

Learning of Nishi-Izu area via Geopark Activities in Matsuzaki High School

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The Izu Peninsula joined JGN in 2012. Before that year we started Geopark activities in Matsuzaki High School. We try to keep tanada (rice terrace) culture in Matsuzaki and to maintain the environment of undeveloped mountains in Nishiizu in the curriculum for the period of integrated study. These initiatives are for the preservation of nature and the traditional culture of the Nishi-Izu area. In Science Club, we learned about the specific geology of the Izu Peninsula via Geopark activities. For example, we preserved pillow lava, which is one of the oldest strata in the Izu area, with local residents. We cleaned up there with them and explained the history of the formation of pillow lava to elementary school children. To inform the very important geosite, Ishiki area, we prepared a pamphlet about Ishiki Pillow Lava both in Japanese and English. These pamphlets are written in very easy words so children and foreign tourists can recognize its importance. We also prepared a Geo Carta Game dealing with Nishi-Izu area culture based on ground and nature and we played the carta games in a symposium and geo camp on the Izu Peninsula. There are so many special products, beautiful scenery, and traditional events in this area, and we try to introduce such customs to other people. Other activities and survey for the people of Nishi-izu are also discussed.