

Shimonita Town is an important and valuable area for geological research.

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¹geopark simonita

The Shimonita area lies between the southwest and northeast border of the Japanese archipelago's geological configuration. The Shimonita area has many important phenomena that hold very important keys to understanding how the Japanese islands were formed. For a long time, many researchers have come to Shimonita to investigate its idiosyncratic geological structure and some say it is one of the five most precious places in Japan.

Here are 5 main examples of Shimonita's geological phenomena that can help us understand how the Japanese Archipelago was formed:

- 1) The central Sanba River crystal rock and the Chichibu Meso-Paleozoic stratum, which continues along the central line to Kyushu.
- 2) The Nenashi-Yama (rootless mountain) Group includes Atokura Krippe, which was selected as one of the 100 most important geological phenomena in Japan.
- 3) The Shimonita Tectonic Line has a rich geological structure that is said to hold the key to explaining the process of the Japanese archipelago's formation.
- 4) Motojuku Cave in Saimoku formed around 900 million years ago.
- 5) The magnificent projection of the Kanto Loam Stratum's top lies 10 meters deep and an impressive 200 meters wide.

Many of Shimonita's geological phenomena are concentrated within a circumference of 10 kilometers, so you observe everything within a very short distance; there is no place in the world that you can see these phenomena other than Shimonita.

In addition, Mt Myogi and Mt. Arafune are very odd and uniquely shaped mountains. Even if you do not know much about geology, you can simply enjoy the experience of hiking these distinctive structures and viewing the exceptional scenery.

In Gunma Prefecture, there is a popular card game called Jomo Karuta that highlights Shimonita's internationally famous products such as negi (Japanese green onions) and konnyaku, as well as its wealth of tremendous mountains and geological formations.

Recently, Shimonita Town has been expanding PR efforts both inside and outside the town for the Shimontia Negi and Konnyaku Geopark campaign.

From April 2010, the Geopark Implementation Committee will expand its central headquarters into the old Aokura Elementary School. In the future, all questions that people have about the Shimonita Geopark can be directed to the committee at the Aokura headquarters.

Until now, Shimonita Town has been a very interesting and fascinating place only between geological researchers and their staffs, but now the town wants to promote and explain these magnificent places to the general public by making a plan to train Shimonita locals to be

guides for visitors and by creating events that everyone can easily participate in and enjoy. The whole town of Shimonita is very excited about the potential of getting UNESCO Global Geopark recognition.

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