

Orienteering and Map Learning

*Taketo KOBAYASHI¹

1.Chiba Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School

I propose to do the orienteering for map learning. Orienteering fits in geography education. In particular, orienteering is fit to map learning. However, orienteering is not popular in Japan. Many Japanese do not know less about orienteering. Orienteering is popular in Europe. European people are familiar with orienteering. Already, curriculum in school in the Nordic countries education have orienteering. And orienteering has also been actively carried out in the school education in Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Orienteering is outdoor sport compete the time to finish through in the order specified number of points shown on the map from the start using a map and a compass. At that time, orienteering competitor, compete with each other to reach the point of the purpose to understand the current position while constantly matching the map with the field. "Matching the map with the field" is a main skill in orienteering. This is consistent with the purpose of the map learning. So, I explain "matching the map with the field" as an important concept that fit on the map learning. "Matching the map with the field" is a basic skill in the map learning and field work learning, and have a lot of applicability.

In Japan, there are a number of natural disasters such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, typhoons with heavy rain and storm. So, the Japanese need firmly recognition in space. The basic skill is the "matching the map with the field". This skill is intended to utilize the information indicated by the map more practical. It is not only for avoid from natural disasters, but also for distress avoidance in mountain climbing and hiking, and for the behavior of in a strange land in every scene in modern society. It is the same kind of life skills like swimming. Many Japanese are lacking about the skills of the "matching the map with the field". However Japanese geography education do not have a method for learning the skill of the " matching the map with the field ".

Orienteering have rules and map symbols to determine the champion at the competition. Classes at school, are constrained in people, places, time. So, classes at school, it is necessary to organized system for effective education. Orienteering is suited to learning practical map of " matching the map with the field ". In Japan, it has been recommended active learning. Orienteering is an active learning itself. I was to try the orienteering exercise a geography lesson of high school, with 40 students at the schoolyard. I made the orienteering map at the schoolyard. This orienteering exercise is very effective. Skills obtained by this orienteering exercise is not only a schoolyard, is also effective in other places. The students were very excited, also could improve the skills of map learning.

Keywords: Map Learning, Field Work, Matching the Map with the Field, Orienteering, Active Learning