

Separation of the Japanese Archipelago from Asian Continent

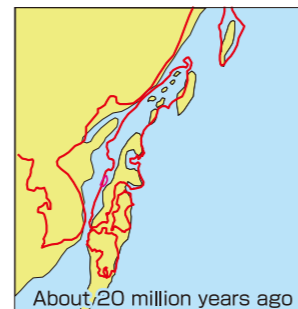
The Period of the Continent

In the distant past, the Japanese archipelago was part of the continent. There was volcanic activity and pyroclastic flows on the land's surface, and deep under the ground, magma slowly cooled down and became granite.



The Formation of the Sea of Japan

The continental margin started to break up. Depressions created when the continent broke up became rivers and lakes and animals such as elephants, deer, etc. lived near these areas. Later, these depressions expanded and became the Sea of Japan. Volcanic activity created many volcanic rocks.

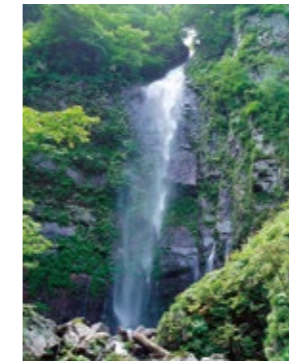


Geological Activities in the Japanese Archipelago and the Present Landscape

The original shape of the Japanese archipelago was almost the same as its present shape. Geological activities continued on the continent: multiple volcanoes were active, and at the same time, rias and terraces were created along the sea coasts and deep valleys and beautiful falls were created in the mountains. Plains, basins, and sand dunes were created and people started to live in these areas.



San'in Kaigan Geopark



Volcanic rocks erupted during the volcanic activity that occurred after the formation of the Japanese archipelago and Waterfalls were created by the subsequent erosion. (Kirigataki Waterfalls in Shinonsen Town)

Outcrops that you can identify as stratigraphy just by looking



Yoroi no Sode (Kasumi Kaigan)

The Japanese archipelago used to be part of the continent but separated from the continent about 20 million years ago, which was when the Sea of Japan was created. In San'in Kaigan Geopark, various geological conditions and geological formations still remain from the period in which the Sea of Japan was created until the present day.



Granitic rocky coast (Uradome Kaigan in Iwami Town)



Granite from the time of the continent's formation (Taino-hama Shore in Shinonsen Town)



A Fossil of the footprint of an elephant (Takeno Kaigan in Toyooka City)



Volcanic rocks in the beginning of the formation of the Sea of Japan (lava) (Shishinokuchi in Shinonsen Town)



Volcanic rocks in the latter period of the formation of the Sea of Japan (Bedrock) (Tateiwa in Kyotango City)



Sand carried to the Sea of Japan by rivers was gathered by tidal currents and wind and formed sand dunes. (Tottori Sand Dunes in Tottori City)

Biodiversity

Diverse geological formations/conditions-nurtured rich ecosystem



Veronica ornata leaf



Oriental White Stork



Golden eagle



Japanese Beech Trees



Baikamo (Ranunculus nipponicus)



Japanese Giant salamander

Gift of Culture and Life

Diverse cultures have been preserved and industries specific to San'in Kaigan have been used as tourism resources.



Kitamae-bune Ship



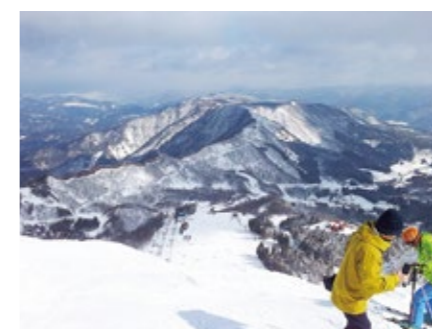
Rice Terraces



Hot springs



Fishery



Ski resort



Gourmet food