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

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 Kelly Mill Elementary School in Cumming, Georgia to compare findings.

We used a Venn diagram to compare our research. We noticed that we had six items in the intersection showing what we found at both schools. Pine Jog only had two more items (tree, sand)) while Kelly Mill had six more items in their circle (beetle, flying bugs, spider, worms, mud, and paper).

When we compared biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) things observed we found that Kelly Mill had 7 biotic organisms/Pine Jog had 4 biotic organisms. Kelly Mill had 5 abiotic things/Pine Jog had 4 abiotic things. We were happy that we only found one little piece of litter in the area as one of our abiotic things. Kelly Mill found more litter where they were observing.

At Pine Jog, we observed ants in all six of our squares and no other animals. Kelly Mill had many more organisms, small beetles, flying bugs, a jumping spider, and a very wriggly worm. The most exciting animal we saw while observing today at Pine Jog was our raccoon that lives nearby in the Pine Jog forest. It never went inside any of our squares. It was planning to eat some birdseed that had spilled on the ground but kept away from us.

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 observed many Slash Pine tree seedlings, male and female pine cones, and lots of dead, brown pine needles.

In Southern Florida our ground is soil or sand but in Georgia, they reported lots of red clay.

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

Bamboo (Grass)

pine needles

dead leaves and pine needles

Pine tree seedlings under the bamboo

Resident raccoon hanging out, waiting for us to leave!