

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWV INTERSTITIAL 108: SENOR TAPIR

Alexandra Horwitz and Dogs

Written by Matt Giorgianni

FOLLOWS: "Ms Mole's Glasses"

CONNECTION: Using other senses to recognize things and people.

CURRICULUM: Alexandra Horowitz was curious whether dogs use smells to recognize each other and themselves. Dogs react to their own scent, particularly if it's mixed with another smell. Alexandra expanded our idea of recognition in animals by reminding us that there are other senses than vision that animals use to identify animals.

SEP1. Asking questions and defining problems. [Alexandra Horowitz wanted to know how dogs recognize each other]

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations. [Alexandra Horowitz did an experiment]

LS2 - Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow.

A. Identify body parts of animals and their function. (The kids learn that dogs use their noses to identify other animals).

FIRST DRAFT: 3/5/2019

SECOND DRAFT: 3/25/2019

1. EXT PARK - DAY

Open on Elinor, Olive and Ari standing around looking expectantly. Mr Dog walks by.

*
*

1 MR DOG 1
 Hi kids, what are you up to?

*
*

2 OLIVE 2
 We were supposed to meet Señor
 Tapir here

*
*
*

Mr Dog sniffs the air and smiles.

*

3 MR DOG 3
 Oh! (sniff, sniff) He's around here
 somewhere.

*
*

4 ELINOR 4
 How do you know?

*
*

5 MR DOG 5
 I have a special way to recognize
 my friends. Watch this trick.

*
*
*

Mr Dog pulls out a blindfold.

*

6 MR DOG (CONT'D) 6
 Now mix yourselves up.

*
*

The kids shuffle their positions. Mr. Dog then leans down and sniffs (at a distance) each one. <SFX: SNIFF, SNIFF> then he points.

*
*
*

7 MR DOG (CONT'D) 7
 Olive..Elinor..Ari

*
*

Mr Dog turns his nose toward a small bush behind the kids

*

8 MR DOG (CONT'D) 8
 ...and hello Señor Tapir!

*
*

Señor Tapir pops out from behind the small bush, with a big smile. <SFX: WHOAA WALLA AND LAUGHTER> as Mr. Dog takes off his blindfold.

*
*
*

9 ELINOR (LAUGHING) 9
 What?! That was amazing Mr. Dog

*
*

Señor Tapir swings his guitar around from behind his back.

*

10

SEÑOR TAPIR

10

You know, Mr. Dog's fancy trick
reminds me of a scientist named
Alexandra Horowitz who wanted to
know how dogs can tell who is who.

*

2. EXT PARK - DAY

We see a family of elephants.

*

11

SEÑOR TAPIR

11

(singing)

Some animals use their eyes to tell
who is who
That one is Jim, that's Sally, that's Lou

*

*

*

An elephant looks over at three other elephants who each wave
their trunk as their names are called out

*

But dogs have themselves a powerful
nose
Could they use it to tell Mike from
Rose
Well, Alexandra Horowitz wondered
that too
So she set out to see how they tell
who is who

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

Alexandra (as a cat) walks up, smiles and points to the dog's
nose.

*

So she designed an experiment and
found a surprise
A dog uses its nose like others use
their eyes

*

*

Smells waft into a dog's nose, and it gets thought bubbles of
the faces of the animals.

*

When a dog sniffs a hand, a leg or
a sleeve,
They smell so much more than you
would believe
Sniff sniff, who is Mike
Sniff sniff, who is Rose
Dogs figure it out by using their
nose!

*

*

*

Each one of us has our own unique
smell.
But the difference is small so it's
quite hard to tell

*

*

*

(MORE)

SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D)

But to a dog it's not small, in
fact it's quite clear
Mike is right there and Rose is
right here.

*
*
*
*
*

When a dog sniffs a hand, a leg or
some feet
They smell so much more than you
would believe
Sniff sniff, who is Mike
Sniff sniff, who is Rose
Dogs figure it out by using their
nose!

*
*
*

3. EXT PARK - DAY

Back in the park.

12	SEÑOR TAPIR	12
	So you see, dogs use their sense of smell to figure out who is who.	

Mr Dog sniffs the air.

*

13	ELINOR	13
	That nose sure is special	

*
*

14	MR DOG	14
	I sure think so. And what do you think Ms. Gorilla?	

*
*
*

The kids look confused when Ms. Gorilla pops out from behind
a second small bush next to the first one. The kids all <SFX:
LAUGH> at the sight of the large gorilla popping out from a
small bush

*
*
*
*

*

Reference: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/22/science/dogs-smell-recognition.html>