

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 112 Feathers

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why do birds have feathers?

Logline: The kids learn that birds' feathers help
them fly and keep warm.

Curriculum Goals:

- LS2d: Explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment (The function of birds' feathers)
- ND2: Begin to understand that systems developed in our world often work in similar ways to systems found in the natural world (feathers and clothes work in similar ways)

• SEP1a: Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment [why do birds have feathers?]

SEP2: Distinguish between a model and the actual object, process, and/or events it represents [the sand castle drawing vs actual sand castle]

SEP4a: a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways.

MAIN CHARACTERS - Elinor, Ari, Olive, Ms. Mole

SECONDARY CHARACTERS - None.

PROPS: Feather, cap, sand-castle, three jackets for Elinor, Ari and Olive, Notebook

LINE COUNT - 116

FIRST DRAFT: 19-Feb-19

It's a typical clear morning in the forest. We open on some BIRDS chirping and hopping from branch to branch in the treetops. They are singing to each other cheerfully when, suddenly, they hear a faint whistling coming from the distance. The birds get curious and look over to see what is making that sound.

[illegible]

2 ARI (CONT'D) 2
Woo-hooo! (ad lib <WHISTLING> and
singing) Flying is so fun...

3 Huh? ARI (CONT'D) 3

ANGLE ON: A feather flutters down. Ari tracks it as it floats down and lands right on his cap! He takes the feather and looks at it.

He looks at the feather more closely. He blows on it and it flutters up - he watches it drift down and catches it on his palm.

He plays with it, striking a few funny poses: he fans himself with it; he tickles himself, <GIGGLING> a bit; he points at the trees with it.

6 ARI (CONT'D) 6
 <GIGGLES> You're my new lucky
 feather!

He sticks the feather in his cap, thinking it's pretty awesome.

7 ARI (CONT'D) 7
 I can't wait to show Elinor and
 Olive!

He walks the rest of the way to school with a happy swagger.

2. EXT PLAYGROUND - DAY

Open on Elinor playing in the sandbox with Olive. They are building a sand castle together. School hasn't started and kids are playing in the playground. ELINOR is wearing a RAINCOAT. OLIVE is wearing a COZY JACKET. Elinor pats down the last little bit of sand unto the center tower of their sand castle as Olive leans back and brushes off her hands.

8 ELINOR 8
 There!

9 OLIVE 9
 Nice!

They both stand up and take a step back to admire their work.

10 ELINOR 10
 What do you think, Olive?

11 OLIVE 11
 I think our sand castle came out
 pretty good, Elinor.

12 ELINOR 12
 Yeah! Hmm, although... it doesn't
 look quite done yet.

13 OLIVE 13
 Really?

At that moment, we see Ari enter the playground in the background. We switch to his perspective as he scans the playground. He spots Elinor and Olive and gets excited.

14 ARI 14
 There they are!

He runs over to the sandbox. BACK ON: Elinor and Olive discussing their castle.

15 OLIVE 15
What do you think it needs?

16 ELINOR 16
I don't know... I just feel like
it's missing something.

Ari comes up to within a few paces of the sandbox, then stops so he can make a proper entrance. He checks the feather and adjusts his hat just so, then strolls nonchalantly in front of Elinor and Olive's view.

17 OLIVE 17
What if we add a tower?

18 ELINOR 18
Mmm, I don't think we need another
one.

Ari makes it to the other side, but Elinor and Olive don't seem to notice him. He seems a bit disappointed but then rallies to try again. This time, he walks with his head tilted towards them, as he takes big waltzing steps, sweeping his arms back and forth.

19 ELINOR (CONT'D) 19
Maybe we could add more windows?

20 OLIVE 20
Hmmm...

Still nothing. Ari makes it to the other side and puts his hands on his hips. BACK ON: Olive and Elinor.

21 ELINOR 21
Or maybe we need a flag?

22 OLIVE 22
That would be nice! Something
bright and colorful?

Suddenly, Ari runs back in frame, and uses a flap of his wings to make a dramatic TA DA! Landing right in front of them. He shakes his head in their direction, pointing at his hat with his fingers.

23 ARI 23
AHM!

24 ELINOR 24
Oh, hi Ari!

25 OLIVE 25
When did you get here?

Olive blows the feather up in the air with her trunk and it settles in Elinor's hands.

SCIENCE CU MOMENT: We zoom into the feather and see its intricate structure and shape and colors.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39
Wow, it looks like it's made out of
lots of little hairs!

She runs her finger along the edge of the feather, and we see the different hairs part.

40 ARI 40
I thought it was just flat!

41 ELINOR 41
That is SO INTERESTING!

42 OLIVE 42
And there are so many colors!

Ari takes a closer look at his own fur. [SCIENCE CU?]

43 ARI 43
I wonder why WE don't have
feathers?

Olive and Elinor look at their skin/fur too.

44 ELINOR 44
Yeah, why DO birds have feathers?

45 OLIVE 45
Good question, Elinor. Hmmm...

The kids ponder for a second.

46 OLIVE (CONT'D) 46
I know! Maybe birds like to tickle
each other?

A THOUGHT BUBBLE forms next to Olive, and we see a bird tickling another bird with their wing feather.

Elinor gives the feather to Olive, who uses it to tickle Elinor gently. Elinor <GIGGLES>.

47 ARI 47
Wait! My parents have pillows with
feathers in them.

Olive gives the feather to Ari. A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears next to Ari. We see a bird tucked in bed, using its wings as a pillow to sleep on.

48 ARI (CONT'D) 48
Maybe birds have feathers to sleep
on them?

49 ELINOR 49
Maybe. Feathers could be for
tickling OR sleeping, but we won't
know for sure until we see for
ourselves.

50 OLIVE 50
You're right, Elinor. It's a
mystery. Why do birds have
feathers?

51 ELINOR 51
I know! Let's go look for some
birds and see if we can figure it
out!

52 OLIVE 52
Yes! I'll get my notepad!

53 ELINOR 53
We need... MORE OBSERVATIONS!

Elinor and Olive run off. Ari looks at the feather and tucks it just right back on his hat. He strolls off confidently strutting it.

3. EXT FOREST - DAY

The kids go look for birds in the nearby trees. We can see the playground in the background. We can hear indistinct <BIRD CHIRPING> from different directions.

54 OLIVE 54
There sure are lots of birds around
here!

55 ELINOR 55
Let's watch them!

We hear the beginning of a song. During the song, we see the kids watching birds and singing a song:

(TWO ALT VERSIONS: repeating the song from the pilot or a new one)

56

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI

56

ALT 1.
We want to solve the mystery
Of why birds are so feathery.
We're gonna find them here,
And there,
And everywhere!

When I have a question I don't
know,
I look for the answers high and
low!
We're gonna look up high,
Inside!
To find out why!

Into the woods and under the trees,
We follow our curiosity!

57

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

57

ALT 2.
Why do birds have feathers?
Let's find out together!

*We'll find some birds,
and take a look
We'll draw the answers
In our book!*

Why do birds have feathers?
Let's find out together!

*Flying high,
and singing loud!
We find answers
all around!*

Why do birds have feathers?
Let's find out together!

As the song wraps up, we see each kid going off in a
different direction (but they are within eyeshot of each
other and the playground).

END SONG.

4. EXT. FOREST - ARI'S CORNER OF THE WOODS, CONTINUOUS

Ari walks around, looking around for birds. He sees a bird on
a branch of a nearby tree. He runs and flaps his wings to fly
up to the branch on the opposite side of the tree.

58 ARI 58

Hey, little birdie! We're trying to
figure out what feathers are for.
Can you tell me?

The bird chirps at him <SFX: Bird chirping> and flies away to the next tree. Ari follows.

[illegible]

The bird chirp again and opens its wings to fly away again. Ari opens his wings to fly also then stops, realizing something. He looks closer at the bird's wing and see that it is made out of feathers.

60 ARI (CONT'D) 60
 Hmm, you have wings just like I do.
 But yours are made out of feathers.

He gets excited.

61 ARI (CONT'D) 61
I figured it out! Birds have
feathers so they can fly!

He flaps his wings and hovers a little.

62 ARI (CONT'D) 62
I can't wait to tell Elinor and
Olive!

5. EXT FOREST - OLIVE'S CORNER, CONTINUOUS

Cut to Olive, who is standing under a tree watching two Bluejays. The ribbon on her head is a bit untied.

63 OLIVE 63
You two birds are really colorful!

The birds are preening themselves, arranging their feathers.

64 OLIVE (CONT'D) 64
I wonder if you like being blue.
It's MY favorite color.

She notices that the ribbon on her head has come undone a bit, so she ties it back up.

65 OLIVE (CONT'D) 65
Oops, there we go. That looks
better.

She looks back up at the blue jays.

66	OLIVE (CONT'D)	66
	You wear blue on your head too!	

Olive looks like she's had an idea, and doodles in her notebook.

67	OLIVE (CONT'D)	67
	I think I figured it out! Feathers are for being colorful! I can't wait to tell Ari and Elinor.	

6. EXT FOREST - ELINOR'S CORNER, CONTINUOUS

Cut to Elinor: who is watching some ducks next to a small pond.

68	ELINOR	68
	Ooh, pretty ducks!	

She gets closer and sees that there are duck parents and duck babies.

69	ELINOR (CONT'D)	69
	It's a whole duck family!	

She crouches down near the ducks.

70	ELINOR (CONT'D)	70
	Hello, duck family! Can you tell me why birds have feathers?	

A baby duck waddles over closer to Elinor. We see that the babies have cozy soft feathers. The parents have shiny colorful feathers above and cozy feathers underneath.

71	ELINOR (CONT'D)	71
	The babies have different feathers. They look all snuggled up and warm.	

She looks like she's made a realization.

72	ELINOR (CONT'D)	72
	I think I figured it out! Birds use feathers to stay warm! I can't wait to tell Ari and Olive!	

73		73
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4. EXT PLAYGROUND - DAY

Open on the playground with different kids in the background and MS. MOLE to one side. Elinor, Ari and Olive all run into the scene and at the same time.

74 ARI/ELINOR/OLIVE 74
Hey guys, I figured it out!

They all pause in surprise and then say:

75 ARI/ELINOR/OLIVE (CONT'D) 75
Feathers are for flying / Feathers
are for staying warm/ Feathers are
for color!

76 ELINOR 76
Wait guys, one at a time!

Ms. Mole walks closer so that she can listen.

77 ARI 77
Ok, I'll go first. I figured it
out! Birds need feathers so they
can fly! Their wings are made of
feathers!

78 ELINOR / OLIVE 78
 Yeah / That makes sense.

Ms. Mole is listening closely.

79 OLIVE 79

But wait. I figured it out, too. I saw birds that had bright blue feathers. I think birds use feathers so they can be colorful.

She points to the ribbon on her head.

80 ELINOR / ARI 80
Right / Mmmm hmmmm.

Ms. Mole nods to herself.

81 ELINOR 81
But I also figured it out. I saw a
duck family coming out of the
water, and their feathers were like
a snuggly coat. I think birds use
feathers to stay warm!

82 OLIVE / ARI 82
Ok / That also makes sense.

Ms. Mole smiles at that.

83 ARI 83

But definitely flying is the MOST
important. That MUST be why birds
have feathers.

84	OLIVE	84
	But if birds didn't have colorful feathers they would all look the same! I think birds have feathers to have color.	

85 ELINOR 85
I don't know. If they didn't have
feathers, they would get so cold!
So I think feathers are to stay
warm.

ARI

We have three good answers!

OLIVE

Which one is the real reason?

88 ELINOR 88
 Hmm... How can we figure it out?

At that moment, Ms. Mole chimes in.

89 MS MOLE 89
Do you little scientists mind if I
ask you a few questions?

90 ELINOR 90
Sure, Ms Mole!

91 MS MOLE 91
Ari, that's a nice jacket. Why did
you pick that one today?

He looks a bit confused by the change in topic but is happy to brag about his jacket.

92 ARI 92

Thanks! I like the color a lot, and
it matches my hat!

93 MS MOLE 93
So you chose it for its color?

94 ARI 94
Yeah. Also, it has cool pockets for
snacks!

He pulls a banana out of a hidden pocket.

95	MS MOLE	95
	Olive, what about you? How did you choose your jacket?	
	Olive snuggles herself into her jacket.	
96	OLIVE	96
	Well, it was a bit chilly this morning, and this jacket is warm and soft.	
97	MS MOLE	97
	So you chose your jacket to keep you warm?	
98	OLIVE	98
	Mmm-hmm. It's fluffy and cozy!	
99	MS MOLE	99
	And what about you Elinor? How did you choose your jacket?	
100	ELINOR	100
	It was a bit wet this morning, so I chose this raincoat.	
101	MS MOLE	101
	So you chose your jacket to stay dry?	
102	ELINOR	102
	That's right, Ms Mole.	
103	MS MOLE	103
	So, then, why do you wear your jackets?	
104	ELINOR	104
	To stay dry!	
105	OLIVE	105
	To stay warm!	
106	ARI	106
	For the color!	
107	MS MOLE	107
	So, which is it? Is there just one answer?	
	The kids look like they understand.	
108	ARI / ELINOR / OLIVE	108
	They are ALL the right answer!	

109 MS MOLE 109
That's right! Sometimes there's
more than one right answer!

110 ELINOR 110
I get it! There is more than one
reason why we wear jackets.

111 OLIVE 111
And more than one reason why birds
have feathers!

112 ARI 112
Oh, right! Birds have feathers to
fly AND to be colorful AND to stay
warm.

113 ELINOR 113
We were ALL right!

114 MS MOLE 114
Alright, alright, alright!

The kids are excited and dancing around to celebrate their
moment of understanding. The feather flies out of Ari's cap
and lands on his hands. Suddenly, he realizes something.

115 ARI 115
Wait, I thought of one more thing
feathers are good for.

He runs off screen, and Olive and Elinor follow him.

We cut to a close up of Elinor and Olive's sand castle, and
zoom out to see Ari putting the feather right smack on the
top of the center tower. It looks great!

116 ARI (CONT'D) 116
Finishing sand castles!

The kids and Ms. Mole all have a good <LAUGH> as we pull out
and pan up to see some birds flying by as we...

FADE OUT.

THE END.

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