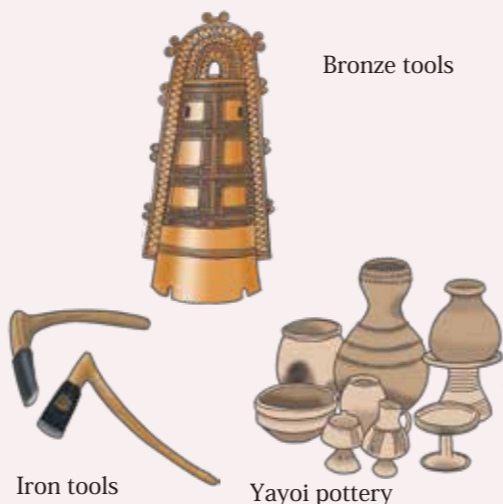


Yayoi period 2800 years ago - 1750 years ago



- Rice-farming from the Korean peninsula
- Migrants from the Korean peninsula
- Starting of wars

Weaving equipment



Bronze tools

Iron tools

Yayoi pottery

- Clothes** Silk and glass beads
- Foods** Rice-farming
- Housing** Ditch around community and 'country' (und)
- Tools** Bronze and iron tools

3. Wars Broke out

During the mid-Yayoi period, various materials and new technologies were brought from the Korean peninsula, such as bronze, iron goods, silk fabric and beads. Among bronze goods were weapons such as daggers and spears called 'dōhoko'. Finally, wars started on the Japanese archipelago. The cause of war was likely to be fighting for materials which make people richer, such as rice and iron. Whist people were fighting, large chiefdoms formed ruling from the centre of a region. Such centres of several regions formed a state (county). There were elites then who were buried with luxurious goods in their graves.



1. Migrants Arrived!

In cooler weather, there were fewer nuts and animals to eat. Jōmon people who were eating food which they hunted for and gathered in nature would have struggled to survive. Around the same time, rice-farming started on the Korean peninsula (the present Korean peninsula), too, but it was becoming too cold for growing rice. Those people might have thought about moving to somewhere warmer. Korean fishing communities were probably welcome to move to northern Kyushu. Migrants started to live along with local people.



4. Prayers and New Cultures

Once rice-farming started, goods used for Jōmon rituals disappeared and new types of prayers and rituals were practised. Korean-style small bronze bells were made into the Yayoi-style, called 'dōtaku', and these bells may have been tolled for the gods at their rituals. A new type of grave was made with wood and stone coffins as well.



2. Rice-farming

Migrants from the Korean peninsula started to grow rice on rice paddies along with local people. Rice can be stored for a long period so that people no longer needed to worry about a lack of food. Rice-farming spread fast across western Japan. Along with farming techniques Korean-style pottery and stone tools were brought from the Korean peninsula. However, eastern Japan and the southern Kyūshū and Okinawan islands are not suited to rice-farming because of volcanic ash or coral deposits in the soil. It was too cold in Hokkaido in the north for rice-farming, too. People in such regions adapted their lifestyle to the climate and also traded with rice-farming people.



5. Joining the International Community

Northern Kyūshū elites sent their envoys to Han China via the Korean peninsula and received various goods back. Around that time, the Japanese archipelago was called 'Wa', and the people 'wajin'. It was during the Yayoi period that official exchanges were established with China. Various goods from China and the Korean peninsula have been discovered in western Japan, especially northern Kyūshū. At the end of the second century AD (or CE), when a lot of fighting was going on within Wa, Himiko became the shamanic chief-woman of Japan and united the country. According to a document called the 'Account of Wa', Himiko sent her envoy to Wei China and received various souvenirs. However, the locations where Himiko lived are still unknown.

