

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 112A Wind in the Web
By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why are spiderwebs full of holes?

Logline: Elinor and her friends volunteer to help Mr. Raccoon sell his tasty treats, and they learn from Nature that wind will push things, but it can't push them as hard if they have holes in them.

Curriculum Goals:

LS5b. Identify the habitats of familiar animals and plants in the environment [Spiders live in spider webs]

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'):
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. [They engineer the sign to have wind holes to mimic the spider web].

SEP3b: Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail [They compare the web to the kite and the sign]

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence [they use the web and leaves with holes to explain why the sign blew away and how to fix it]

MAINS: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mr. Raccoon

SECONDARIES: Silas

INCIDENTAL: (no lines) Deputy Mouse)

LOCATIONS: Animal Town Centre, Grassy Area in the Middle of Town, Mr. Raccoon's Bakery

PROPS: Leaves, sign, scissors, pretzels, bagels, cheese

OUTLINE: April 2, 2019
FIRST DRAFT: April 24, 2019
SECOND DRAFT: May 22, 2019
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RECORD DRAFT: June 11, 2019

It's a brisk Fall day, and ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE (carrying her SATCHEL) are happily walking along a leaf-strewn sidewalk near the center of Animal Town (like a very small Main Street, with friendly adults and families walking around and no traffic). A slight wind is blowing through, kicking up an occasional leaf.

The wind gusts, shaking Olive's ears a bit.

A bunch of leaves get blown by the wind, swirling around Ari, who giggles and spins with them.

Elinor leans into the wind and smiles.

A leaf blows right onto Olive's trunk.

They giggle.

He blows some air out of his mouth.

Olive blows air out of her trunk, pushing some leaves around on the ground. Ari is impressed <SFX: Woah!>

The wind picks up a little. Ari leans into it, trying to enjoy it too.

9 ARI 9
Here it comes! I'm going to try to
catch some wind!

He lifts his arms slightly and embraces the wind.

10	ARI (CONT'D)	10
	Ooh, that DOES feel nice.	

He raises his arms and wings to enjoy more of it, and the wind pushes him back a bit.

11 ARI (CONT'D) 11

Whoa.

He leans into it more, but then a big gust blows through.

ARI (CONT'D)

Whoa! Whoa! Ahh!

Ari is sent flying and flipping backwards, landing on a small pile of leaves.

13 ARI (CONT'D) 13
 (blowing a leaf off his
 head)
 Wow, that wind is pushy.

The kids giggle.

14 ELINOR 14
Here, I'll help you.

Elinor and Olive help him up. At that moment, a small bell rings. It's Mr. Raccoon, coming out of his bakery. Mr. Raccoon has one arm in a sling, and the other arm is trying to hold on to what looks like a medium-size rolled-up tarp and two sticks. He has some difficulty holding the door open and navigating the doorway and holding on to the sign with only one arm.

15 OLIVE 15
Hello, Mr. Raccoon.

Elinor runs around and holds the door open for Mr. Raccoon.

16 ELINOR 16
Here you go, Mr. Raccoon.

17 MR. RACCOON 17
Oh, thank you, Elinor! Hello, Olive
and Ari! How are you on this fine
day?

18 ARI 18
We are enjoying the wind. What
happened to your arm?

19 MR. RACCOON 19
Unfortunately, I sprained my arm
mixing ingredients last night, and
now I have to let it rest. My other
arm is doing twice the work!

20 ARI 20
(pointing to the rolled up
tarp)
What's that, Mr. Raccoon?

Mr. Raccoon looks down at the tarp.

21 MR. RACCOON 21
This? Oh, today is a very special
day, kids. I baked some delicious
treats: pretzels and bagels. I call
it, "Pretzel and Bagel Day."

22 OLIVE 22
Ooh, I LOVE pretzels.

23 ARI 23
And I love bagels! They're my
favorite baked goodie.
(thinks about it)
Actually, most baked goodies are my
favorite, but I especially like
bagels.

24 MR. RACCOON 24
Haha, well, I like them too, Ari.
And I'd like everyone to come try
them, so I'm going to put up this
sign over there by the town center.

With the help of one of the kids, Mr. Raccoon unfurls the
sign for them, and we see that it has drawings of bagels,
pretzels, some swiss soy cheese and a big arrow pointing in
one direction.

25 MR. RACCOON (CONT'D) 25
Oh, I also have some special swiss
soy cheese that I want everyone to
try.

26 ELINOR 26
I love cheese!

27 MR. RACCOON 27
Great, well come by my store any
time and I'll give you all some
free samples.

Mr. Raccoon tries to awkwardly roll up the sign again with
only one hand, but struggles to hold on to it.

28 MR. RACCOON (CONT'D) 28
Hm, urm. Oh. Urk.

The kids look at each other and seem to have the same idea.

29 ELINOR 29
Mr. Raccoon, can we help you?

30 ARI 30
Yeah, we can put the sign up for
you.

31 OLIVE 31
We love pretzels, bagels and cheese
and we want everyone to know about
them too!

32 MR. RACCOON 32
Oh, wow, that's so nice of you,
kids. That would really help me.
Thank you.

33 ELINOR 33
No problem, Mr. Raccoon. We'll put
the sign up and everybody's going
to come try your awesome treats.

The kids help Mr. Raccoon roll up the sign and he hands it to
Olive.

34 ARI 34
Let's go!

Over some short music, the kids run over to the grassy area
in the middle of the town center. On the way, Ari
jumps/flutter over a bush and Olive skips over some leaves.

2. EXT. GRASSY AREA IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN - DAY

Elinor looks around a little bit and picks a spot.

35 ELINOR 35
I think this is a good place. Let's
put up the sign.

Olive is holding the sign. Elinor takes one end to unfurl the sign, while Ari pushes the sticks into the ground to hold it in place.

36 ARI 36
There we go.

The kids take a step back and look at their handiwork.

37 ELINOR 37
I think that looks pretty good.

38 ARI 38
It makes me hungry for a bagel
right now.

Ari mimes eating a delicious bagel.

39 OLIVE 39
EVERYTHING makes you hungry, Ari.

40	ARI	40
	No... Some things also make me thirsty.	

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Silas the Cheetah passes by and notices the sign.

SILAS
What's that?

The kids form a funny tableau to showcase the sign.

42 SILAS (CONT'D) 42
Oh, is Mr. Raccoon making bagels
and pretzels today? Awesome. I'll
go check it out,

He speeds off towards the bakery. The kids nod and high-five each other.

43 ELINOR 43
Yes, the sign is working!

At that moment, the wind picks up, and the sign flutters.

44 OLIVE 44
Uh oh, it's getting windy again.

The wind gets stronger, and the sign billows and strains.

45 ARI 45
Yeah, and the wind is pushing the
sign!

The kids look worried about the sign, but the wind dies down. Phew! They all sigh in relief. But a moment later, a strong gust blows. The sign flutters and then... it flies out of the ground!

46 Oh no! ELINOR 46

Sign and sticks and all fly off up and away.

47	OLIVE	47
	Follow the sign!	

3. EXT ANIMAL TOWN CENTER -- DAY

The kids go running to find their sign. The sign flutters and flies comically over town residents. At some point, it looks like it's headed straight for Ms. Gee Raffe, but it flies up, up, and over her head at the last second. The kids follow the sign, but suddenly, it seems to have disappeared.

48	ARI	48
	Where did it go?	

49 OLIVE 49
I don't know.

50 ELINOR 50
I'll look this way.

Elinor heads one way, and Olive and Ari head the other way. Elinor walks down the sidewalk a bit, looking around. The wind blows through again and causes some leaves on the ground to swirl around.

51 ELINOR (CONT'D) 51
Wow, look at how the wind is
pushing the leaves...

Just then, Ari and Olive come back with the sign.

OLIVE

We found it, Elinor.

Olive and Ari come back with Deputy Mouse, who has the sign over the front of his face and body (the wind blew the sign into him). <SFX: WALLA AHM>

53	ARI	53
	Thanks for catching our sign, Deputy Mouse!	

Ari peels the sign from him. <SFX: WALLA GRUMBLE> Deputy Mouse walks away.

54 OLIVE 54
Ready? Let's go put the sign up
again.

55 ARI 55
Yeah, we want everyone to know
about the bagels and pretzels.

56 ELINOR 56
And cheese!

4. EXT. GRASSY AREA IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN - DAY

The kids have the sign rolled up again and are back at their spot.

57 ELINOR 57
I'm so glad we found Mr. Raccoon's
sign.

The wind gusts.

58 OLIVE 58
Uh oh, the wind is blowing again.

59 ARI 59

What should we do? The wind might
blow the sign away like before.

The kids brainstorm ideas (we see **THOUGHT BUBBLES**).

60 OLIVE 60
Maybe we could put some branches in
front of it to block the wind?

61 ELINOR 61
Hmmm, but then nobody will be able
to see the sign.

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62                                ARI                                62
    What if we use some rocks to hold
    it down?

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63 OLIVE 63
 Good idea, but then we would have
 to lay it down flat and nobody
 would see it.

64 ARI 64
 Hmm, this is tricky.

The kids sit down, unsure what to do. Olive is scratching her head with her trunk thinking.

Suddenly, something catches Elinor's eye: a spider hanging from a thread down from the branch of a nearby bush.

65 ELINOR 65
 Oooh, a spider.

The spider climbs up and Elinor follows it to a web stretched across two bushes.

66 ELINOR (CONT'D) 66
 There's its web. Olive, Ari, come look.

The wind gusts gently, stirring some leaves, but not the web.

67 OLIVE 67
 I love spider webs. They're SO cool.

The wind picks up again, blowing harder, swirling leaves all around the kids, but the spider web only shakes a bit.

68 ARI 68
 Whoa, here comes that pushy wind again.

69 ELINOR 69
 Did you see that? The wind pushed the leaves pretty hard.

70 ARI 70
 And me too.

71 ELINOR 71
 BUT the spider web didn't get pushed as much. It hardly moved.

72 OLIVE 72
 That's right, I noticed that too!

The wind blows through again, repeating the effect.

73 ARI 73

Look, there it is again. The wind's
pushing the leaves more than its
pushing the web.

74 ELINOR 74
 Hmm, that is SO INTERESTING.

75 OLIVE 75
Why doesn't the web get pushed very
much?

76 ELINOR 76
I don't know... Mr. Raccoon's sign
gets pushed by the wind a lot, and
the leaves get pushed a lot, but
the spider web doesn't. I think we
need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

77 OLIVE 77
Good idea. I'll write it down to
help us tell the difference.

Olive gets her note-pad and crayon from her satchel. Holding the crayon with her trunk, she makes a chart with two columns: one for pushed (check mark) and one for not pushed (X).

78 OLIVE (CONT'D) 78
One side for pushed a lot and one
side for NOT pushed a lot.

79 ELINOR 79
OK, the sign got pushed a lot.

Olive draws a kid doodle version of the sign on the left-hand-side of the page.

80 ARI 80
The spider web DIDN'T get pushed as
much.

Olive draws it on the right-hand side.

81 OLIVE 81
Good. What else?

ARI

Well, leaves get pushed a lot.

83 OLIVE 83
Right.

Olive draws a leaf in the "pushed column."

84 OLIVE (CONT'D) 84
 Hmm, I feel like we're missing one
 more thing.

The wind picks up a little and Ari gets pushed back a bit.

85 ELINOR 85
 And Ari! Ari got pushed a lot when
 he had his wings open.

Olive draws a stick figure Ari. She pauses and, as a
 flourish, she doodles a little bagel in his hands.

86 ARI 86
 Aww, is that a bagel? Nice!

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>, then look at the list they made.

87 OLIVE 87
 Ok, let's see... What's different
 about the things that get pushed by
 the wind and the spider web?

The kids think for a beat.

88 ELINOR 88
 <GASP!> I have an idea! Maybe it's
 about what's MISSING.

89 ARI 89
 Uh... what do you mean, Elinor?

90 ELINOR 90
 I mean the holes! The web has holes
 in it.

91 ARI 91
 Oh, I get it.

92 OLIVE 92
 You're right, Elinor! The web has
 holes in it, but the sign and the
 leaves and Ari's wings don't. Maybe
 things with holes don't get pushed
 by the wind as much.

93 ARI 93
 That makes sense. The wind goes
 right through the holes.

This gives Elinor an idea.

94 ELINOR 94
 Hmmm... And that gives me the best
 idea for our sign!

Elinor leads them back to the sign.

95 ELINOR (CONT'D) 95
 Olive? Do you have scissors in your
 bag?

96 OLIVE 96
 Sure do!

Olive takes out some kid-friendly rounded scissors and hands
 one to Elinor and one to Ari.

97 ELINOR 97
 Let's fix this sign!

The kids get to work. As they work, they sing a song:

98 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 98
 Woosh! Woosh!
 The wind goes woosh!
 Woosh! Woosh!
 The wind can push!

Ari and the sign
 Both got pushed
 The wind blew them
 Woosh woosh woosh!

The spider web
 Has lots of holes
 It barely moves
 When the wind blows

If we add some holes
 Here and there
 Our sign won't fly
 Off anywhere

Woosh! Woosh!
 The wind goes woosh!
 Woosh! Woosh!
 The wind can push!

At the end of the song, the kids stand in front of their
 sign, admiring their work. The camera reveals where they put
 the holes: in the holes of the swiss soy cheese, the holes of
 the bagels, and the holes of the pretzels (as well as a few
 decorative holes around the edges).

99 OLIVE 99
Our holes are in the perfect place.
Right in the middle of the
pretzels!

100 ARI 100
And the bagels! And the cheese!
Mmmm, cheese.
(the wind starts to blow)
Here comes the wind. Do you think
it's gonna work?

A big gust comes through.

101 ELINOR 101
Come on sign! Come on holes!

The sign shakes a bit but doesn't blow away.

102 OLIVE 102
Yay! It worked! The wind pushed the
sign a little bit, but it didn't
blow away!

103 ARI 103
We did it!

Some other animals walk by and check out the sign. They seem
interested and head towards the bakery.

4. INT. MR. RACCOON'S BAKERY -- DAY

A cross-fade later, the kids are now in Mr. Raccoon's bakery.
Customers are walking in from the windy outside. Mr. Raccoon,
still wearing his arm in a sling, hands out pretzels and
bagels and wrapped-up wedges of cheese.

104 MR. RACCOON 104
Everybody in town wants to be part
of pretzel and bagel day. And they
all say it's because they saw the
sign. Well done, kids.

105 ELINOR 105
Well, we almost couldn't put the
sign up, because it was sooo windy.

106 ARI 106
One time, the wind even blew the
sign away!

107 OLIVE 107
But then we saw a spider web, and
figured out that if we put holes in
the sign, the wind won't push it as
much.

108 MR. RACCOON 108
Ah, that's very clever, Olive. The
holes help the wind get through the
sign.

He holds up a pretzel and blows through it at Olive.

109 ELINOR 109
I think you're right, Mr. Raccoon.

Elinor holds up a bagel and looks through it. She also blows
through the bagel hole at Olive, who <SFX: GIGGLES>. Ari has
been munching on a bagel. He swallows his bite and says...

110 ARI 110
Yup, that makes a "hole" lot of
sense! Get it? Hole?

111 OLIVE 111
Oh, Ari...

Everyone starts <SFX: LAUGHING>. An IRIS forms around each of
the characters' faces and holds for a beat before we...

FADE OUT.

SEGMENT 2.

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE are sitting down for story time. MZ.
MOLE settles down in front of them. We can see the wind
blowing (leaves etc.) outside the window. <SFX: WIND BLOWING>

112 OLIVE 112
It's so windy today, Mz. Mole!

113 MZ. MOLE 113
It sure is, Olive. While I was
walking here today, my favorite hat
blew away!

114 ELINOR 114
Oh no! The wind can be so PUSHY!

115 MZ. MOLE 115
 Yes, but did you know that some
 critters NEED a push from the wind?
 Like these spiders!
 (she holds up the spider
 book)
 Let's take a look...

Mz. Mole opens the book.

2. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

Close up on a small cotton ball-like spider egg sac stuck to
 a dead leaf on the forest floor.

116 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 116
 This is a nest for baby spiders.
 Maybe if we're very quiet, a baby
 will come out.

A cute baby spider crawls out of the egg sac, peering around.
 <SFX: KID WALLA AWWWW>

117 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 117
 Ha ha! Welcome to the world, little
 one!

The spiderling waves "hello" with a leg.

118 ELINOR (O.S.) 118
 Hello little spider.

119 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 119
 But this baby isn't alone. It has
 brothers and sisters. LOTS of
 brothers and sisters.

Pull back. There are dozens or hundreds of baby spiders
 crowded on the same leaf. They all wave "hello" with a leg,
 and the first baby spider jumps in surprise. <SFX: KID WALLA
 WHOOOA>

120 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 120
 So our spider needs to go somewhere
 less crowded where it'll have
 enough space and lots of food!

The spider walks away from the dead leaf and climbs up a very
 tall blade of grass.

121 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 121
 It climbs somewhere high and sticks
 out a leg to feel the wind.

The spider sticks out a leg to test the air. This is a somewhat windy day, but not a full gale.

122 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 122
The spider makes some silk threads...

The spider extrudes a bunch of separate, long silk threads from its abdomen.

123 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 123
And WHOOSH, the wind carries it into the sky!

The spider blows aloft over the trees. <SFX: KID WALLA WHOOOOAA>

BACK ON: The classroom.

124 ELINOR 124
Mz. Mole, where's our baby spider going?

125 MZ. MOLE 125
Why, anywhere the wind takes it!

BACK ON: The book, our spider is now joined by his brothers and sisters in the background.

126 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 126
Most spiders sail for a short time, but some sail for a long time. They can fly as high as a mountain...

BOOK PAGES FLIP to show the spiders bob over a mountain, some spiders land.

127 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 127
Or out to sea.

BOOK PAGES FLIP The spiders fly over the ocean, our spider takes the lead.

128 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 128
But at last... It lands.

BOOK PAGES FLIP The wind gently blows the spider to that forest path from the Wind In The Web episode.

129 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 129
Good job, spider. This looks like a nice place for a new home!

The spider looks around at the landscape. It jumps up and down happily.

BACK ON: Mz. Mole. She closes the book.

130	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	130
	And that's the end of our story about spiders who ride the wind.	

131	ELINOR	131
	Hmm. I guess the wind's pushiness can be helpful...	

Suddenly the <SFX: WIND> blows open the door. Mz. Mole's hat blows in and lands smack on her face.

132	MZ. MOLE	132
	(muffled) Ah, THERE'S my hat. Thank you, wind.	

<SFX: KID GIGGLE>

THE END.