

Obsidian around Yatsugatake

Obsidian is a natural volcanic glass resulted from the rapid cooling of lava. Generally, the lava containing over 70 % siliceous element yields the obsidian.

Obsidian had been used for stone tools from the Palaeolithic period in Japanese archipelago.

Mt. Yatsugatake and Kirigamine are said that the one of the largest sources of obsidian among Honshu island exists. Also the caches of raw obsidian carried by the Jomon people have been found in many Jomon sites located at the foot of those mountains.



A cache of raw obsidian unearthed from the Kitayama-Shobuzawa A site (End of the Early Jomon: B.C. 3500)



A cache of raw obsidian unearthed from the No. 108 pit dwelling of the Tanabatake site (Middle Jomon: B.C. 3000)