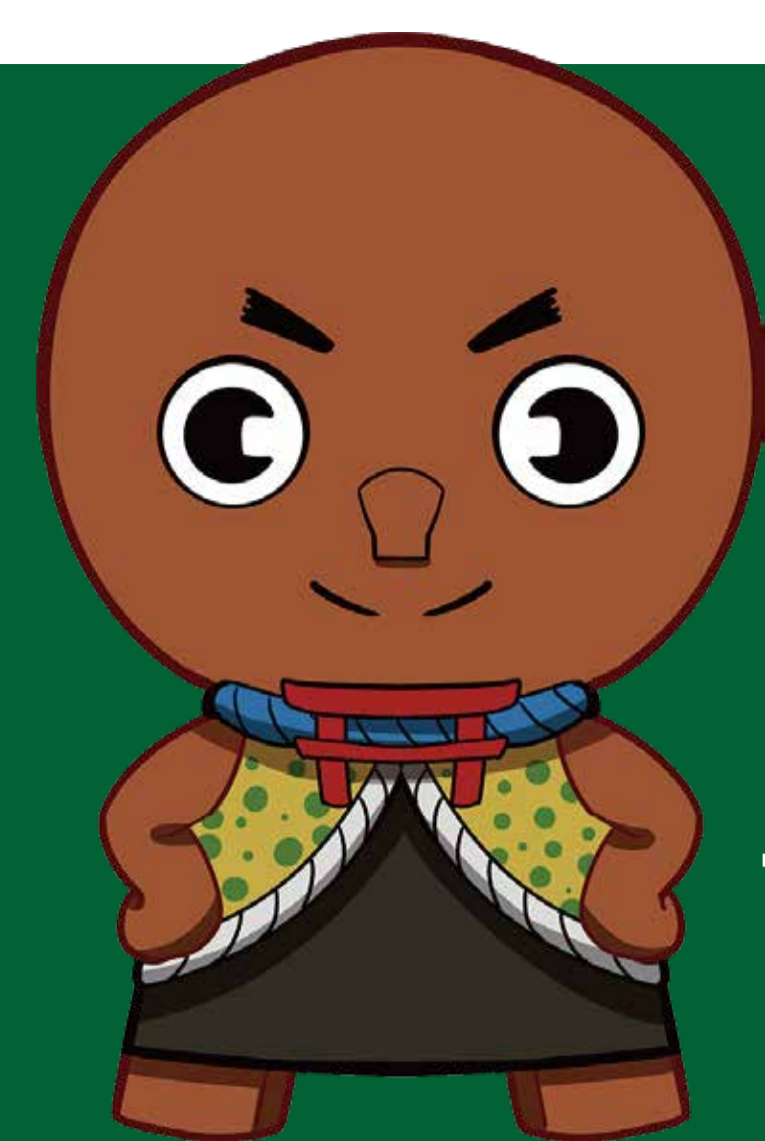




Romanto-kun



Tojin-maru



Tsuka-ji

Ancient Kofun at the southernmost tip of Japan Tsukazaki Kofun

At the Tsukazaki Kofun Cluster, a total of 59 kofuns have been verified, including five Zempokoenfun (keyhole-shaped burial mound) and 54 round kofuns, as well as 29 subterranean corridor-type tombs unique to the southern regions of Kyushu.

No. 11 is the oldest Zempokoenfun in Osumi, measuring approximately 56 meters in length. The top of the mound features stones known as "fuki-ishi," which cover the kofun.

No. 51, Hanamure Kofun, is the southernmost Zempokoenfun in Japan and the largest in the Tsukazaki Kofun Cluster. It measures approximately 71 meters in length and was built last among the group. Later, a large Zempokoenfun emerged in the Tojin Kofun Cluster, located on the opposite side of the River Kimotsuki.

Additionally, jar-shaped terracotta figures and Kinai-style earthenware dating back to the fourth century have been found in Kofuns Nos. 25 and 31. These discoveries suggest that the Tsukazaki Kofun Cluster is the oldest of its kind in the Osumi region and represents a significant historical site. They indicate that the southern area of Kyushu had interactions with the Kinai factions, specifically Nara and Osaka, from the outset, which were the centers of Kofun construction.

After the fifth century, when Zempokoenfun was no longer constructed in Tsukazaki, round kofuns and subterranean corridor-type tombs began to be built.

Significant Sue pottery jars from Osaka and Ehime were discovered in Kofun No. 41. This indicates that notable figures were interred in the Tsukazaki Kofun Cluster, even after the construction of Zempokoenfun had ceased.

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