

Elementary School (The upper grades)

Great

“Mensore the treasure island, Ryukyu ”

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I researched about a “Gusuke Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu”, which are listed as World Heritage.

In ancient times, Okinawa was one state led by the lord of Shuri Castle.

I knew about World Heritage by a leaflet for sightseers and wanted to know about the history of Ryukyu more. Especially, there are about one million nine hundred eighty thousand people who got in Shuri Castle for a year and it is the top three of popular tourist sites in Japanese castles. I would like to know why many tourists visit the place, so I went to research Shuri Castle, and I also went to the site of Nakagusuku castle where there are remains of ancient stonework.

In Shuri Castle, the working people who wore traditional Ryukyu kimono say, “Haisai” and “Haitai” (Hello) in greeting to the visitors in the castle, and the visitors seemed happy because they received the greeting that is unfamiliar for them.

Shuri Castle also offers a quiz and a stamp rally to the visitors at the moment, so that they can enjoy learning about the history of Ryukyu through the activities. I thought that this is the reason why many visitors come to the castle.

The other things I learnt are that there are nine gates that represent titles and functions in Shuri Castle.

My favorite gate is Roukoku-mon gate. Its function is to measure the time by a water clock.

In the site of Nakagusuku Castle, a tourist guide told me about the history of Ryukyu and the structures of the castle.

I could see the view of the site of Katsuren Castle in the distance from Nakagusuku Castle. In the ancient time, there was Gosamaru who was a lord of Nakagusuku Castle and Amawari who was a lord of Katsuren Castle. Those two strong men engaged in battle for the throne of Ryukyu Kingdom, and both of them died at the end. Due to the fact, there was only the lord of Shuri Castle in Ryukyu Kingdom, and he succeeded to the throne of the monarch of Ryukyu Kingdom.

A tourist guide said that World Heritage is not only architecture and historical sites, but also history, culture and religious of the residents of Ryukyu Kingdom in ancient times.

I am proud of the history of Ryukyu.

Through the investigation of those castles, I found that Okinawa was an independent state, where it was different from Japan.

Due to the reason, there is a unique culture and a custom in Okinawa, and those things may attract many visitors.

Although I did not know much about Okinawa, I want to continue to study more about Okinawa.

I suppose that I can pass on what I learnt to many people.

If the attractiveness of Okinawa becomes widely known to many people, the number of visitors to Okinawa will increase.

Then I want to say to the visitors, “Mensore (welcome) the treasure island, Ryukyu!”