

Square of Life Report
Mrs. Foust's 1st Grade Class
The Sullivans School, Yokosuka, Japan



Our school is near a large city, Yokosuka, Japan. There are lots of buildings and roads. We don't have a lot of grassy areas, so we observed squares in our school's courtyard. We are comparing our data to Mrs. Felts' class at San Antonio Elementary in Dade City, Florida. We chose her class because the students are first graders just like us! We also liked that the teachers' names both started with "F". We thought we

might find some similar things in our squares because we have typhoons near us and they have hurricanes in Florida.

In our squares we found many living things. We found a brown moth and a yellow butterfly. We also found a praying mantis and roly-poly bugs. Snails, worms, ants, and a turtle were other living things in our squares. One team found a bird sitting in a nest in a tree by their square. We saw a huge spider that scared some of our classmates! Some plants that were growing in our squares were bamboo, grass, flowers, bushes, weeds, clover, vines, a mint bush, and a sapling. We also found a piece of cactus stuck in a spider's web. We think the cactus came from someone's house plant that was left outside. Since it is fall, we saw lots of dry, crunchy leaves. We moved some rocks in our squares and found roots and bugs.





We found some non-living things in our squares. There was a storm drain made of concrete. We discovered a plastic spray bottle stuck in a tree trunk. There was also a Japanese pond with a frog statue. A typhoon came close to our school and made the ground muddy. There were also some sticks on the ground because the wind from a typhoon blew them down from the trees and bushes.

Mrs. Felts' class had some of the same things in their squares. They also found a bird in a nest. We wondered if it was the same type of bird that we found. They also found worms, ants, spider webs, grass, trees, weeds, rocks, and flowers just like us. We both found brown dirt. They didn't say that they found mud, so maybe they didn't have a hurricane recently.

Mrs. Felts' class found small brown mushrooms that we didn't find. They also saw a wasp carrying a spider to feed its babies. They found love bugs, snakes, and flying bugs that we didn't find. Some non-living things they found were bird feathers, nails from a roofer, and paper on the ground.





Participating in this project, we learned that birds build nests in Florida and in Japan. Birds are all over the world! We learned that Florida has many of the same living things as Japan, like worms, spiders, and ants. We think the children in Florida were looking at many of the same things that we saw in our square. Even though we didn't see some of the same things in our squares, we know that most of the things Mrs.

Felts' class saw are things that we also have in Japan. We just didn't see them in our squares at school. We saw dry, crunchy leaves in our squares. We think Mrs. Felts' class didn't see dry, crunchy leaves because it is warmer in Florida than Japan and maybe the leaves don't fall or change colors as early.

It was fun to learn about nature. We used a Double Bubble Map to organize our thinking before writing our report together. We liked sharing our learning with children around the world. The Square of Life Project was a lot of fun!

