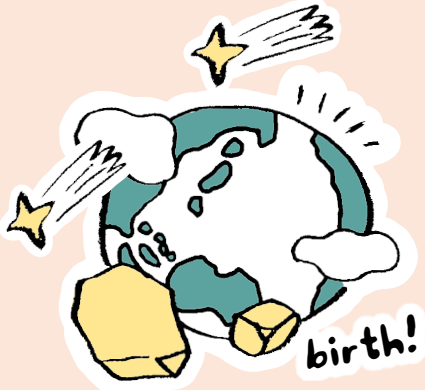


# Komatsu's Heritage of Stone

We are proud to announce that Komatsu's Heritage of Stone has been certified as a JAPAN HERITAGE! This ancient tale (20 million years old in fact!) has been passed down till today. Learn about it here!



## 4 Economic revitalization through mining

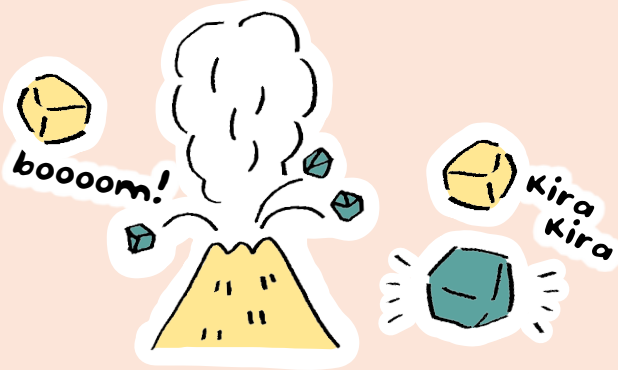
A point of pride for Komatsu was Ogoya Copper Mine, which had the highest domestic production volume. With the financial support of the Yokoyama family, Komatsu and the surrounding regions experienced an economic and cultural boom. The Yusenji Copper Mine was managed by Takeuchi Meitaro, who entered the mining machinery production industry, establishing Komatsu Seisakusho. (present day Komatsu Ltd.)

## 5 Kanagaso stones spread nationwide

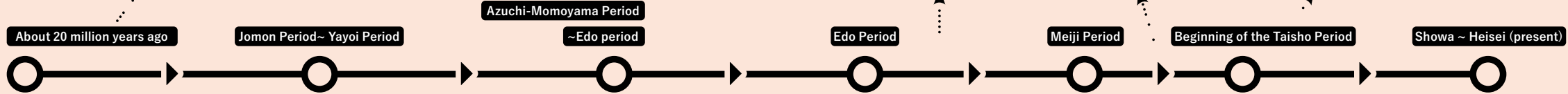
The Kanagaso stone (aka Nikka stone) began exporting to the Kanto and Kansai regions around this time. The stone has a good durability and resistance to moisture, and a distinctive warm yellow shade. It has been used in the construction of many well-known buildings including the National Diet Building.

## 1 The Komatsu region is a treasure trove of minerals

Due to active tectonic movements, volcanic activity becomes widespread along the Sea of Japan coast. This produced various minerals such as gold, copper, jasper, agate, quartz and other precious stones. And most importantly it create the raw ceramic used to make Kutaniyaki!



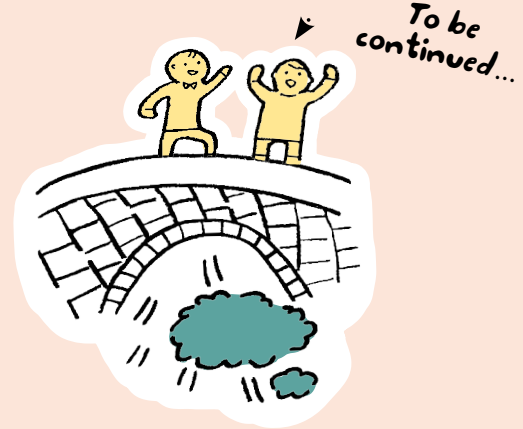
**[Takeuchi Meitaro]**  
From running the leading domestic Yusenji Copper Mine, to founding the company that would later become one of the top construction machinery companies in the world.



**[Lord Maeda Toshitsune]**  
The 3rd feudal Kaga lord, who supported the foundation upon which Komatsu's rich cultural heritage and traditional industries are built upon.



**[Honda Teikichi]**  
A potter from Shimabara in Kyushu, he discovered the hanasaka stone over 200 years ago, reviving the kutaniyaki industry.



## 2 The greenback of ancient Japan

During the Jomon period, arrowheads and the like were made of locally found rhyolite rock. Later, the Yayoi period saw cylinder beads made from Jasper and comma-shaped beads known as magatama made from emerald. Over 500kg worth of these beads have been excavated from the Yokaichi Jikata site.

## 3 A beautiful patchwork of stone

Built for Lord Maeda Toshitsune's retirement, Komatsu Castle's showcased the latest in stonemasonry of that time. The stone walls of the main keep and guard tower both were built using a precise technique that allowed the building stones to lie completely flush against each other. Stones from Tomuro, Kanazawa and Ugawa in Komatsu were used to create the patch-worked design.

## 6 The birth of Japan Kutani

The highly coveted Japan Kutani, a style of Kutaniyaki, from the Meiji Period was made from the Hanasaka stone quarried from the local Hanasaka district. The techniques used to process the stone into potter's clay is still the same today as it was then.

## 7 Connecting from the past to present

"There are various places around Komatsu where the Heritage of Stone still can be felt. From the stone warehouses and walls, to the arch bridge in Takigahara and the scattered quarries, to the various craftsmanship, our heritage still lives and breathes today. Why not take an adventure around Komatsu to learn more? Oh! And don't forget to bring along this book too!"