

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWI INTERSTITIAL 105: SENOR TAPIR

Lenormand's Parachute

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FOLLOWS: "THE TOMATO DROP"

CONNECTION: The invention of the parachute

CURRICULUM: Inspired by a tightrope walker's parasol, Louis-Sébastien Lenormand tries out designs for his invention – the “parachute” – by scaling up his experiments with differently weighted objects and umbrellas of different sizes to perfect a version for his big jump.

SEP1. Asking questions and defining problems.

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations.

ET1. Begin to understand that asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems, and that it is important to clearly understand the problem before beginning to design a solution.

FIRST DRAFT: 2/14/2019

1. EXT PARK -- DAY

Open on SENOR TAPIR sitting up in a tree with his guitar, in the park of Animal Town. A group of kids, including ELINOR and ARI, see him in the tree and point.

1	ARI	1
	Senor Tapir! Why are you up in that tree?	
2	SENOR TAPIR	2
	I wanted to see what the park looks like from up here - it's very INTERESTING!	
3	ARI	3
	How are you gonna get down?	
4	ELINOR	4
	Maybe you could use a PARACHUTE!	
5	SENOR TAPIR	5
	Actually, I was just thinking about that wonderful invention, and the inventor who invented it - Louis-Sébastien Lenormand...	

Sitting on the branch, Senor Tapir starts to strum his guitar and sings. We TRANSITION to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

2. EXT. OUTDOOR CARNIVAL -- DAY

Lenormand nervously watches a tightrope-walker balance using a parasol.

6	SENOR TAPIR	6
	(singing)	
	Monsieur Lenormand	
	Was scared of heights	
	Until he saw a performer	
	staying upright	

He has an idea! We see a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** of using umbrellas to float down gently.

7	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	7
	(CHORUS)	
	He had an idea	
	to float nice and light	
	but he had to try it	
	to make it just right	

3. EXT. OBSERVATORY TOWER -- Day

Lenormand approaches a tall tower.

8	SENOR TAPIR	8
	He wanted to jump	
	from a very tall tower	
	But how big an umbrella	
	had enough floating power?	

A crowd gathers to watch his experiments.

9	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	9
	Up the tower steps	
	he dropped weights down	
	to find the right umbrella	
	to float to the ground	

We see him drop three at the same time:

- (1) a small weight with a small umbrella floats down gently,
- (2) a large weight with a small umbrella crash down,
- (3) a large weight with a large umbrella floats down gently.

10	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	10
	"What size lets me	
	Jump and survive?"	
	He measured his weight,	
	to prepare for his dive	

Lenormand weighs himself and starts sketching rapidly. He dashes off screen and returns with a huge bundle of fabric attached with ropes to a harness.

11	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	11
	Fourteen feet across,	
	Tied nice and tight,	
	His parachute was ready	
	for his very short flight.	

He dons the parachute and jumps! The crowd goes wild.

12	SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)	12
	It went according to plan,	
	He landed with a gentle "Plop!"	
	Safety first is best	
	For such a big drop!	
	(CHORUS)	
	He had an idea	
	to float nice and light	
	but he had to try it	
	to make it just right.	

Lenormand floats gently to the ground.

TRANSITION TO:

4. EXT PARK -- DAY

13	ELINOR / ARI	13
	"Wow!" / "That's amazing!"	
14	ELINOR	14
	Do you need help getting down, Senor Tapir?	
15	SENOR TAPIR	15
	No thank you Elinor, I have just what I need!	

Tapir is now wearing a parachute and jumps out of the tree, floating gently down. He lands and bows to the kids who applaud. <SFX: applause>.