

St. Joseph School, Racine, Wisconsin, USA

Square of Life Final Reports

We are sixteen 3rd graders from St. Joseph School. Racine is in the southeastern part of Wisconsin, on the western shore of Lake Michigan. Our school is about six blocks from the lake in an urban neighborhood.

For our Square of Life project we were split up into six groups to study our squares in the backyard of our school. The backyard is about half the size of a soccer field. Since it was late September when we studied our square, fall was just beginning here.

We plotted all the participating schools on a map so that we would know where they are in the world. We decided which school we would like to compare our square to and then looked at a map and the letter of introduction to help us decide why we might be the same or different.

Group One: (Alyssa and Emma) Our square was located by bushes in a corner. We found ants, an earwig, a dragonfly, worms, a bird, and a daddy long legs. We also found leaves, clovers, and mostly dead grass. We had 2 candy wrappers, a foam peanut, orange fuzz from a troll doll, and an egg.

We compared our square with the Sullivan School in Yokosuka, Japan. We had some things in common. We had some spiders, butterflies and moths, and sticks. They had some things different from us, too. They had bamboo, a praying mantis, a snail, a cactus, a plastic spray bottle in a tree trunk, metal, moss, a storm drain, a lot of mud, a mint bush, a turtle in a pond, a statue of a frog, and a pigeon.

We think they have a lot of things that are different because they have different climates than where we live in Racine. We learned that we have a lot of different things, but we have some things alike.



Group Two: (Max and Toney) Our square was located by dirt. We found worms, ant workers, ants, grass, weeds, roots, flowers, clovers, leaves, rocks, dirt, ant holes, clay, a stick, paper tag, and plastic.

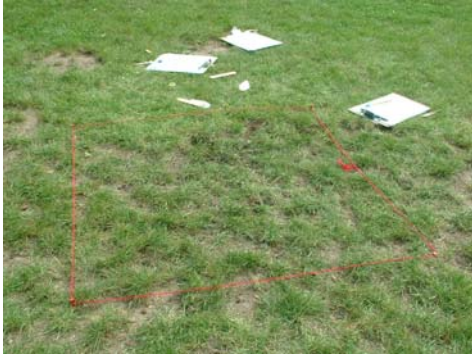
The school we compared to is Diocesan School for Girls in Auckland, New Zealand. Here are some of the things that were alike and different. Starting with plants, we both had grass and weeds. Now, living things. We both have ants, flying bugs, and beetles. But we had one thing different. They didn't have worms.

Their climate could be the same and that's why we have so much in common. We learned that if you live far away you can still have stuff in common.

Group Three: (Sarah, Josh, and Aaron) Our square was by the sidewalk. We found ants, birds, grass, leaves, roots, weeds, dead grass, rocks, bird droppings, a popped balloons, glass, and plastic.

We are comparing it to Aanestad Homelearners in Ladysmith, British Columbia, Canada on Vancouver Island, just off the west coast of Canada. We both have ants, beetles, flies, small rocks, dirt, grass, weeds, and trees. They have frogs, lizards, snails, snakes, bushes, mud, big rocks, and mushrooms.

The reason why they have everything different might be because they get a lot of rain during the winter and it never gets cold, and in summer it's very dry.



Group Four: (Rebecca, Karri, and Trevor) Our square was under a tree, close to the sidewalk. In our square we had ants, worms, roots, a tree, leaves, moss, maple seeds, clovers, rocks, dirt, sticks, grass, and bird droppings.

We compared to Capps Middle School in Heber, Arizona. We both had ants, worms, green grass, dirt, and small rocks. We have some differences too. We didn't have beetles, flying bugs, weeds, paper, metal, plastic, and sand.

We had more things the same than different. We think we had more alike because on the day we did this it was warm. We think it was warm where they live too. We learned that it's fun to experience nature.

Group Five: (Tava, Dom, and Sadie) Our square of life was found around a statue. In our animal section were ants and flies. In our plant section we found leaves, phlox, violets, daylilies, mildew, dandelions, and dried up grass. This is our non-living section-roots, rock, soil, seeds, sticks, pebbles, a statue, and woodchips.

We are comparing to Shenandoah K-8 in Shenandoah, Iowa. We both have ants, grass, weeds, and dirt. We don't have a tree or spiders.

The reason we had more different things might be because it was warm when we did ours and it might have been cold when they did theirs or they picked a place that didn't have too much stuff in it. We learned that there are way more plants than anything and we didn't think that we would find this much stuff.



Group Six: (Austin, Sam, and Zach) Our square was located under a tree in a yard. We found a spider, a bee, a worm, an Asian beetle, an ant, a tree, flowers, seeds, tree roots, moss, daylilies, an animal hole, bark, rocks, woodchips, plastic, and paper.

We compared to Richey Elementary School in Port Richey, Florida. We both have ants, beetles, flying bugs, worms, bushes, grass, weeds, dirt, and small rocks.

The reason why we have more things could be because it might have been drier and we might be moister. We learned that our backyard has a lot of stuff.