

Big Lab

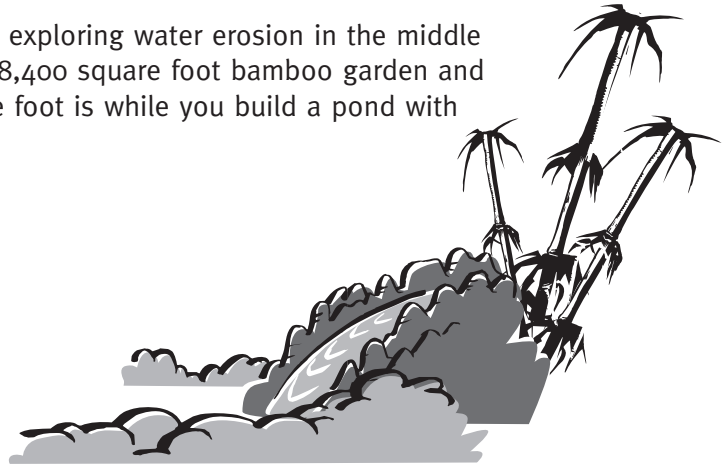
Pre-Visit Activity Exploration Grove

Teachers: This activity should be done as a class.

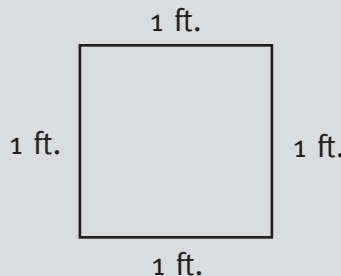
Soon, your class will be visiting the Big Lab and exploring water erosion in the middle of Exploration Grove. Exploration Grove has an 8,400 square foot bamboo garden and a pond. In this activity, you'll see what a square foot is while you build a pond with your class!

Materials

- Pencil/Pen
- Lightly colored, 18" x 12" construction paper
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Crayons/Markers



A square foot is pretty much what it sounds like. It is a square that is one foot long on each side. Square feet are a way to measure the area of a space.



Try This

1. Take a sheet of construction paper. Use the ruler to draw a square that is 1 foot long on each side.
2. Cut out your square of paper. This is a square foot. It would take over 8,000 of these to cover the bamboo garden!
3. Now your class is going to create its own pond. What kinds of things do you see in ponds? Your piece of paper is one square foot of the pond. What do you think you might see in one little part of a pond?
4. On your paper, draw the animals or plants you think you would see as you are looking down in that part of the pond.
5. Find an open space where your class can build its pond. Put your papers next to each other on the ground.
6. The pond in Exploration Grove is about 160 square feet big. Count how many square feet of paper your pond has. How big is your class pond?

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Things to Think About:

1. What do you see in the class pond?

2. At Exploration Grove, we have enough room for 2 frogs to live in the pond. Do you think your pond could hold that same number of frogs? Why or why not?