



Geography classes at school about earthquake damage and disaster prevention in Japan

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Japan is located at the boundary of the plate, so damage to the earthquake and tsunami often occurs. A large-scale earthquake is occurring in Tohoku in 2011, Kumamoto in 2016 and Osaka in 2018. Even in Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture where we live, earthquakes due to the Nankai Trough are expected. Since there have not been large-scale seismic activity by the Nankai Trough for more than 60 years, earthquakes may occur in the near future.

So, I carried out lessons of the following three themes. 1) Why do earthquakes occur? 2) What kind of damage will be caused by the earthquake? 3) What can we do to prepare for the damage of the earthquake? The students made groups of five or six people, studied each theme, and made a presentation. In the first theme, the mechanism of plate tectonics was announced from each group. In the next theme, we reported damage caused by the earthquake, such as fault, tsunami, liquefaction phenomenon, fire, etc. In the final theme, I reported using a hazard map to understand the dangers of disasters caused by earthquakes and tsunamis occurring in familiar areas, and to prepare for disaster reduction to reduce damage more. Based on these presentations, we created a hazard map of Fukuyama city with our own arrangement.

Through this lesson, I was able to imagine the damage caused by the earthquake not happening in distant places but the things that can happen around them. And when the earthquake occurred, I was able to conscious of preventing damage and minimizing damage. In Japan where earthquakes occur frequently, it became a class to propose how we should spend.