

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

109 INTERSTITIAL: SENOR TAPIR

Written by

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FOLLOWS: "SPEED RACER"

CONNECTION: Shape is important for speed

CURRICULUM: Señor Tapir sings a song about Eiji Nakatsu, who loved birds and designed the bullet train to match the shape of the Kingfisher bird.

SEP: Design solutions (engineering).

ND3: 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 (ND3).

FIRST DRAFT: 03-08-19
SECOND DRAFT: 03-21-19

Open on Senor Tapir, with his guitar, in the park of Animal Town, sitting on a tree stump at the edge of a pond. A group of kids sit at his feet, including Elinor and Silas Cheetah.

Elinor's hand shoots up. She doesn't wait to be called on.

Silas suddenly bolts off screen and disappears.

Silas runs really fast back to sit down as Senor Tapir starts to strum his guitar and sings. After a line or two, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

Eiji Nakatsu (a Japanese Macaque) watches the Shinkansen bullet train with a round nose zoom past on a train track.

Eiji helped design a bullet train
For people in Japan to ride,
He looked for ideas to make the
train better,
By watching the birds outside.

Eiji Nakatsu watches a kingfisher bird dive from the tree branches down into the water to catch a fish. We see a close up of the bird's beak, which is long, pointy and wedge-shaped.

He saw the diving kingfisher bird,
 Its long, pointy beak so unique!
 He decided to change the bullet
 train's nose
 To be shaped like a kingfisher
 beak.

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We see the original shape of the bullet train's nose (which was long and round) change to the shape of the kingfisher's beak. The train goes through a tunnel and fast down the track. We see the shape of the train's nose compared to the shape of the kingfisher's beak. The train continues down the track, past trees, mountains, cities, houses, etc.

He got to choo--choo--choose the
 shape of the train
 And make the train better than
 before,
 So he use--use--used the shape of a
 bird
 And the train went faster than
 before! Once more!

(sung even faster)

He got to choo --choo--choose the
 shape of the train
 And make the train better than
 before,
 So he use--use--used the shape of a
 bird
 And the train went faster than
 before! Once more!

NOTE TO COMPOSERS: If we are short on time, we can cut the last chorus.

(sung even faster)

He got to choo--choo--choose the
 shape of the train
 And make the train better than
 before,
 So he use--use--used the shape of a
 bird
 And the train went faster than
 before!

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3. EXT PARK -- DAY

8 SENOR TAPIR 8
 Whoah that song makes me want to go
 fast!

9 SILAS 9
 Let's all go fast! Follow me!

Silas runs fast off screen, Senor Tapir tosses his guitar on the grass to follow, and all the kids run fast after him off screen. <SFX: KIDS CHEER WALLA>