

江戸時代の終わり、天草の楠浦村を治める  
庄屋で宗像堅固という人物がいました。次の  
会話は、楠浦の山すそを流れる川の流れを変え  
る工事が終わった時のものです。



Villager : Shoyasama, shirauo are swimming in the river.

Shoya : Oh, that's nice. Please catch and share them  
among the people of the village.

Villager : We can't. You used your fortune to make  
the river.

Shoya : Why not? Everyone worked hard to make  
the river. This is not mine but ours.



●庄屋の宗像堅固はどんな気持ちで新しい川の建設に取り組んだのでしょうか？

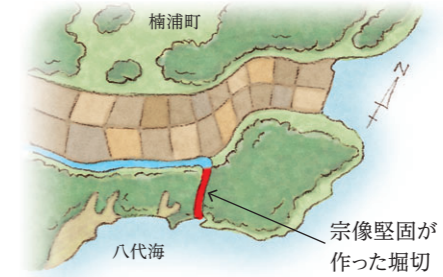


In those days,  
when it rained, water  
often flooded the rice  
fields. The people  
of the village were  
very sad when they  
saw it.

- ・shirauo 白魚
- ・share ~を分け合う
- ・among ~の間で
- ・village 村
- ・fortune 財産
- ・Why not?  
なぜいけないのだ？

- ・in those days 当時
- ・flood  
~を氾濫させる, 水浸しにする
- ・the rice field 田んぼ

Munakata Kengo wanted  
to save the people and he  
made a plan to dig through a  
mountain to change the flow  
of the river.



People around him didn't agree. They said, "You  
can't do it. You'll lose all your fortune." But Kengo  
never changed his mind because his family always  
said, "Do your best for other people."



Digging through the  
mountain was really  
hard. Kengo spent a  
lot of money and the  
people spent a lot of  
time working. Six years  
later, they finished it.

Now, rice grows well and shirauo are swimming  
in the river. Everyone is very happy when they see  
shirauo. We can feel Kengo's spirit there.

今でもこの地域の人たちはこの掘りぬいた川を白魚川と呼び、白魚をすくったり、青のりをとったりし  
ています。その岩壁には、堅固たちの心をきざみこんだように、岩を掘りぬいたのみの跡あとが残っています。

- ・save ~を救う
- ・dig through a mountain  
山を掘りぬく
- ・flow 流れ
- ・lose ~を失う
- ・do one's best  
ベストを尽くす
- ・spent (spendの過去形)  
~を費やした, 過ごした
- ・spend a lot of time  
working  
多くの時間を仕事に費やす

### After Reading

- あなたの地域で誇れるものは何ですか。友達と話し合ってみましょう。

