

**Sawyers Valley Primary School, Western Australia,  
Room 2 Report: Square of Life, Autumn, 2007**

At SVPS, children in Rooms 1, 2 and 3 took part in the Square of Life Project. Here is Room 2's report.

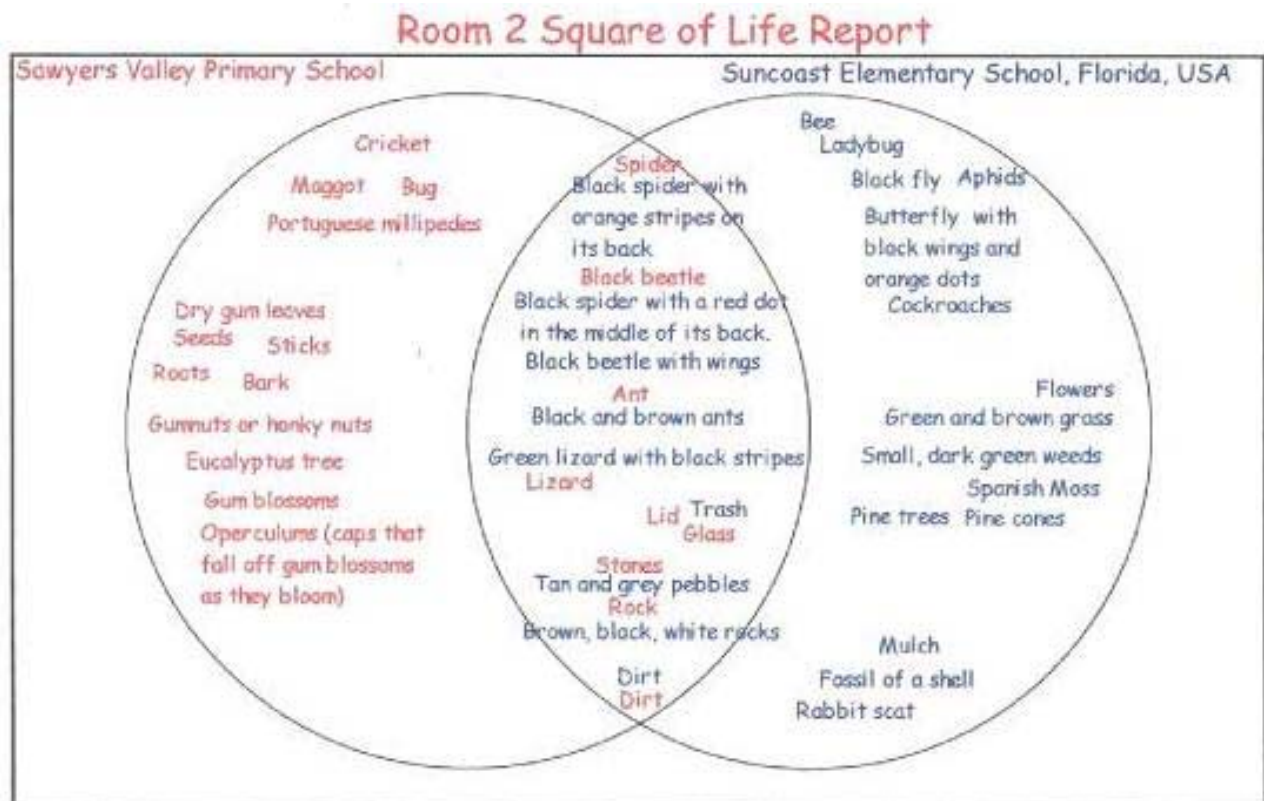
The children in Room 2 began their Square of Life Project by measuring and marking out their metre squares in an area bounded by the eastern car park, a low limestone wall bordering a brick-paved pathway and two demountable classrooms. The area was natural bushland with trees and shrubs.

After investigating their squares and recording what they found in drawings and notes, children collected some samples for viewing using the digital microscope. Lots of photos were taken and later compiled into a slide show which was shown to parents. Groups created posters to show what they found. Here is one of them.



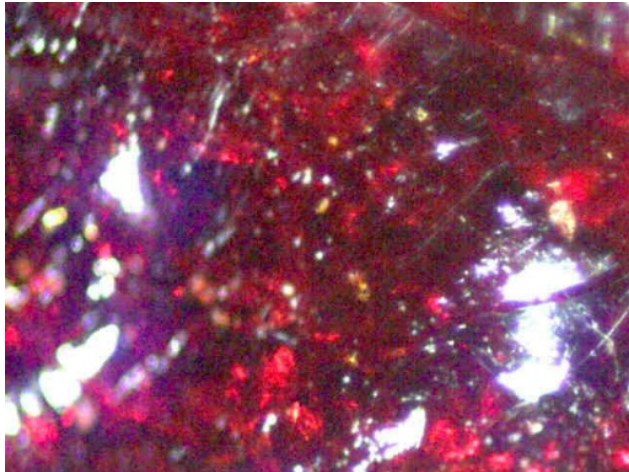
It was decided to compare the results with Suncoast Elementary School in Florida, U.S.A. because they were also second grade students and they found a spider with a red dot on its back. In Australia there is a poisonous spider called a Red Back Spider which is a small black spider with a red stripe on its back. Room 2 children found a small skink on a tree and Suncoast children also found a lizard.

A Venn Diagram was used to compare all the different plants, animals and non-living things found by both schools.



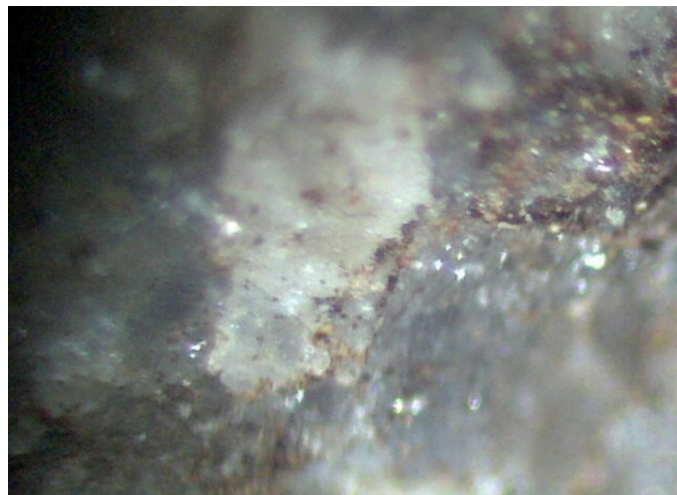
Both schools found dirt, stones, ants, beetles, spiders, lizards, rocks and rubbish. Ladybugs, bees, flies, aphids, butterflies and cockroaches are all found in Sawyers Valley but no one found them in their squares. Do they have Portuguese Millipedes in Florida? Pine trees are found at Sawyers Valley School, but not Spanish Moss. Lots of rabbits also live in the bush around Sawyers Valley. Suncoast School did not have any gum trees.

Following are some of the photos taken using the digital microscope.



E's bark had solid gum (tree sap) on it. Isn't it beautiful! What does it look like?  
It looks like a kaleidoscope!  
It looks like jam!  
It looks like tomato sauce!

T chose to look at this stone. What can you see?  
T said it looks like there is a river flowing through it!



This is S's leaf. Do you know what the dots and lines are?  
The lines are the veins of the leaf.  
The dots are the island oil glands.

Children learned that both living and non-living things are interesting to observe and that there are lots of questions to ask! Children discussed what it means to be alive. They realised that some non-living things used to be alive.  
That concludes Room 2's report.

