

A significance in education of Earth science using animations of crustal deformation in Japan

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After 3.11 earthquake in Tohoku, Japanese people realize that they do not know much about crustal deformation in Japan continuously occurring and they do not know how to prepare for big earthquakes. One of the reasons of this problem is the fact that the crustal deformations in Japan are not taught properly in elementary schools. If these things are properly taught, the preparation for big earthquakes would be much easier to do in the near future.

In this study, we created 3D animation for Japanese crustal deformation using GPS data obtained by Geographical Survey Institute of Japan(GSI), and make it easier for school children to understand the Japanese crustal motions. The GSI already had created 3D animation of Japan for only limited time and area, whereas we can make animations for any given time and area of available GPS data. The newly created animations helped to understand the detailed crustal deformation in Japan.

Using these animation in elementary school education, we hope people change their attitude toward the nature, especially toward the earthquakes, and fewer people lose thier lives in big earthquakes like 3.11 tohoku earthquake.

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