

December 8, 2010

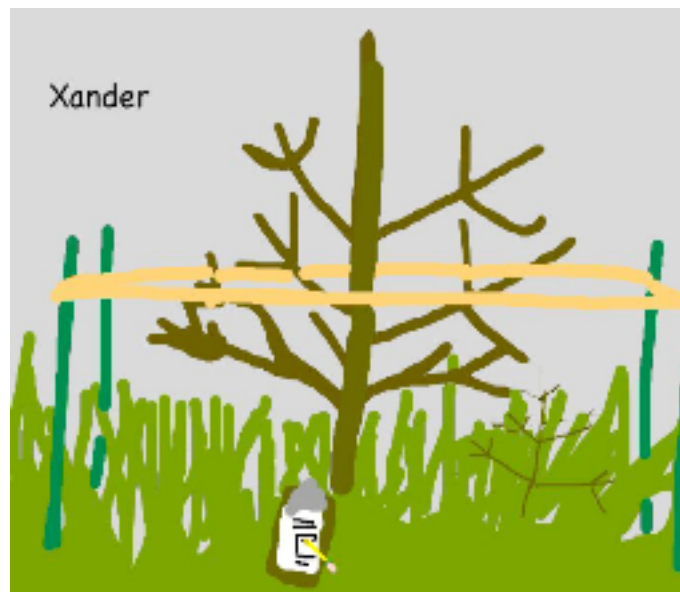
We are a second grade class in Ferrisburgh, Vermont. We chose the Glendover Elementary School in Lexington, Kentucky to determine how we are alike and different.

Ferrisburgh Central School is a small elementary school located in the country. We have a dairy farm right next to our school and lots of habitat for wildlife around us.

We chose our squares along the path to the habitat. We found some spiders, a moth, a wooly bear and a squash beetle. There were a couple different kinds of trees, mostly ash trees in our squares.

We saw some similarities between our two schools. One was that we both had spiders and beetles in our squares. Wildflowers and grass were also in both squares.

There were a lot of differences between our two class findings as well. There were a greater variety of insects in Kentucky. They also had a greater variety of trees. We wondered if because Kentucky was a warmer climate was the reason that there were more species of insects. We also wondered if the trees were landscaped at their school or if they naturally grew there. Our backyard habitat used to be a pasture and so most of the trees that are growing there are the result of natural succession of the field going back to nature. The ash trees and pine trees are sun loving varieties that are often found first in an untended meadow. Kentucky had a greater



variety of moss and lichens than we did, perhaps because we are in a colder and drier climate.



Our soils were also different. We wondered if some of the differences about the materials in Lexington, Kentucky had something to do with the school being in a more developed city than ours. We decided to look up their school on Google Earth and discovered that their school is surrounded by lots of houses. Kentucky only listed brick and cement in their report. We are unsure what type of soil they had. Our soil is mostly clay and at this time of year, very moist.

It sounded as if their school was under construction of some sort as they had liners from construction in their report. We are curious if that is the case or if the construction is nearby and caused liners to be blown unto the property.

We didn't find any plastic, paper or metal in our habitat.

Both schools found holes in the ground. Kentucky had chipmunk holes, ours were probably from snakes and moles and voles.

We are hoping that other schools will share their findings with us. We would love to know if anyone chose Ferrisburgh as a school for comparison. We love looking at nature and learning more about it!