

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

FINAL DRAFT 3/04/2019

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.

2 SENOR TAPIR 2
I wanted to see what the park looks
like from up here - it's very
INTERESTING!

4 ELINOR 4
Maybe you could use a PARACHUTE!

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

2. EXT. TOWER -- DAY

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.

7

SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

7

The umbrella trick made him think,
And from there,
He had an idea
To float down through the air..

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

Lenormand runs OS then returns immediately with an 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

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.

9

SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

9

Design, test and improve,
It's best way to know just what to
do,

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

Lenormand used umbrellas and rocks,
Different sizes!
He kept trying things out,
and discovered surprises,
At last, he saw, big umbrellas were
best,
They were the ones that passed all
his tests,

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

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11                               SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)                               11
    He built a device with the same
    basic shape
    It fit like a glove (or a very big
    cape)

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He dons the parachute and jumps!

12 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 12

It worked out! He landed
With a gentle "Plop!"
It's best to be safe
For such a big drop!
His parachute size had been
carefully planned,
To hold him up gently as he drifted
to land.

(CHORUS)

Design, test and improve,
It's the best way to know just what
to do,
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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