

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

114 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: DIVING BEETLE

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Follows: Bubble Stuff in which the kids learn that spittle bugs build houses out of bubbles that they make.

Curriculum: The kids learn about beetles who use air bubbles like an oxygen tank to allow them to dive under water.

Learning Goals: ES2. Understand that plants and animals (including humans) can change their environment:

FIRST DRAFT: May 16, 2019

Open on MZ. MOLE, ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI and KIDS (as necessary).
Everyone is holding a book

Several kids raise their books

Mz. Mole and the kids begin to walk (and skip) along a trail towards a little free standing library. Several rain clouds move in.

Several big rain drops fall around them.

The kids look worried. Mz. Mole looks to a fallen tree then produces several large leaves. She creates a large umbrella with the leaves as the rain falls harder. Mz. Mole and the kids remain perfectly dry.

6 MZ. MOLE 6

I think now is a perfect time for
this story. Olive would you please
hold this?

Mz. Mole hands the makeshift umbrella to Olive who takes it with her trunk. Mz. Mole then pulls out a book. The kids giggle as they squeeze in close under the leaves. She opens the books and we see a scene of a pond with a log

We see a beetle crawl out on the log and twiddle his antennae as a breeze passes over him.

8 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 8
Some beetles love to explore
underwater.

9 ELINOR 9
I bet there's tasty food for them
down there.

We see the beetle crawl to the underside of the log which is
in the water. The underwater world opens up and we see lots
of different plants (glistening). We see the beetle leap
downward towards the plants

10 ELINOR (CONT'D) 10
That plant looks good for him.

Before reaching the plant the beetle dashes to the surface

11 OLIVE 11
Why did he come back up?

12 MZ. MOLE 12
Well just like us, there's no air
for him to breathe under the water.

13 ELINOR 13
But how will he get those tasty
plants?

14 MZ. MOLE 14
Well some special beetles are able
to capture a bubble of air from the
surface and take it with them.

The beetle moves his legs and then dives back under the
water. This time he has a bubble of air under him. <SFX: KIDS
WHOA>

15 ARI 15
Can he breathe from the bubble?

16 MZ. MOLE 16
Why yes he can!

17 ELINOR 17
Neat! Does that mean he can stay
underwater longer? Can he get to
those plants?

18 MZ. MOLE 18
Yes! These beetles can stay
underwater a very long time,
exploring for food and having fun.

The beetle cruises around underwater, zipping among the plants, even doing flips in the water as he speeds between them.

OLIVE

They're like small scuba divers!

Kids laugh as more beetles zip about in the pond.

3. EXT. TRAIL -- DAY

Mz. Mole closes the book. It's still raining.

20 MZ. MOLE 20
It's a pretty neat trick to be able
to take your environment with you.

21 ELINOR 21
Ooh, I have an idea! Olive, may I
please have a leaf?

Olive hands Elinor a large leaf. Elinor steps out from the group with her own leaf and we see the rain falling all around her while she stays dry.

22 ELINOR (CONT'D) 22
I'm going to take my environment
with me and return my book

Elinor turns and heads up to the little library with her book in hand. <SFX: KIDS ME TOO WALLA>

The kids each take a leaf from Olive and head up the trail toward the little library, each in their own dry "bubble". We see Elinor put her book in the library.