ELINOR WONDERS WHY

109 INTERSTITIAL: SENOR TAPIR

Written by

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FOLLOWS: "FEED THE BIRDS”

CONNECTION: BIRDS IN WINTER

CURRICULUM: Richard Hill was a scientist who wondered how a chickadee uses its feathers to keep warm in cold weather. He found that the colder the temperature, the more the chickadee poofed its feathers until the bird was practically a sphere.

SEP1. Asking questions and defining problems.
SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

FIRST DRAFT: Feb. 27, 2019
SECOND DRAFT: March 19, 2019

1. EXT BARN -- EVENING

Open on Senor Tapir, with his guitar, standing next to a barn in Animal Town. A group of kids (REUSE FROM "The Science of Staying Warm") including ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (all in winter gear), finish building a snowman and stick a carrot nose in its face. There is snow on the ground and everyone wears winter coats and hats. A CHICKADEE flies in and lands on the snowman's nose.

1 ELINOR 1

Senor Tapir, how do chickadees keep warm in the winter? They don't have winter coats or fur like us.

2 SENOR TAPIR 2

You know what, Elinor, a scientist named Richard Hill had the same question. Lights please.

Ari turns a (freestanding, so it can be anywhere) spotlight onto Senor Tapir, who is wearing a thin coat, and his narrow silhouette shines onto the side of the barn behind. Tapir starts to strum his guitar and sings.

After a few words, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

3 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 3

(singing)

How do chickadees keep warm in the winter?

TRANSITION TO:

2. EXT WINTER FOREST (SIMPLE STYLE) -- DAY

We see a chickadee fly and land on a snowy branch in a winter forest. A man (Richard Hill illustrated as a Jack Rabbit) is walking down a trail and pauses to look at the little bird.

4 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 4

Richard Hill wanted to know.
When the temperature's dropping,
oh why don't they stop and become
birdie popsicles out in the snow?

Cut to a room, where Richard turns a spotlight onto a chickadee on a perch, projecting its silhouette onto a backdrop behind the chickadee. Richard turns down the temperature (rotates thermostat and thermometer drops), the bird poofs a bit, and he traces its silhouette.

He turns the temperature down again (rotates thermostat and thermometer drops as it gets colder), the chickadee poofs up more and Richard traces its silhouette again so we can compare the difference in shape. *

The shape of a chickadee's shadow
Gave Richard the answer he found,
'Cause in chilly weather
Birds poof up their feathers.
The colder it gets then the more
they get round.

Chickadee Dee Dee your shadow *
helped him see, *
How you poof up your feathers in a *
cold winter storm, *
Chickadee Dee Dee your shadow *
helped him see, *
the way you stay toasty and warm. *

The chickadee perches on a branch and poofs up. Its cheeks look rosy (a little artistic license to indicate the bird feels warm). The bird is standing tall and looks down to its feather-less feet, and as a nod to following lyrics it quickly sits down to keep its feet warm under its feathers.

As you perch on your seat
Your feathers trap heat
From your chickadee head to your
chickadee feet

Scenes of snow coming down harder and harder and chickadees poofing more and more until they are very round.

Chickadee Dee Dee your shadow *
helped him see, *
How you poof up your feathers in a *
cold winter storm, *
Chickadee Dee Dee your shadow *
helped him see *
the way you stay toasty and warm. *

TRANSITION TO:

3. EXT BARN -- EVENING

The kids cheer as Senor Tapir finishes his song. Now he is wearing more jackets and has a dramatically larger silhouette. Simultaneously, Ari finishes tracing Senor Tapir's silhouette onto the side of the barn with some chalk.

5 ARI 5

Are you feeling warm Senor Tapir? Your shadow tells me you are all puffed up!

6 SENOR TAPIR 6

Ahh, Ari, I always feels warm when I'm singing with you kids - Gracias amigos!

A chickadee flies in and lands on Senor Tapirs hat.