

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



Our class observed squares in the courtyard of our school. We are located in a very urban area south of Tokyo, Japan. We compared our squares to Ms. Well's first grade class in Arizona.

We discovered that we had many things in common in our squares. Both classes found spiders, ants, flies, flowers, small rocks, grass, leaves, dirt, and trees with berries. We wonder what kind of dirt Ms. Well's class found in Arizona. We found dark, brown, wet dirt. We think the class in Arizona found dry dirt because they are near the desert.

Our classes found some different spiders. Ms. Wells' class found dark brown spiders and little green spiders. We found big colorful spiders. The spiders we found are called *Jorougumo* in Japanese. The scientific name is *Nephila clavata*. Our base's entomologist helped us identify the *Jorougumo* spider.





We were relieved to learn that even though the *Jorougumo* has bright colorful colors, it is not poisonous. That's a good thing since we found so many of them in our school's courtyard!

Both classes found berries on trees, but they were different colors. Ms. Wells' class found red berries. We found green and purple berries. Both classes also found rocks, but they were different sizes. We found little rocks and the other class found



big rocks that they could climb and sit on. We learned that the really big rocks Ms. Wells' class found are called boulders.



Mrs. Wells' class found dead bugs, pine cones, weeds, and trash. We think they found pine cones because there are pine trees nearby. We don't have pine trees in our school courtyard, but there are pine trees in other areas.

Some animals we found that were different from Ms. Wells' class were butterflies, gnats, centipedes, small worms, caterpillars, roly-poly's, and crickets. Some different plants we



found were tiny mushrooms and shamrocks. We also found branches that fell from the trees. Some non-living things we found included a storm drain, an old fish net, and a cement frog statue.

We had fun learning about things in our environment and sharing with other schools. We learned that even though we live very far away from the other schools, we have many of the same things in our environment. It was amazing to see other participating schools through satellite images on the Internet!

