

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

114 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: DIVING BEETLE

Written by
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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
SECOND DRAFT: June 6, 2019
POLISH DRAFT: June 20th, 2019

1. INT. SCHOOL -- DAY

Open on MZ. MOLE, ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI and KIDS (as necessary).
Mz. Mole is filling little paper bags with popcorn

1 MZ. MOLE 1
 Everyone grab a little snack bag of
 popcorn for our walk.

2 ELINOR 2
 But I'm not hungry right now, Mz.
 Mole.

Mz. Mole continues to fill bags as other kids each grab one

3 MZ. MOLE 3
 Sure, but if we bring it with us
 now and then you get hungry later..

4 ARI 4
 ...we can stay outside longer!

Elinor shrugs and grabs a bag.

2. EXT. TRAIL -- DAY

Mz. Mole (now wearing a PUFFY COAT) and the kids walk/skip
along a trail. After a few moments Mz. Mole stops near a few
stumps/logs. The kids gather around, several start to eat
some popcorn.

5 MZ. MOLE 5
 Today we are doing story time
 OUTSIDE.

Mz. Mole then pulls out a book. She opens the books and we
see a scene of a pond with a log

2. EXT. POND -- DAY

6 MZ. MOLE 6
 All animals living on land need air
 to breathe. That's true for you,
 me, and this beetle here.

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

7 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 7
 But this little beetle loves to
 explore underwater.

8 ELINOR 8
Why does the beetle go underwater,
Mz. Mole?

9 MS. MOLE 9
That's where the beetle finds food!

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 10
There's a lot to explore down there.

Before reaching the plant the beetle dashes to the surface

11 OLIVE 11
Why did he come back up?

12 MZ. MOLE 12
He needs to breathe air, just like we do.

13 ELINOR 13
But how will he find his food?

14 MZ. MOLE 14
Well, some special beetles have figured out a way to bring air down with them. They make a bubble!

Just below the surface the beetle flutters his Elytra (hard wing covering) which break the surface (tension) of the water. A glistening bubble of air is caught in between the elytra and the body. The beetle moves a bit and then dives back under the water with the bubble stuck to him <SFX: KIDS WHOA> <https://www.pbs.org/video/deep-look-beetle-divers/>

15 ARI 15
Can he breathe the air in the bubble?

16 MZ. MOLE 16
Why yes he can!

17 ELINOR 17
That's so interesting! Now he can stay underwater longer and find food.

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.

Kids laugh as more beetles zip about in the pond. <SFX:
 CRUNCH, CRUNCH>

3. EXT. TRAIL -- DAY

Mz. Mole closes the book. We see Elinor with popcorn in her
 mouth looking a bit guilty <SFX: kids chuckling>

19 MZ. MOLE 19
 It's a pretty smart trick to take
 what you need with you. The beetle
 took its air bubble and we took a
 snack!

20 ELINOR 20
 Mz. Mole, don't you want some
 popcorn?

We pan out to see Mz. Mole in her very puffy coat. Mz. Mole
 has a wry smile.

21 MZ. MOLE 21
 Well...

Mz Mole unzips her coat a bit. It opens and a mountain of
 popcorn comes pouring out.

22 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 22
 I DID BRING some!

The kids erupt in laughter.