

Ferrisburgh Central School  
Ferrisburgh, Vermont  
Square of Life  
November 2008

Ferrisburgh Central School is a small K-6 elementary school in Ferrisburgh, Vermont. Ferrisburgh is a rural community approximately 20 miles south of Burlington, VT on Lake Champlain. There are 11 students in our class and we worked on this project with our fifth grade buddies.



We decided to make our squares in our backyard habitat and to work in small groups. Our backyard used to be a meadow, but now it has



shrubs and small trees in it as well, because it is growing back into a forest. Once we measured out our

squares we started looking for interesting things. we decided that we would use plot studies to show what we found in each square. We used a plot study and a table with tally marks to record what we found.



We looked at our squares from the bottom up and looked at the soil first. Our soil was clayish soil and moist.

We saw a lot of similarities between

Compare the climate of the two regions. How similar are the climate conditions? How different are the climate conditions?

Country	Climate	Temp.
Vermont	Humid continental	30-70
Romania	Continental	30-70

What are the similarities and differences between the two regions? How do you think the climate affects the plants and animals in the two regions?

our two schools. When we looked at a map of the world, we noticed that Vermont and Romania seem to be a similar latitude. We think this would mean that we have the same kind of weather. This could be the reason that we had a lot of the same kinds of plants and animals in our squares. It also sounds as if we have the same soil conditions.

Our squares were behind our school in a habitat that used to be a field, but is now growing back to a forest. There are no roads through this area, only some mowed paths. This might be why we didn't find any litter in our squares. We thought that the Martinești Kindergarten's Square might



have more litter because it might be located in a city and near roads and sidewalks. We looked at Google Earth and saw that Martinești is a big city. If you look at Google Earth to see our school, you will see that we are in a rural area.

When we looked at the animals in our square, both schools had flying insects. In Vermont, we had Japanese beetles and dragonflies, and praying mantis. We both had spiders in our square, but our spiders were little. There were

little spiders at both schools. We found some earthworms and



Romania also found many worms. Both schools had similar soil, moist with small rocks. Both schools had trees, the Martinesti school had trees, but we don't know what kind, they were in a garden. In our squares we found Maple, Ash, Oak, White Pine and Red

Cedar. Both schools had bushes by their buildings, but we had bushes in our habitat. Both schools had tall and short grass.

Our biggest difference was that the Martinesti kindergarten school had litter in their square. They had a lot of different kinds of litter, including plastic spoons, water bottles, and pop cans. That let us think that they were in the city. We did find a pop can in a meeting area in our habitat, but we did not find any litter at all in our square.

We learned where Romania is and how far away it is from our school and where it is located in the world. We learned that the latitude of Ferrisburgh, Vermont and Martinesti, Romania are very close. They are within approximately 2 degrees of each other. Although we live in a rural area in the United States, our habitats are very similar.