



1. James found this little guy on the playground. Needless to say this was all he (and several other students) were interested in for the next few days. We looked up information on the internet and in books. It was their goal to try to find a new insect each day to learn about! It was a great way to start our inquiry venture.



2. Pumpkins were a great topic of interest last fall. We read books, sang songs, looked up information on the internet and even took a field trip to explore a pumpkin patch. They loved seeing the inside of the pumpkins and eventually got brave enough to explore them with their hands! They had lots of questions (and answers ) daily while we were studying pumpkins.



3. Animals are always a topic of interest and inquiry in our classroom. They love to read books and sing songs about them. It was a great treat to take a field trip to a farm so they could inquire the "hands on way" about all sorts of animals. They couldn't wait to get back to school to learn more about the animals they saw at the farm!!



4. We were preparing to have a "Mexican Fiesta" in a few days so these students were checking out the globe to find out where Mexico is located. This led to inquiry about where other places are located. (Where is our school, our house, the gym etc???) So we looked at lots of maps to find these places too! They loved seeing all the different types of maps!



5. We have a teacher across the hall from us who is visually impaired. The children are always full of questions about her (Why does she wear sunglasses inside? Why does she use that cane? Etc.), so we invited her over one day to talk to us. She brought lots of her gadgets over to show us how they worked. She was so patient in answering all of their questions. We also read several books about people who are visually impaired to prepare for her visit and those have become some of the students' favorite books now! They love to read them again and again, and usually talk about Mrs. See afterwards!



6. I brought in this pineapple one day and placed it at the science center just to see what happened. I was of course hoping they would be very inquisitive about it. I was right but not in the way I thought. As soon as Casey saw it he said "That's where Spongebob lives!" and our inquiry process took off from there. He was checking it out very intently and finally found a hole in the top that he said was where Spongebob was. I never even thought of Spongebob when I brought the pineapple in but he served as a springboard to lots of inquiry. (Funny enough

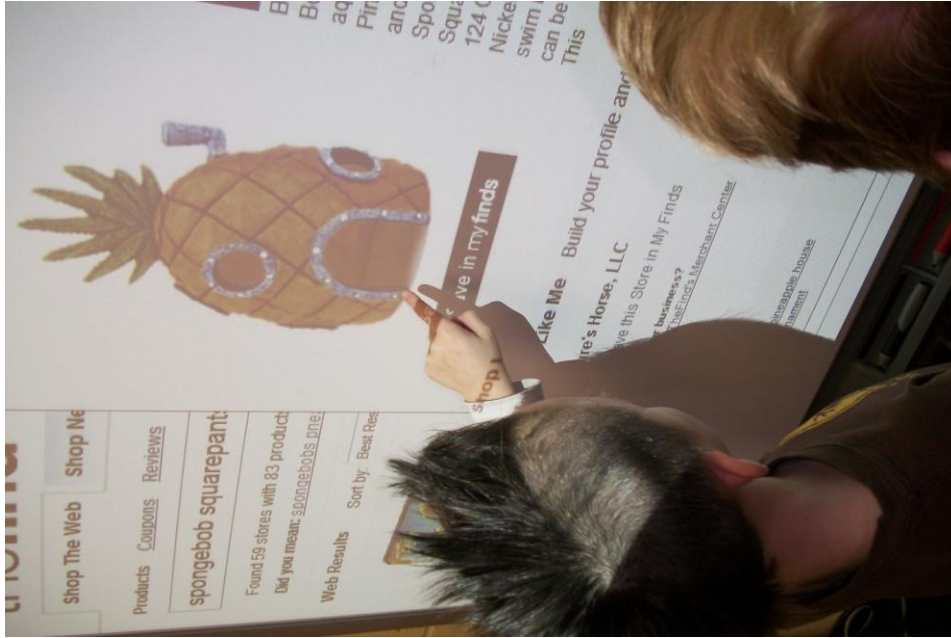
though the girls weren't at all interested in it, only the boys. So while I helped our boys with their pineapple inquiries the girls carried on with other activities with Mrs. Sellers. This was the first time that the boys and girls separated themselves like this.) The boys studied the pineapple carefully, weighed and measured it, drew pictures of it and asked lots of questions about it. We consulted the internet for the answers to these questions! They had so much fun!!



7. Here is John checking out the pumpkin too. He looked at it all over with the magnifying glass and even measured it with the ruler and then his questions began too!!



8. Here is Hayden checking out some places where pineapples grow on the Smart Board Internet. He loved looking at all the different maps and couldn't get enough of them. He ended up more interested in the maps than he was in the pineapple and even Spongebob!



9. This ended up being my favorite part of this whole pineapple inquiry experience. We had to look up Spongebob's Pineapple and see how it compared to our pineapple! They were so inquisitive about Spongebob's house, we had to study how it compared to other houses too!



10. Of course at the end of our pineapple inquiry we had to cut it open and taste it! They were interested in what was inside the pineapple (did it look like the inside of an apple or the inside

of a pumpkin or the inside of Spongebob's house or what??). After looking at photos on the internet of the inside of pineapples, we cut ours open to see it for ourselves!

Barbara Laugh, Preschool Teacher, Harrisville Elementary