

## For the diffusion of map literacy, let's use maps in school more.

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Maps are widely used as digital contents recently. The progress of the ubiquitous mapping technology gives us a lot of convenience. In such era, the importance of the acquirement of map literacy is getting bigger. It is desirable that people have a lot of chances to see and use maps from their childhood and get map literacy well.

Japanese children learn maps mainly in the class of geography field of the school subject "social studies" in elementary school and junior high school, and "geography" in high school. The systematic map studies are suitable to be done in the geography class, the usage of maps, however, is not be, and should not be, limited in the geography class. It is of great value to use maps in any activities other than geography class in school life.

There are two problems for the promotion of map usage in schools:

- 1) Large part of school teachers have had no (or very little) cartography education in universities, and they are not familiar with maps.
- 2) Even though a teacher has rich knowledge of cartography, he/she does not know how to use maps well in various school life as well as in geography class. There is no guidebook for such teachers.

The "JCA (Japan Cartographers Association) -JMC (Japan Map Center) Joint Working Group on the Promotion of Map Usage in Schools" started its activity in 2008 for the improvement such situation. Since then, the members of the WG have collected actual examples and ideas of good map usage in schools, and edited short articles each of which shows an individual case written by the WG members and teachers. The articles were serialized from April, 2009 to March, 2011 in the monthly magazine *Chizu Chushin* published by JMC.