ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWW INTERSTITIAL 105: SENOR TAPIR

Lenormand's Parachute

Written by MEG ROSENBURG

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

FINAL DRAFT 3/04/2019

1. EXT PARK -- DAY

Open on SENOR TAPIR sitting up in a tall 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! What are you doing up there?

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!

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears as Elinor imagines this.

5 SENOR TAPIR 5
Actually, I was just thinking about the inventor who designed the world's first parachute - 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. TOWER -- DAY

Lenormand arrives to the bottom of a tall tower and looks up.

6 SENOR TAPIR 6
(singing)
Lenormand wanted to jump off the tower,
And land nice and soft, like a leaf or a flower,
He didn't know how to safely get down,
Til he saw someone walk high above town.

PAN OVER TO REVEAL: A tight-rope walker. Lenormand watches the tightrope-walker balance using a parasol with interest.

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

Lenormand runs OS then returns immediately with and armful of umbrellas and a basket of rocks and starts to climb the tower. A crowd gathers [shown in simple silhouette]

8 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 8

Design, test and improve,
That's how he knew which umbrella
to use.
The umbrella could help him land
safe and sound
But how big an umbrella would help
get him down?
He needed to find one just the
right size,
And figuring that out would take a
few tries.

At the top of the tower he starts his experiments. He drops a small rock with a small umbrella - it floats down gently.

He drops a large rock with a small umbrella, it crashes down,

SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

Design, test and improve,
That's how he knew which umbrella
to use,

He drops a large rock with a large umbrella, it floats down gently.

10 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 10

He used umbrellas and rocks,
Different sizes!
He tried things out,
and discovered surprises,
His parachute size had been
carefully planned,
To hold him up gently as he drifted
to land.
(CHORUS)
Design, test and improve,
That's how Lenormand made the
parachute.

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 tall tree, floating gently down. He lands and bows to the kids who applaud. <SFX: applause>.

"OUR ATTEMPT (again, take it or leave it!)
Lenormand wanted to jump off the tower
And land nice and soft, like a leaf or a flower
He didn't know how he would safely get down
Til he saw someone walking high above town *
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