

Yamanouchi Municipal Higashi Elementary School — Researching and Sharing the Attractions of Yamanouchi Town

Yamanouchi Municipal Higashi Elementary School, located within the Shiga Highland Biosphere Reserve, emphasizes experiential learning based on the region's natural and cultural resources. Activities include apple cultivation and playing the Cocarina, a wooden musical instrument associated with the local area. This year, the 6th-grade students undertook a project themed "Researching and Sharing the Attractions of Yamanouchi Town."

Investigating Yamanouchi's Attractions

The students began by discussing the attractions of Yamanouchi Town, identifying hot springs, snow monkeys, and other tourism resources, along with local agricultural products like apples and branded rice. They then conducted interviews with tourists to understand external perspectives on the town. Under the theme "Why Did You Come to Yamanouchi?" they used both Japanese and English to gather opinions. Japanese tourists highlighted autumn leaves and hot springs, while foreign tourists noted snow monkeys and the town's expansive natural environment. Commonly identified attractions included hot springs, nature, and the town's tranquility, but the low recognition of local agricultural products emerged as a key challenge.

Creating and Distributing a Pamphlet

Based on the interviews, the students created a bilingual pamphlet introducing the attractions of Yamanouchi Town. This pamphlet was placed at the tourist information center near Yudanaka Station and distributed to many visitors.

Achievements and Future Aspirations

Through this project, the students rediscovered the appeal of Yamanouchi Town and identified its strengths and challenges. This was a valuable opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of the region. As they move on to junior high school, they aim to further develop their activities and continue sharing the town's attractions.