

Excavated pieces

The age of the ruins where shogi pieces were excavated ranges from the late Heian period (794 to 1185) to the Edo period (1603 to 1868). Excavated artifacts from the Kinowasaku ruins (now in Sakata City) are particularly interesting as they show that shogi spread to the Tohoku region in the latter half of the Heian period. The majority of unearthed pieces date to the Azuchi-Momoyama period (1568 to 1600), and many of them are from the ruins of residences and castles, including the well-known pieces excavated from the Asakura clan ruins (now in Fukui City). This implies that shogi, which had been played among aristocrats and monks until then, spread to the samurai class at that time.