

earthquake in Niigata: picture quiz

The following pictures were taken in Niigata just after the earthquake in October 2004. Look at each picture: can you work out what has happened? How would it have looked before the earthquake? Write a short description of what you see, then check the answers at the bottom of the page. (Pictures are courtesy of Niigata University) NB Larger copies of these pictures can be downloaded from japan21.org.uk



secondary impacts

Read out the sentences in bold to the class. Discuss how these factors may have made the impact of the earthquake worse. Use the information below to aid discussion.

- Niigata is a remote area.**
Because it is remote, it was difficult for help to get through after the earthquake and for reconstruction to begin properly.
- Winters in Niigata are severe. This earthquake hit just before the onset of winter.**
Niigata is on the Japan Sea Coast and suffers severe winters. The earthquake hit in October just before winter, so there was no time for people to make their houses safe before the onset of bad weather. Many will be living in emergency accommodation all winter.
- The snowfall this year has been the worst for 19 years**
This year's snowfall has been very heavy - 3-4 metres in the earthquake zone. This is the worst for 19 years, causing additional damage to already weakened structures. As at 3 Feb 2005, 10 people had died shovelling snow.

<http://www.asahi.com/english>

picture answers

picture 1

Along route 117, the road subsided where it joined a bridge.

picture 2

Kashiwazaki city, Nagatori area, a 2 metre-diameter manhole rose about 1 metre. Apparently there were several instances of this happening.

picture 3

Kashiwazaki city, Yasuda area, the road subsided along the water pipe.

picture 4

Between Echigohirota and Nagatori, collapse of rail banking on the Shinetsu line.