The BUGSCOPE Project is an amazing way for teachers to bring technology into the classroom. Students get to remotely operate, in real time, a Scanning Electron Microscope via the internet. The students were able to design their own experience by collecting and sending their own specimens. The program is sponsored by The Imaging Technology Group at The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Students were able to ‘drive’ the microscope using the ESEM controller interface. Students could move the stage, adjust the magnification, contrast, and brightness. During the experience, the controller viewed the image on a presentation screen while individual students viewed on standard monitors while using a chat program.

These girls are using a chat program to speak to Scott and Daniel at the Beckman Institute. Students were able to ask questions about the microscope and about bugs in general. Because the microscope moves in real time, students were able to ask questions about what they were seeing and receive answers in time to explain each image as it was being viewed.

Please visit the bugscope homepage at http://bugscope.beckman.uiuc.edu

To see more of the images we collected, click the link to database and enter the code 2002-050 in the Account Name box. This will give you access to all the images collected during our experience! Click the images below to see a larger view of some of our favorites.
Mite on the leg of a Black Boat Backed Beetle magnified 349 times.

Mouth of a Brown Daddy Long Leg Spider magnified 168 times.

Toungue of a Green Bottle Fly magnified 350 times.

Eye of a Green Lacewig magnified 320 times.

Hand of Boat Backed Beetle with trash magnified 640 times.

http://bugscope.beckman.uiuc.edu