

2011 Bucket Buddies: Macroinvertebrate Investigation

South Seneca School, Interlaken, NY 14847

5th Grade Science Enrichment

Teacher: Ms. McCheyne



We want to know---are the same fresh water macroinvertebrates found in different locations, both around the country and around the world alike or different.

How we'll find out---we will collect samples from ponds near our school and identify the macroinvertebrates (animals lacking a backbone and visible without the aid of a microscope) in the samples. We will share our findings with other project participants. We will use the collected data to answer the central question: Did classrooms sampling fresh water sources around the world find the same organisms? Participating schools will publish conclusions in a report which will be posted to the project web site.

Visual Monitoring---

- Location: the pond is located in Interlaken, NY. It is bordered by fields of crops, brush, and the guitar place, Hipshot products.
- Land use: Some commercial, recreational and residential use, paddle boat, lawn chairs, fishing gear
- Litter: One or two pieces of human litter, fire pit nearby
- Pipes and drains: Some pipes and trenches, ditches drain from farm fields
- Extra structures: do not change the water flowing in or out of pond
- Smell: slight earthy odor

- Water clarity: Some greenish brown particles from recent heavy rainfall
- Vegetation: mainly native plants growing close to the water's edge
- Vertebrates: at least 2 varieties of birds were observed, fish, and chipmunks

Procedure---we went to the pond and used a stick to disturb any macroinvertebrates that were in the grass along the edge or bottom. We used nets to catch macros and returned to the classroom to identify what we caught.

Macroinvertebrate tally:

3 Gilled snail	2 Water scorpion
2 Orb snail	1 Dobsonfly larva
4 Caddis fly larva	2 Mayfly nymphs
2 Damselfly larva	1 Springtail
2 Diving beetle	2 mosquito larva
1 Tubeworm	2 Hellgrammite
1 Water Boatman	

