

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

104 INTERSTITIAL: MS MOLE STORY TIME: ANT GARDENS

Written by

Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Follows "The House that Ants Built." This dives deeper into how ants use the rooms in their nest.

Curriculum: The kids learn that ant nets are big and that leaf-cutting ants feed leaves to their fungus garden.

Learning Goals:

LS4. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs. [Ant use leaves to grow their fungus food]

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function') Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. [Ants have gardens just like we do.]

POLISH DRAFT: 12-Feb-19

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Ms. Mole and Elinor are chatting in the classroom. The scene opens as they are mid conversation.

Ari rushes into the frame.

	ARI	
1	Elinor, Ms Mole! Guess what? I was	1
	showing my sister how cool ants	
	are, and she tried to eat one!	

Elinor shivers in disgust, and Ms Mole shakes her head.

	MS. MOLE	
2	Oops! Eating ants is not the best	2
	idea. BUT it reminds me that it's	
	time for our story, which is all	
	about ANTS and SISTERS!	

Ari looks surprised.

	ARI	
3	What? Ants have sisters too?	3

Olive and Tito Mouse come to join them. Ms Mole turns to her desk, and we see a really long book lying closed with drawings of ants on the cover.

	OLIVE	
4	Wow, I've never seen a book that	4
	big before!	

	MS. MOLE	
5	Yes, it has lots of ANTS-ers in it.	5

The kids giggle. Tito and Ari help get the book open. Tito Mouse ends up holding on to the edge and gets lifted into the air as it opens.

On the first page of the book, we see the top of an anthill above ground.

	ARI	
6	Why is the book so big, Ms. Mole?	6

	MS. MOLE	
7	To show you how big anthills are	7
	under the ground!	

Ms. Mole reaches under the page, and the long page unfolds down, revealing a cutaway view that shows the vast underground tunnels leading down. The kids <OOHHH...>

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)

8 Anthills are really big! There is 8
room for THOUSANDS of ants.

ANGLE ON: The book illustration animates and we see lots of little ants scurrying around. The ants are realistically depicted.

ELINOR

9 Wow! There are SO many! 9

We zoom in on a room with one ant that's bigger than the others by 2-3x.

MS. MOLE

10 But there is one special kind of 10
ant called the QUEEN ANT.

OLIVE

11 Is she in charge of the other ants? 11
Like a real queen?

The other ants crawl all around her.

MS. MOLE

12 Sort of! She's the mother of most 12
of the ants that live in the
anthill. They actually help take
care of her!

We see the little ants bringing her food.

ARI

13 All those ants are... brothers!? 13

MS. MOLE

14 And sisters! They are one BIG 14
family.

The ants snuggle in a bit to the queen.

ELINOR

15 Why is the Queen Ant so much bigger 15
than the other ants?

We see a sideways view that shows the queen ant 2-3x larger than the other ants. Ref:
<https://www.terro.com/media//articles/images/421/19-queen-ants.jpg>

MS. MOLE

16 She has to be big enough to lay all 16
the eggs. That's where her children
come from!

Back to the kids:

17	ELINOR	17
	I wonder what it's like to have so many brothers and sisters.	

18	ARI	18
	I really love my sister.	

19	OLIVE	19
	Do you want a thousand more sisters?	

Ari ponders this for a moment.

20	ARI	20
	I'd rather have a thousand sisters than eat one ant.	

They all giggle.

*