

Recognition Investigations of Elementary and Junior High School Students on Volcanoes in Non-volcanic Regions.

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This study reports results of recognition investigations on volcano in non-volcanic regions, intended for elementary and junior high school students. Although in active volcanic regions volcanoes often induce disasters and thus the volcano education becomes very important, peoples living in non-active volcanic regions seem to have no respect or interest to volcano and its activity in general. Understanding the recognitions on volcano is important to development of teaching materials.

Our investigations of recognition on volcano were operated at two private schools in using a questionnaire paper, intended for 35 elementary school students higher than third grade and 35 junior high school students. For comparison, 34 university students were also investigated.

The results of investigations indicate that juvenile students have understandings which there are many volcanoes in Japan and the volcanic activity influences people's life deeply. On the contrary, juvenile students are thinking that their lives have no relation to volcanic activity. In addition, the results show juvenile students have little interest on learning volcano and its activity.

To develop teaching materials is important to educate volcano in non-volcanic regions, based on our recognition investigations. Therefore we consider that the learning about contributions and benefits of ancient volcanic activity to the regional natural history may be one of an efficient method to understand volcano and its activity in non-volcanic regions.