

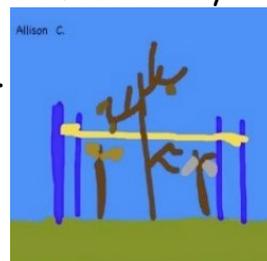
December 8, 2011

We are a second grade class in Ferrisburgh, Vermont in Ms. Hibbard's classroom. We chose Juliet Ethirveerasingam's class at the San Antonio Elementary School in Huntington Park, California to compare how we are alike and how we are different.



Ferrisburgh Central School is a small elementary school located in a rural area. Our school has lots of fields and woods around it. We have many vegetable gardens around the school and a compost shed and greenhouse. We grew over a thousand pounds of food in the garden for our school lunch program this year. We have a path that goes through our backyard habitat and there are many different kinds of trees that grow in the habitat. We have adopted one of the trees, which we have named Ashley, because she is an ash tree. We visit her through the school year to see how she has changed.

We placed our square of life in the habitat. We found many different kinds of insects, including black ants, praying mantis, crickets, grasshoppers, honeybees, red and blackish beetles and flies. Other bugs that we saw included pill bugs, black jumping spiders, slugs, grubs and earthworms. When we read your data, we were surprised at first that you had snails in your square because you said your school was in a dry, desert area. Then we realized that your square was in a garden area and that is probably kept damp. We also thought that you might see snakes and lizards in your square. Our class learned a new name for the roly poly or pill bug when we researched the word "isopods" from your report! Another thing we had in common was spiders. Although we have Black Widow Spiders here, we didn't see any during our observation (which was a good thing!) We did see lots of jumping spiders. We also had ants in our squares, but they were tiny black ones. They probably were formica ants. We have rabbits in our habitat as well, but they are wild and we don't see them very often. We have black and yellow striped wasps here, and some solid black ones also. They have built many nests in our playground equipment and sometimes students get stung. We also found larva, but we are not sure what kind of insect it would grow into.



We also have butterflies here, including Monarch Butterflies, but the day we were observing our square it was very cold and they were not out and about.

When we compared our plants to yours, we both had bushes, plants and trees, but they were different. We did not have cactus, like you did, because our winters are very cold at times and we have less sun because we are farther north than you are. Where we placed our squares was once a

pasture and now it is beginning to turn back into a forest. We have many sun loving bushes and plants, like honeysuckle and grapevines, as well as wildflowers like goldenrod, asters, milkweed and grass. We also have many sun loving trees, like the Ash, Dogwood, Red Cedar and White Pine. We even found an Elm tree, which used to be very common in Vermont, but since the Dutch Elm Disease came to Vermont they are all dying.



We didn't have any non-living objects or litter. Our soil is dark brown in color, felt damp and you could roll it into a ball, which means it is clay. There is a lot of clay and shale found in Vermont.

We thought it was fun to pick a climate that was very different from ours, one that we didn't know a lot about. We still have a lot of things that were the same, like ants and spiders. It was hard to decide what school to pick, but we thought your school sounded the most interesting. We liked that you had a school garden like our school garden. We really liked learning about your square.



Your Friends from Ms. Hibbard's Class