



# Research Center for Educational Technology

## AT&T Classroom



### Students Learn to Read and Write About Living Things

Mrs. Tonelli and her first grade students from Longcoy Elementary School (Kent) used the tools of the AT&T Classroom to practice their writing and reading skills within a unit on Living Things. Across the six weeks, the students raised Painted Ladies butterfly and documented their growth from larvae stage to adulthood using video and a stop motion camera. As the class waited for the larvae to become butterflies, they read books about butterflies, conducted online research, and collected images of butterflies. To facilitate their research, students used Write Out Loud software for assistance with unfamiliar vocabulary terms and Kidspiration software to organize their ideas and their research findings and to draw diagrams of the butterflies' growth pattern from egg to adult butterfly. After completing their research, the first graders created stories and reports on the growth of butterflies using KidPix software. Students imported images they found in their research about the growth stages of the Painted Ladies and also used the drawing tools to create their own pictures. The students used the text tools within KidPix to write stories about butterflies and to write sentences describing their pictures and illustrations.

A culminating event of the Living Things unit was a videoconference with the Akron Zoo. Using a Polycom system, students were able to talk live on location with Akron Zoo educator Patty Villars about animals and how they lived. During the conference, Mrs. Villars shared a number of animals with the class including a porcupine, spider, and parrot. As a follow-up to the videoconference, Mrs. Tonelli's class partnered with another class from Longcoy School to take a field trip to the Akron Zoo.





# The Study of Plants



Miss Fudale's fourth grade class from Fishcreek Elementary (Stow) studied plants in the AT&T Classroom using a wide range of tools and software applications. Using their Palm Pilots, Miss Fudale beamed a question to the students that framed their research and work for the day and students beamed their findings back to her upon completion. The class used the Wolf Vision document camera to investigate different types of plants and parts of plants. Students further investigated plant structures by accessing interactive websites, using the SMARTBoard's touch screen. To study plant growth, students planted bean seeds and recorded their growth using a stop motion camera, creating a video that documented the two-week growth process. Students also created and filmed an interpretive dance of seed travel and growth that they shared with their parents and with Fishcreek first graders. As a culminating activity, the students created PowerPoint presentations on the plant of their choice, complete with digital images, video and audio clips.

## Students Tour Kent State University's Green House

Students also had hands-on opportunities to study plants, first on a field trip to the Kent State University Green House where they were given a tour of the facility by Mr. Chris Rizzo. On Earth Day, one of the student's parents, Mr. Smith, gave a presentation on the many products created from plants and demonstrated to the students how to make rope from plants.

