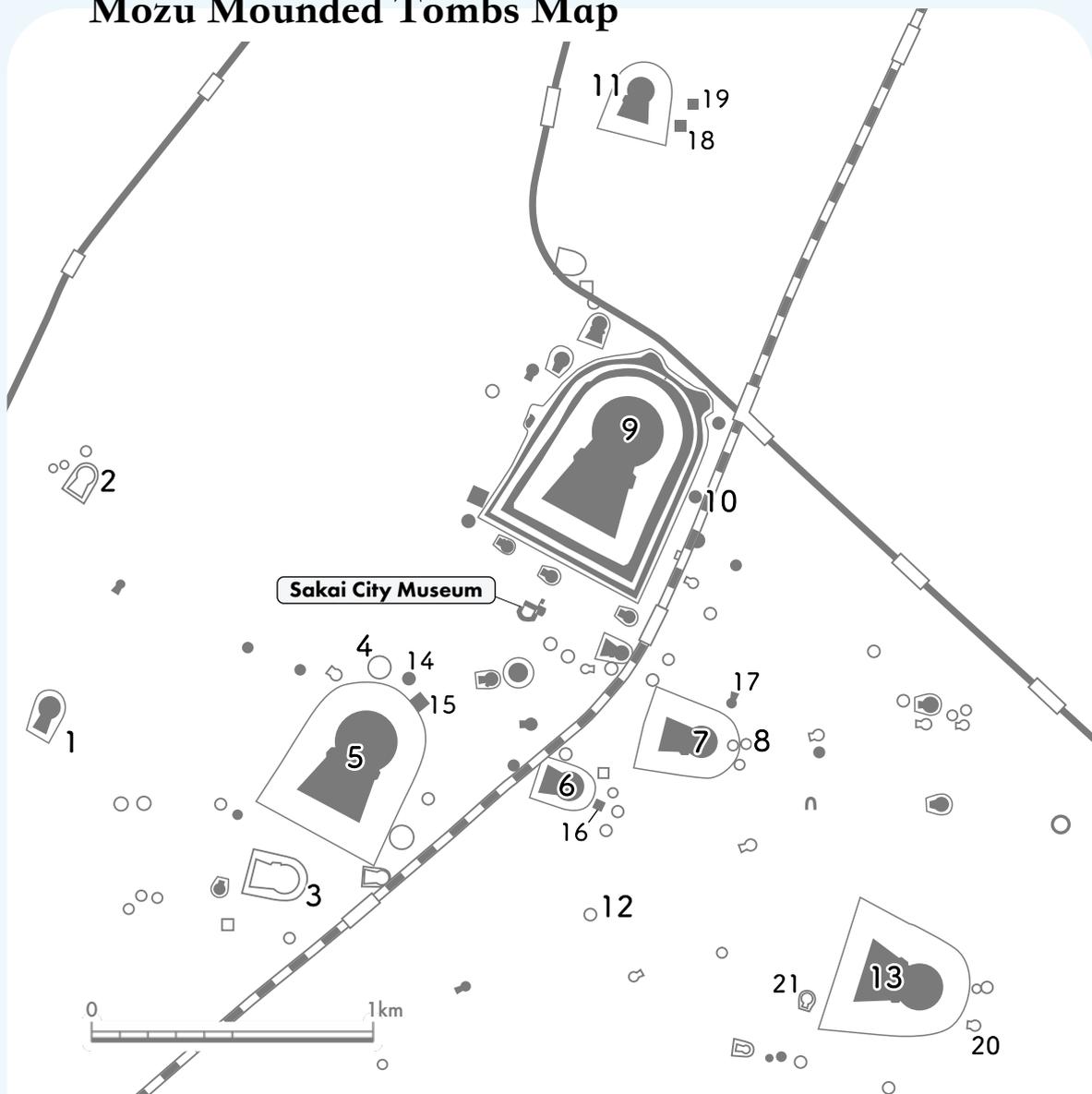
Ken'ichi Sudo,
Director-General of
Sakai City Museum, Osaka



Sakai City Historical Site Map



Moza Mounded Tombs Map



▼ Kofun introduced in this booklet ▼

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Chinooka Kofun | 8 Katombo-yama Kofun |
| 2 Nagayama Kofun | 9 Nintoku Tenno-ryo Kofun |
| 3 Otsukayama Kofun | 10 Tsukamawari Kofun |
| 4 Shichikan'yama Kofun | 11 Hanzei Tenno-ryo Kofun |
| 5 Richu Tenno-ryo Kofun | 12 Akayama Kofun |
| 6 Itasuke Kofun | 13 Nisanzai Kofun |
| 7 Gobyoyama Kofun | |

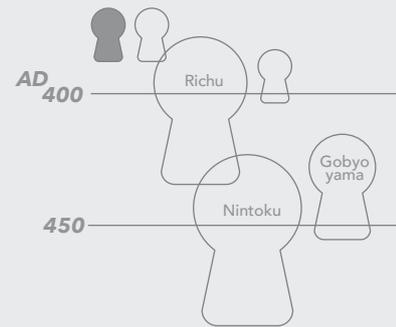
▼ Kofun appearing in explanations ▼

- 14 Shichikannon Kofun
- 15 Terayama-miamiyama Kofun
- 16 Zen'emonyama Kofun
- 17 Mozuyama Kofun
- 18 Suzuyama Kofu
- 19 Tennno Kofun
- 20 Kyozuka Kofun
- 21 Kojiyama Kofun

Chinooka Kofun

1. 乳岡古墳

Shape: Keyhole
Mound length: 155 m
Construction: Late 4th century



The Chinooka Kofun is one of the oldest kofun in the Mozu Mounded Tombs. Located nearer to the coastline of the time, it is considered to have been designed to take account of the view from the sea and the estuary of the Ishizu River. Though the square part of the keyhole shape was lost, most of the round part remains despite having been damaged.



1 Artifacts from Chinooka Kofun

They found a chest-shaped stone coffin at the top of the round part, with bracelet-shaped stone objects unearthed at around it. The coffin was smaller and simple compared to the ones found at other large mounded tombs constructed in the same period. They consider the entombed person might be the local leader of the region, while the giant tombs, which would be constructed later in the land of Mozu-no, entomb the kings, their family and their subjects.

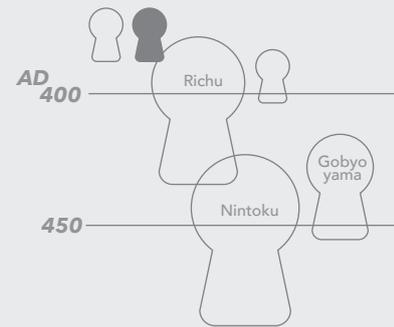


* **kofun**: Mounded tombs constructed in the Japanese archipelago from the middle of the 3rd century to the second half of the 6th century,

Nagayama Kofun

2. 長山古墳

Shape: Keyhole
Mound Length: 110 m
Construction: Late 4th century



The Nagayama Kofun was one of the oldest mounds in the Mozu Mounded Tombs along with the Chinooka Kofun. It was constructed near the coastline of the time; the mound was demolished and is no longer what it used to be.

In the excavation, they confirmed part of the east side of the mound; they also found paving stones along with the larger base stones, which showed the outline of the keyhole shape. They could successfully extrapolate the length of the mound by examining the result of the excavation; as well as the paintings from the Edo period, the aerial photos, and other means. A fragment of bracelet-shaped stone object and *haniwa* were unearthed at the ground of the moat. In addition to plain or flaring-mouthed cylindrical *haniwa*, several representative *haniwa* were unearthed, including house-shaped *haniwa*, shield-shaped *haniwa*, quiver-shaped *haniwa*, and sunshade-shaped *haniwa*.



2 Artifacts from Nagayama Kofun

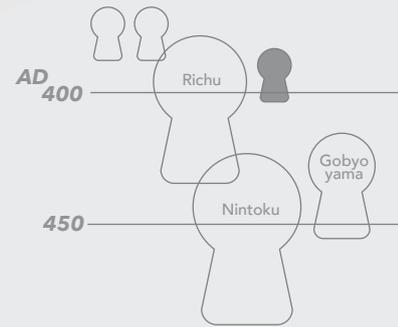


* **haniwa**: Clay figures decorating the mound.

Otsukayama Kofun

3. 大塚山古墳

Shape: Keyhole
Mound Length: 168 m
Construction: Late 4th century



The Otsukayama Kofun was the fifth largest in the Mozu Mounded Tombs. The mound was destroyed due to developments after WWII, entirely disappearing in 1985.

In 1949, in the midst of its being destroyed, an urgent excavation research was conducted by a group of volunteer students led by Mori Koichi, who was to become a renowned archaeologist, when they found eight *nendokaku* clay bed with a large number of burial goods. Among these eight *nendokaku*, those with a coffin that contained human body were two (one in each part of the mound) and the rest six only contained burial goods. Burial goods included mirrors and beads; the most common were arms, armors and tools made of iron.



3 Otsukayama kofun destroyed for land development



* **nendokaku**: Burial facility where a wooden coffin/box was encased in clay to include human body or burial goods.

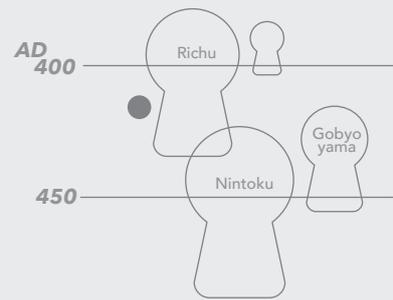


4 Artifacts from Otsukayama kofun

Shichikan'yama Kofun

4. 七観山古墳

Shape: Round
Mound length: 56 m
Construction: early 5th century



Located in the north of the Richu Tenno-ryo Kofun, the Shichikan'yama Kofun is thought to be one of its *baicho*, or satellite mound. The mound was destroyed and lost forever due to the earthworks for the rebuilding in the city after WWII. The site was restored as a monument to represent the lost mound.

In the excavation conducted before the mound was demolished, they unearthed three *nendokaku*, in which a large number of iron products, mainly arms and armors, were found. Among the artifact found, one of the oldest horse gears in Japan, gilt bronze belt fittings, and others are considered to have been obtained through the communication with the Korean peninsula. They seemed to have been densely packed and no evidence of an entombment of a person was found.



5 Restored mound as a viewing platform



6 Replica of gilt bronze belt fittings



* **baicho (satellite mound):** Small mounds constructed adjacently to a large kofun.

Richu Tenno-ryo Kofun

5. 履中天皇陵古墳

Appellation by the Imperial Household Agency:

Richu Tenno Mozu-no Mimihara-no Minami-no Mausoleum

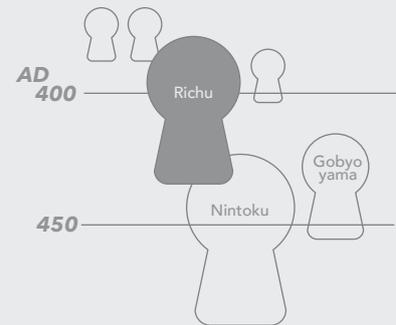
Other names:

Misanzai Kofun, Msasagi-yama Kofun, Suribachi-yama Kofun etc.

Shape: Keyhole

Mound Length: 365 m

Construction: Early 5th century



The Richu Tenno-ryo is the third biggest kofun in Japan. It is considered the firstly constructed king's tomb in the Mozu Mounded Tombs. Though the presence of the burial facility and the burial goods has not been confirmed, a round platform was found on the top of the square part, where they think there might have been a burial facility. A lot of white pebbles and representative *haniwa*, including sunshade-shaped *haniwa*, house-shaped *haniwa*, and quiver-shaped *haniwa*, were found at the platform.



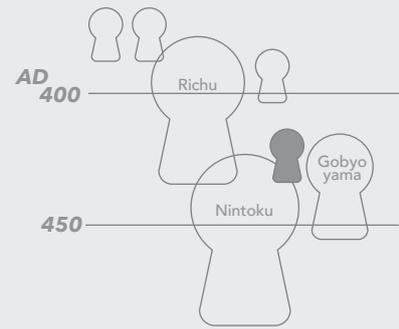
7 The two biggest kofun in Mozu Group

Adding to the existing Shichikannon Kofun (round mound) and Terayama-minamiyama Kofun (square mound) in its vicinity, this mausoleum seems to have had other small vanished mounds, including the Shichikan'yama Kofun, as its satellite mounds.

Itasuke Kofun

6. いたすけ古墳

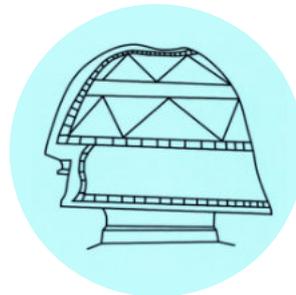
Shape: Keyhole
Mound Length: 146 m
Construction: Early 5th century



In 1955, the Itasuke Kofun was about to be destroyed due to a housing development in this area, but the citizen's campaign for the preservation led by archaeologists helped it to survive, resulting in getting designated as a national historic site next year. This movement impinged greatly on the preservation of the archaeological cultural assets as pioneering in the movement to protect ruins that would emerge nationwide. The *haniwa* in the shape of a keeled helmet, unearthed from the round part, was registered as a tangible cultural property of Sakai in 2001 as the symbol of the preservation of cultural treasures in the city.



8 Haniwa in the shape of a keeled helmet



9 The symbol of the preservation of cultural treasures in Sakai city



10 Itasuke Kofun

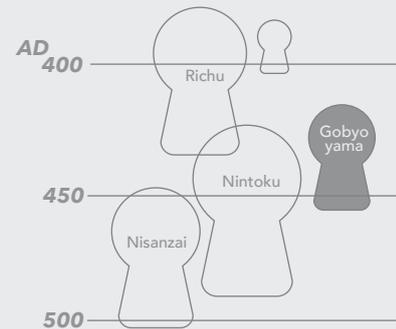
This kofun have had several satellite mounds along its moat but only one mound, the Zen'emon-yama Kofun, is left now.

Gobyoyama Kofun

7. 御廟山古墳

Appellation by the Imperial Household Agency:
Mozu Unidentified Ryobo Site

Shape: Keyhole
Mound Length: 365 m
Construction: Early 5th century



The Gobyoyama Kofun is the fourth largest kofun in the Mozu Mounded Tombs. They consider, judging from the *haniwa* unearthed there, its construction was after the Richu mound and a little before the Nintoku mound. An enclosure-shaped *haniwa* and a house-shaped *haniwa* were excavated at the boundary between the projection and the square part; and a clay object that resembles a cylindrical *haniwa* was found at the boundary between the projection and the round part. This kofun is unique as you can guess how the ritual at the projection was like.

There seems to have been several small kofun around this mound, which are thought to be its satellite mounds, including the Katombo Kofun, but only the Mozuyama Kofun remains now.



11 Gobyoyama Kofun



Unidentified Ryobo Site: A kofun which the Imperial Household Agency consider the possibility of being an imperial tomb (*Ryobo*).



Projection (*tsukuridashi*): A square, stage-like projection built near the constricted part of a keyhole-shaped mound.



Enclosure-shaped Haniwa and House-shaped Haniwa

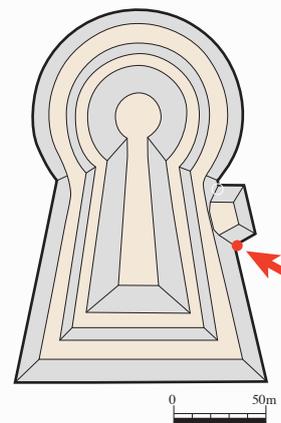
The enclosure-shaped *haniwa* found at the Gobyoyama Kofun represents a wall-like structure that tightly guards a building, which a house-shaped *haniwa* was placed inside. This house-shaped *haniwa* has a roof in the shape of kirizuma with chigi (forked roof finials) and katsuogi (short horizontal logs) on it, dignifiedly made. This type of roof is often found in shrine architecture.

The enclosure-shaped *haniwa* has a structure to hide the inside. The entrance with a gate is located in the recessed corner so you can't look inside at the longer side of the wall. In addition, the entrance was facing to the center of the mound when it was found; so people who saw the kofun from outside may not have noticed that this *haniwa* had an entrance. The house which this *haniwa* was modeled on might also have had a hidden entrance on the back side.

Some of this type of *haniwa* found at other kofun have a design of water conduit in the building, presumably representing the space for a ritual of purified water. This *haniwa* from the Gobyoyama Kofun also appears to represent the place for a ritual, shielded from the outside world.



12 Enclosure-shaped haniwa and house-shaped haniwa



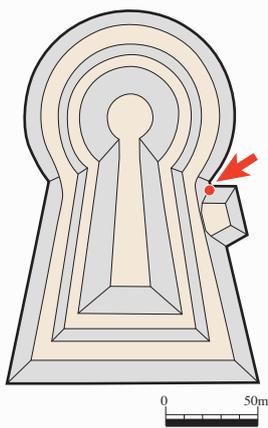
13 The findspot of the haniwa



Cray Object in the shape of cylindrical haniwa

At the Gobyoyama Kofun, they found a clay object that resembled a cylindrical *haniwa*. Unlike ordinary cylindrical *haniwa*, it's as small as 18 cm in diameter of the top and 30 cm in height; its surface is smoothed not by a wooden spatula but by fingers. Edges of the two bands on the trunk are not as sharp as ordinary ones, which have an angular section. Locations it was found and the enclosure and house shaped *haniwa* were found were the right across the projection; it was buried among the paving stones, a stone stuffed inside.

The number of examples of this type found is too few to guess the usage of this item. However, it draws attention because they think this clay object was used for the ritual held around the *tsukuridashi* projection along with the enclosure-house-shaped *haniwa*.



14 The findspot of the clay object



15 Clay object in the shape of cylindrical haniwa and the stone stuffed inside

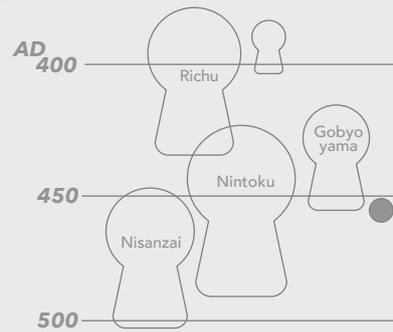
Katomboyama Kofun

8. カトロボ山古墳

Shape: Round

Mound Length: 50 m

Construction: Mid 5th century



The Katomboyama Kofun was a round kofun which had once been in the east of the Gobyoyama Kofun, Though it was constructed after Gobyoyama, the Katomboyama kofun is thought to be its satellite mound.

An urgent research was conducted in 1949 in the midst of its being demolished; and they found a wooden coffin placed in the clay bed while no evidence of entombment was found.

Among the burial goods unearthed were bronze mirrors, arms and tools made of iron, talc product, and others. Especially talc objects were large in number; among them were beads in many kinds of shapes such as 4 comma-with protrusions-shaped beads, 725 comma-shaped beads, more than 20,000 mortar-shaped beads; and objects in the shape of tools, such as 360 knife-shaped objects, and 13 sickle-shaped objects.



16 Artifacts from Katomboyama Kofun

Nintoku Tenno-ryo Kofun

9. 仁徳天皇陵古墳

Appellation by the Imperial Household Agency:

Nintoku Tenno Mozu-no Mimihara-no Naka-no Mausoleum

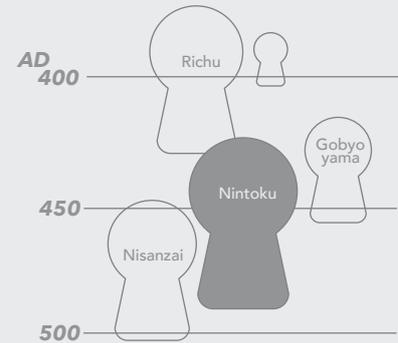
Other names:

Daisen Kofun, Daisen-ryo Kofun etc.

Shape: Keyhole

Mound Length: 486 m

Construction: Mid 5th century



The largest kofun in Japan. It is known as one of the three giant mounded tomb along with the pyramid of Khufu in Egypt, the mausoleum of the first Qin Emperor; it has the largest area among them.



17 Nintoku Tenno-ryo Kofun

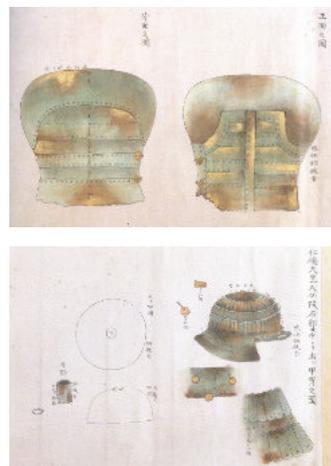


18 Reconstructed model of the chest-shaped stone coffin unearthed from Nintoku Tenno-ryo Kofun

In 1872, a stone compartment was found at the slope of the middle terrace of the square part, in which a chest-shaped stone coffin, armor, swords, and glass vessels were deposited. Though all of these were reburied soon, a detailed, illustrated record was created then, which we can see now. On the other hand, an old record from the Edo period says "there is a stone chest in the north part", which suggests there is another stone coffin for interment at the (north) round part.



19 Reconstructed model of the set of armor



20 Illustrated record of the set of armor



Sue-ware Pot Found At The Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun

A sue-ware pot was found exposed as fragments at the edge of the east projection of the Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun (at the height of 2.2 m from the water of the moat). More pieces with different feature were found, indicating there were plural pots on the projection.

It is probable that this pot was settled on the projection. The features in its shape indicates that it was created in around the mid 5th century, when the production of sue-ware had taken root.

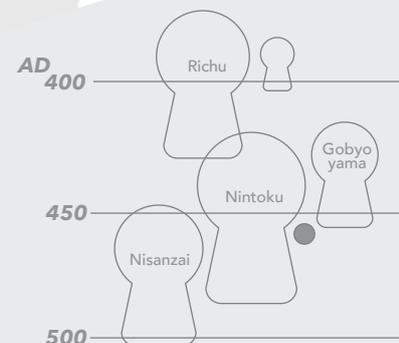


21 Sue-ware Pot

Tsukamawari Kofun

10. 塚廻古墳

Shape: Round
Mound Length: 35 m
Construction: Mid 5th century



The Tsukamawari Kofun, which lies on the east of the Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun, is thought to be one its satellite mounds.

A wooden coffin was found there during the excavation research by Tsuboi Shogoro from Tokyo Imperial University in 1912, along with bronze mirrors; swords; and beads in many shapes (comma-shaped, tubular, round, small, jujube-shaped).

Hanzei Tenno-ryo Kofun

11. 反正天皇陵古墳

Appellation by the Imperial Household Agency:

Hanzei Tenno Mozu-no Mimihara-no Kita-no Mausoleum

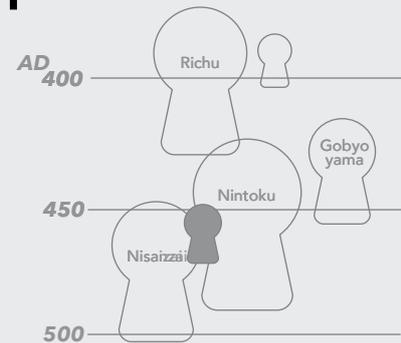
Other names:

Tadeiyama Kofun

Shape: Keyhole

Mound Length: 148 m

Construction: Mid 5th century



It is one of the three tenno-ryo kofun (kofun designated by the IHA as an emperor's tomb), which is located in the northernmost among the Mozu Mounded Tombs. The shape of its square part is broader compared to the Nintoku mound and it resembles those of the Nisanzai Kofun, which would be constructed later. It is surrounded by a single moat now but it is known that it had a double moat. A comma-shaped agate bead, cylindrical *haniwa*, cylindrical *haniwa* with flaring mouth, sunshade-shaped *haniwa*, and human-shaped *haniwa* at the ground of the outer moat.

In the east side are two square kofun, the Suzuyama Kofun and the Tenno Kofun, which are thought to be satellite mounds of the Hanzei Tenno-ryo Kofun.

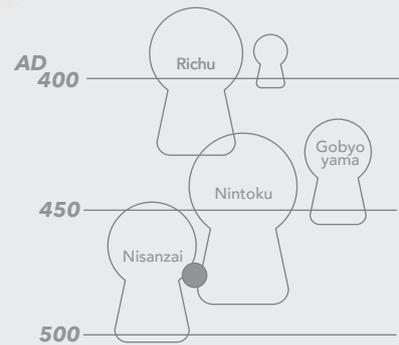


22 Comma-shaped agate bead

Akayama Kofun

12. 赤山古墳

Shape: Round
Mound length: 20 m
Construction: Mid-to-late 5th century



Akayama Kofun was a round kofun with one square projection. Though its mound was thought to have been demolished and lost, it was rediscovered during a road construction.

Haniwa unearthed there were kept in a good condition as they had been installed there: cylindrical *haniwa* were standing upright in a tight line with one flaring-mouth type in every four-to-six plain type. Some of these *haniwa* were incised with animals or symbols on their surfaces; most of these incised motifs were faced to the center of the mound. On the square-shaped projection, cylindrical *haniwa* were lined along its sides; a horse-shaped *haniwa* and a sue ware jar were placed inside the square shape.



23 Horse-shaped haniwa



24 Cylindrical haniwa

Nisanzai Kofun

13. ニサンザイ古墳

Appellation by the Imperial Household Agency:

East Mozu Unidentified Ryobo

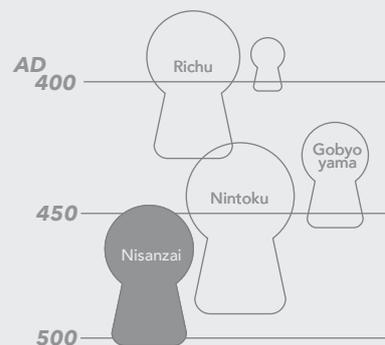
Other names:

Misanzai Kofun, Msasagi-yama Kofun, Suribachi-yama Kofun etc.

Shape: Keyhole

Mound Length: 300 m

Construction: late 5th century



25 Nisanzai Kofun

The last giant kofun constructed in the Mozu Kofun Group. As the third biggest in the Mozu Group and the seventh biggest among all kofun in Japan, it is thought to be the tomb of a king or an equally high-ranked person.

What is remarkable about this kofun is the trace of a wooden bridge found at the moat; seven lines, 12 m wide, of boreholes for piers were discovered on the axis of the square part, between the bank and the mound. It was the first time that a wooden bridge was found at a kofun. They also found fragments of a wooden object in the shape of the ornament of kinugasa, an umbrella for a noble person. Wooden objects easily decompose and are very rare to be unearthed at an archaeological site; which makes this a valuable material for getting an original image of this kofun.

There were some satellite mounds, including the Kyozyuka Kofun and the Kojiyama Kofun, around this kofun but none of them exist anymore.



26 Bridge pier unearthed from the moat of Nisanzai Kofun



27 Fragments of a wooden object in the shape of the ornament of kinugasa

The End Of The Kofun Construction in the Mozu Group

The construction of huge mounded tombs in Mozu area came to an end with the Nisanzai Kofun in the late 5th century. After that, the Hiraizuka Kofun, the last keyhole mound in this area, and some small kofun in its vicinity were built in the early 6th century; several mounds with a passage-style stone chamber were constructed to the south of the Otsukayama Kofun in the late 6th century, which marked the end of all the constructions in this area.

Remains of *haniwa* kilns were found in Hikisho area, about 4 km to the east edge of the Mozu Kofun Group, where large numbers of huge cylindrical *haniwa* and very unique type of representative *haniwa*, with iris in eyes, were produced from the mid-6th century. It is unknown on which kofun those large *haniwa* were intended to be placed.



28 Full view of the Mozu Mounded Tombs

*Owner information of the Exhibits shown in the photos

Photo No.	Ownership
4, 6, 16, 18, 19	Sakai City Museum
20	Private collection deposited in Sakai City Museum
1, 2, 8, 15, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27	Sakai City Cultural Properties Division
12, 21	Imperial Household Agency

Published by **Sakai City Museum**

2 Mozusekiuncho, Sakai-ku, Sakai city, Osaka pref. (inside Daisen Park)

Published in Sep, 2021