

Pre-settlement History



Before the settlement of Shibetsu by the *tondenhei* settlers, the indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido lived on this land. We know this from the historical records left to us by Kondo Juzo, Mamiya Rinzo, and Matsuura Takeshiro who conducted expeditions to the area in the Edo period.



In particular, the Diary of Teshio District (*Teshio Nisshi*) written by Matsuura Takeshiro, the man responsible for giving the island of Hokkaido its name, provides a detailed account of Shibetsu during the time of his expedition. From these accounts, we are able to know about the lifestyle of the Ainu people who lived in Shibetsu at the time, including details about their traditional rituals and diet, as well as about the natural environment of Shibetsu before it was settled.