

## Modern Jomon Zoos and Aquariums

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The Jomon period is the time in Japanese prehistory, continued for more than 10,000 years from around 13,000 BCE in Japan. The Jomon period named after Jomon pottery. Jomon means “cord marks”. The pottery used in this era was called the Jomon pottery. Its surface is decorated with cord-pattern impressions and is generally accepted as the oldest pottery in the world.

The People in the Jomon period did not rely on agriculture and lived mainly by hunting, fishing and gathering nuts and roots which were safe to eat. In the world history, the Jomon period corresponds to the Neolithic Age. People settled by making villages, living a life coexisting with nature. The Jomon people respected nature surrounding them, such as giant trees, giant rocks, mountains and earth and that idea is still living in Shintoism which is an ancient religion of Japan and still practiced today. Modern Japanese people also believe that spiritual powers exist in the natural world like the Jomon people.

Currently, the human environment is falling into a state of crisis due to our human activities, such as climate exchange, destruction of the rainforest, desertification and destruction of ozone layer etc.

In reviewing our lives that require massive energy, I think that it is necessary to reconsider the view of nature of the Jomon people who had been engaged in a sustainable life and to make use of it in the activities of modern zoos and aquariums.