

Square of Life, Final Report, Pine Jog Elementary Science/STEM Lab, Adams

Our class conducted this research in our Bamboo Walk/Zen Garden. We had six research teams and we compiled all of our observations for one data table. We are located in Southern Florida and we chose Hillside Academy in Duvall, Washington to compare findings.

We used a Venn diagram to compare our research. We noticed that we found spiders, worms, weeds, dirt, and mud at both schools. At Pine Jog we also found ants, flying bugs, bushes, grass, trees, sand, small rocks, plastic, and some fossil clam shells. We observed many Slash Pine tree seedlings, male and female pine cones, and lots of dead, brown pine needles and raccoon scat (poop). At Hillside Academy they found slugs, gnats, crawling insects, a big rock and a lot of species of plants we did not recognize. (Sword ferns, Stinging Nettles, Bleeding Hearts, Oregon Grapes, Sprouting Maple, Snowberry, Bedstraw, and Blackberry). We were so curious about the Bleeding Heart we “Googled” it! We also looked for the Snowberry but that was after we predicted the berry would be white...it was.

When we compared biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) things observed we found that we had more biotic than abiotic items as both school research sites.

We want to make a special note about the grass we observed, as it was the actual bamboo plants. Bamboo is classified as a grass. We understand now why we find fossil shells in our soil here in Southern Florida. This area of our state was once underwater, an ocean!

We think that some of the things we observed were so different because we are in a much warmer climate than Washington.



Our Bamboo Walk (Grass)



dead leaves and pine needles



Pine tree seedlings under the bamboo