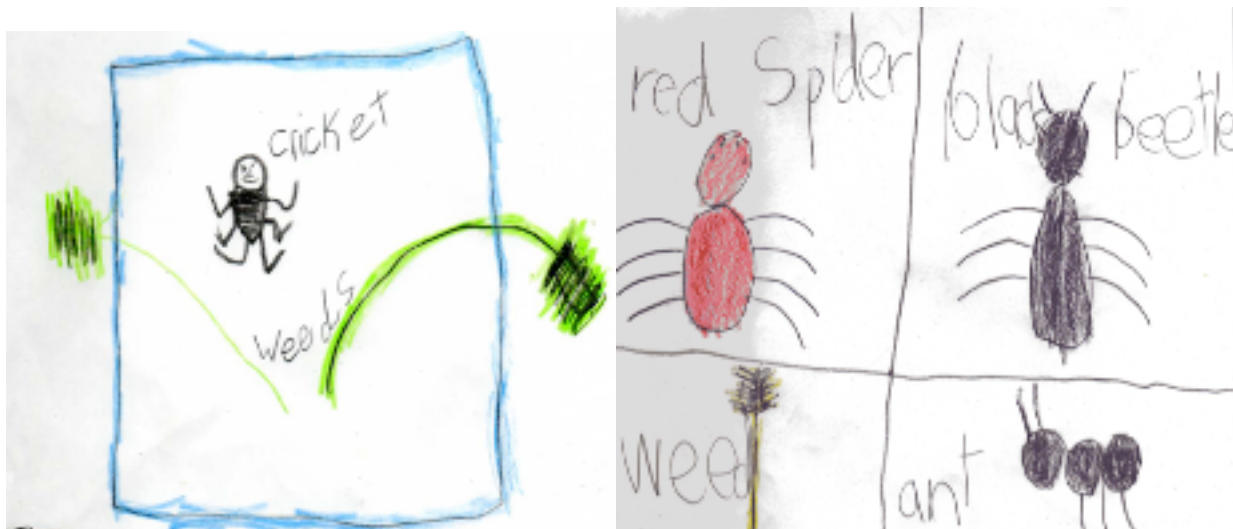


Saratoga Independent School  
Square of Life Project  
Meteorologist Group

Our Class went out on September 8, 2006. We walked along the outside of our playground fence and marked off an area to study. We used meter sticks to measure off our meter square. Our teacher marked the area with spray paint so we would remember exactly where it was. The first day we didn't really look at what was inside of our square instead we made predictions about what we would find. We thought we might find some insects but were not sure what kind. We didn't think we would find much since our squarer was near the pavement and the driveway to our school.

On September 22, 2006 we went back out to our square. We examined our area very carefully and found many things. This is what we saw: cricket, grasshopper, small spiders that were red and black, a black beetle, a mosquito, and a dragonfly that flew by. We saw weeds and grass growing in our square. There was a plant with two long stems that had seed pods growing off the ends. They were the kind of seeds that stick to your socks when you are walking by. There were also some small purple flowers that looked pretty. The ground was mostly light colored dirt that felt a little sandy. We did not see many rocks, just a few small pebbles. We saw some scat, It was brown and round. Maybe it was from a rabbit or from a deer. We sometimes see deer tracks near our school.

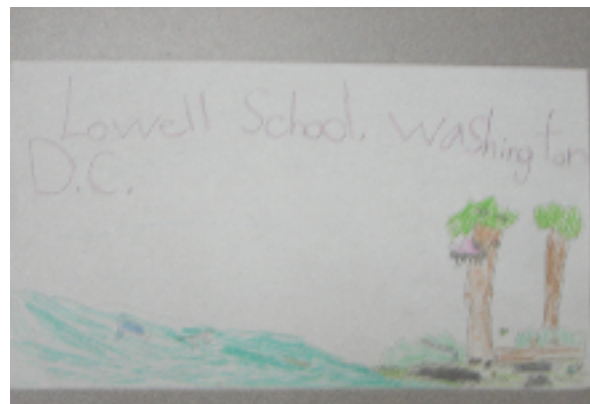
Here is some of the data we collected during our observations:





From our own square we learned that scat isn't just round, it can have plant parts sticking out of it. Scat is made out of whatever the deer ate. We were amazed that deer come so close to our playground.

We compared our square with the Lowell School in Washington D.C. We picked this school because they saw some interesting insects. The small bugs they found under a rock sound interesting because they had points like porcupines. We wondered what kind of insects they were. We drew a picture of the things we found and a picture about the things they found in Washington D.C.



We learned that ants can be found in different places. We wonder if we both saw the same kind of ants. We thought it was strange that they found a plastic spoon because inside a square of life there should be animals like ants. Litter makes us sad

and is bad for the environment. We hope the kids in Washington D.C. picked it up and threw it away in the garbage.

We learned that just a small square can have many living creatures in it.