

A roughly 2.8-meter-high statue of the Dainichi Nyorai (National Treasure) in the Furuzono Cluster of Stone Buddhas, Usuki City, Oita Prefecture



A *suseki* stone suggestive of "mountains afar"



Japan's Rich Culture of Stone



The former Oya stone quarry at the Oya History Museum, Utsunomiya City, Tochigi Prefecture



A mosaic in the Central Hall of the National Diet Building, Tokyo

Photos: Courtesy of Usuki City; Courtesy of Nippon Suseki Association; Courtesy of Utsunomiya City; Courtesy of the House of Councillors, The National Diet of Japan

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ince ancient times, Japanese people have made extensive use of stones of different kinds as materials for tools, construction, and handicrafts. In this month's issue, we look at some of the characteristic features and uses of stones in Japanese culture.

