

## Geologic history of sedimentary plains in Japan

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The geologic history of the Kanto Plain, central Japan, is briefly introduced for the purpose of educational promotion of the geology and earthquake disaster prevention. Thick sediments were accumulated between Northeast and Southwest Japan during the Japan Sea opening (20-15 m.y. ago). The grabens and half-grabens were developed under extensional stress field during this stage. The topographic up-and-down structure in basement rocks was then covered by marine sediments widely from 15 m.y. until ca. 10 m.y. ago in the Kanto district. The tectonic deformation had been slight between 15 and 3 m.y. ago. However E-W contractive deformation has suddenly begun at 3 m.y. ago, and reverse-faulting and folding were started in the Japanese islands. The thick sediments below the Kanto Plain were then deformed and active faults, such as the Tachikawa Fault, were finally cut the surface. The scenario of this history is useful for interpretation of subsurface structure deduced from geophysical exploration.  
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