

Cooperation between Earth Planetary Sciences and Science Education

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Recently many reports have suggested that academic ability fall, losing interest in science and fall of study volition became serious situation in Japanese students. Children in Japan will learn subjects related to the Earth and Planetary Sciences only at grade 4 elementary school and grade 3 in junior high school. The advanced study of Earth and Planetary Sciences will be limited to students who will select subjects such as rika sougou B, chigaku IA or IB. The new subject rika sougou B will be introduced from April, 2003 for 1st grade high school students. This subject deals with life on the earth and their environments, history of life and the earth, and earth's environmental problems. Although these subjects are regarded to be important, the high school teachers are either earth science specialists or bioscience specialists so that they should need to take training to teach new interdisciplinary subjects. In order to assist high school teachers as well as students who take courses of rika sougou B, web-based teaching materials has been developed. In addition to these materials, web-based teaching materials of the elementary and junior high school subjects related to the rika sougou B has also been developed. On the other hand, the author has participated in the working group of tangible earth and developed many contents to be exhibited such as great events in earth history. It is now realized that the subjects to be learned in each grade should be well organized for maintaining study volition in science.