

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 117A These Sneezes

By: Dave Dias

Elinor's Question: What makes us sneeze?

Logline: When Olive's sneezing disrupts their game of tag, Elinor tries to figure out what made her sneeze.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2 - Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow. Identify body parts of animals and their function. (Elinor discovers that sneezes help get unwanted things out of your nose.)

SEP4 - Analyzing and interpreting data. (d.) Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened. (Elinor and her friends deduce that the pollen is causing Olive to sneeze).

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Ari raises his arms and runs a few quick loops to give the girls some warning. Elinor and Olive both scatter, running and <LAUGHING!>.

SERIES OF SHOTS - showing Ari chasing after Olive and Elinor. The kids dart around some park objects nearby: the PARK BENCH, some ROCKS, and some BUSHES lining the path. Ari comes close to tagging Elinor's ears, but she retracts them just in time to avoid being tagged, and she dashes off.

12	ARI	12
	Oh, missed you by an ear!	

Olive crouches stealthily behind the bushes, trying not to be seen by Ari. She shuffles to the side to look for him -- only to hear Ari flutter into view and land right behind her.

13	ARI	13
	Gotcha!	

He reaches to tag Olive, but she leaps backward just in time. But as she lands, she stumbles backward--

14	OLIVE	14
	Whoaa-oaaa-oaaa...	

--right into the WAGON, landing bum-first in it amongst the pots of flowers: <WHOMP!> One pot flies upward and lands in her lap. The other pots shift position, but none get knocked over. Ari swoops over.

15	ARI	15
	Are you ok, Olive?	

16	OLIVE	16
	<giggling> Yeah.	

17	ARI	17
	In that case... Tag! You're it!	

18	OLIVE	18
	Awww. <giggle>	

With the potted flower just beneath her trunk, Olive's trunk suddenly TWITCHES as it comes close to the flower. She builds up to a sneeze slowly, then she trumpets out: <Aaaa-aaaa-aaaaAAAAAA-CHOOO!!!>.

The force of Olive's sneeze nudges the wagon a little bit backwards, just enough to get it going down the path on a slight hill leading downward. Olive hasn't quite noticed as her trunk brushes the flower again and she builds up to another sneeze: <Aaaa-CHOO!!>.

19 ARI 19
Try to catch m-- Olive?

Ari turns around to see Olive in the wagon going down the hill.

20 Uh-oh. ARI 20

Elinor rushes up to join Ari after the wagon exits.

21 ELINOR 21
Whoa! Olive! (to the general area)
Stop that wagon!

Elinor and Ari both give chase.

Olive continues to <AAA-CHOOO!> as the wagon rolls along, startling a few RANDOM PARK GOERS as they pass.

22	ARI	22
	Look out! Sneezing elephant coming through!	

The GOAT TWINS stop walking as Olive rolls up in the wagon. <AAA-CHOO!> The force of Olive's sneeze slides the twins apart, the wagon rolls through. Ari and Elinor race past them.

23 ELINOR 23
Hi Liv Hi Mary!

MARTHA COW is doing YOGA beneath a TREE. Olive and the wagon race past. <AAAA-CHOO!> A BUNCH OF LEAVES shake off and cover Martha as Ari and Elinor run past.

24 ARI 24
Sorry about that, Mz. Cow.

SALLY BEAVER is trying to fly her KITE in the park, but there's zero wind. Olive races past her. <AAA-CHOOO!> The blast from Olive's sneeze billows Sally's kite up into the air, and she happily flies it around. Elinor and Ari duck under the kite.

25 ELINOR 25
Wow, nice kite, Sally.

ON THE WAGON - about to roll off the path and into the POND!

Ari jumps up and flies over to Olive in the wagon. He grabs the wagon with his feet, and extends and flaps his wings outward to buffer the wind and slow the wagon down a bit.

Elinor then reaches Ari and grabs hold of him to add extra slowing power. Together, they pull the wagon to a stop just before the it lands in the water. A few FROGS jump out of the way.

Ari lets go of the wagon, falling backwards onto Elinor onto the ground. All three friends are relieved: <whew!>

26 ARI (OUT OF BREATH) 26
Phew! You almost went in the pond.

27 ELINOR 27
Are you okay, Olive?

As Ari and Elinor stand, Olive steps out of the wagon, still holding the potted flower.

28 OLIVE (A BIT STUFFED UP) 28
Yeah. That was quite a ride.

The friends <giggle>. Olive's trunk brushes past the flower again, and she <Aaaaa... Aaaaa-CHOO!> sneezes again.

29 ARI 29
Those were some HUGE sneezes!

At this, Elinor gets a curious look. Olive pats her trunk.

30 OLIVE (SNIFFLING, A BIT STUFFED UP) 30
Uh-huh, I've always had a strong trunk.

Olive sets the potted plant down on the wagon.

31 OLIVE 31
Oh. It stopped. I don't feel like sneezing any more.

32 ELINOR (TO OLIVE) 32
Hmm, I wonder what made you sneeze so much, Olive?

33 OLIVE (STUFFINESS CLEARING) 33
I don't know. All of a sudden my nose got tickly and I just started sneezing... a lot.

Ari looks at Olive's nose, closely.

34 ARI 34
Did a bug land on your nose? Maybe that made you sneeze.

35 OLIVE 35
No. A bug didn't land on my nose.

36 ARI 36
Did two bugs land on it?

37 OLIVE 37
No. And three bugs didn't land on
it either.

38 ARI 38
Hmm. It's prooobably not bugs,
then...

39 ELINOR 39
Something made you sneeze. And my
nose get tickly too before I
sneeze. I wonder why that happens.
What makes us sneeze?

40 OLIVE 40
How are we going to find out?

41 ELINOR (TO OLIVE) 41
I know. Let's learn everything we
can about sneezing. Is there
anything in your Nature Book about
it?

Olive pulls out her NATURE BOOK and flips through it.

42 OLIVE 42
Let's see... Snails... Snakes...
Snow... Nope, nothing about
sneezing in it.

43 ELINOR 43
Hmm, where else can we find out
about sneezing?

44 ARI 44
How about the library?

45 ELINOR 45
Yes, the library. Good idea, Ari!
Let's go.

Elinor resumes pulling the wagon of potted flowers down the
path, followed by Ari and Olive. WIPE TO:

2. EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

CLOSE ON THE WAGON coming to a stop at the foot of the library steps. GOING WIDER, we see Elinor, Ari, and Olive racing up the steps.

3. INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - LATER

The library door opens, and Elinor, Ari, and Olive enter.

FRONT DESK - the trio approach the Librarian, MR. ANTELOPE, a joyful twenty-something male antelope.

46 ELINOR 46
Hi, Mr. Antelope.

47 MR. ANTELOPE 47
Well, hello, Elinor, Olive,
aaaaand...?

48 ARI 48
Ari.

49 MR. ANTELOPE 49
Wait, wait, don't tell me... I can
remember...

50 ARI 50
It's Ari.

51 MR. ANTELOPE 51
Is it... Hmmm. Ari?

52 ARI 52
Wow, how did you guess?

Mr. Antelope and the kids all <CHUCKLE>.

53 MR. ANTELOPE 53
I'm just joking, Arnold. Of course
I remember you!

54 ARI 54
Uh, it's Ari.

55 MR. ANTELOPE 55
Riiight, Ari!

Mr. Antelope gives Ari a wink to show h's joking.

56 ELINOR 56
Mr. Antelope, we're curious to
learn everything we can about
sneezing.

57 MR. ANTELOPE 57
Ahh... Is it so you can sneeze
more?

58 ELINOR 58
No, it's so we can sneeze less!
Today Olive started sneezing a lot,
and it nearly made our wagon roll
into the pond.

59 ARI 59
Yeah, we almost hit some frogs.

60 MR. ANTELOPE 60
Some frogs? Really? Huh! I love
frogs.

61 OLIVE 61
Do you have any books about
sneezing, Mr. Antelope?

62 ELINOR 62
If we can learn what makes animals
sneeze, then we can find out what
made Olive sneeze.

63 MR. ANTELOPE 63
I see... Well, sneezing is a
fascinating subject. I can
definitely help you aaah... aaah-
choose the right book. Get it? "Ah-
choose"..?

The kids all <GIGGLE>. Mr. Antelope flips through BORROWING
CARDS INDEX of checked-out books, and reacts happily.

64 MR. ANTELOPE 64
Let's see... Oh, good! The book I'm
thinking of hasn't been checked
out... (recalling) for quite a
while in fact. That means it's on
the shelf. Walk this way, please.

He comes out from behind his desk and makes deliberate
'hopping' motions away.

65 MR. ANTELOPE 65
Or rather, *hop* this way. Let's
pretend that we're frogs.

<GIGGLING> the kids mimic his hopping as they follow him.

4. INT. LIBRARY - AISLES / KIDS AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Antelope hop-leads them across the library. The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> as they happily follow him hop for hop.

A LIBRARY PATRON gently <SFX: SHUSHES> the kids as they pass.

66 ELINOR (HUSHED) 66
Sorry! <quiet giggling>

AT THE KIDS AREA - Mr. Antelope and the kids finish hopping as they arrive at some low bookshelves displaying PICTURE BOOKS. There is a variety of seating options in the READING NOOK, like club chairs and floor pillows for young visitors to kick back with a book.

Mr. Antelope stops at one particular LOW BOOKSHELF, where we can see books with covers showing different animal body parts on them: A WING, a PAW, an EYE, etc. (we don't immediately see one with a cover of a NOSE yet).

67 MR. ANTELOPE 67

Here we go: books about parts of the body. The one you want is called "All About Noses". It should tell you about sneezing.

68 ELINOR 68
Thanks, Mr. Antelope.

69 MR. ANTELOPE 69
You're welcome! If you have any
questions, I'll be at my desk.

The kids <GIGGLE> again as Mr. Antelope hops like a frog back to his desk. Elinor gets up close to the shelf, looking intently. She scans the books, and reacts with a smile at finding the one she wants.

70 ELINOR 70
Here it is: "All About Noses".

Gently, she pulls it off the shelf, and shows it to Ari and Olive. The cover shows a variety of ANIMAL NOSES: A DOG NOSE, RABBIT NOSE, PIG NOSE, etc. The book cover looks a bit hazy, not as sharp as you'd expect with those vibrant images on it.

Elinor wipes her finger over the cover, wiping that area clean and leaving DUST on her finger.

71 ELINOR 71
 Hmm. It really hasn't been checked
 out in a while. It's soooo dusty.

72

ARI

72

I'll fix that. <blows>

Ari BLOWS on the cover, causing some DUST to fly off and form a little DUST CLOUD around Olive! Olive's nose twitches, and she sneezes: <Aaaa-aaaaa-aaAA-CHOOO!!!>

Olive sneezes close to the book, blowing some remaining dust on it onto Ari's face. Suddenly, Ari's nose gets twitchy, and he sneezes: <Aaaa-aaaaa-aaAA-CHOOO!!!>

Ari's sneeze blows back at the book, sending more dust off it, this time at Elinor, who gets a mini DUST CLOUD around her. Her ears waggle, her nose twitches, and then she sneezes: <Aaaa-aaaa-aaAA-CHOOO!!!>

Off Elinor's sneeze, a mini dust cloud blows around all three of the kids now, causing them all to wave their hands to try and disperse the dust. Now they ALL sneeze: <Aaaa-aaa-aaAAA-CHOOOO!!!>

LOW BOOKSHELF - the trio's sneezing causes the precariously balanced books to TOPPLE onto their sides like dominos.

The kids' hand waving quickly disperses the mini dust clouds and they stop sneezing. Ari pats his nose for reassurance.

73

ARI

73

Whew. Still there. I sneezed so hard I thought my nose blew off.

74

ELINOR

74

We ALL sneezed this time... That is so interesting!

The kids move back to the LOW BOOKSHELF, where Elinor rights the books on the shelf again.

75

OLIVE

75

(good-naturedly)

Well, it started when *some* bat we know blew a whole bunch of dust at me.

76

ARI

76

Sorry. Didn't mean to blow so hard.

77

ELTNOR

77

And that's when you sneezed, Olive.

Elinor makes sweeping 'dust cloud' gestures with her arms.

78 ELINOR 78
 Your sneeze caused some dust to
 blow at me, and then I sneezed,
 which blew some dust at Ari.

79 ARI 79
 And then I sneezed-and-almost-lost-
 my-nose-but-didn't.

80 ELINOR 80
 That's it! It must have been the
 dust that made us sneeze.

Elinor returns to the dusty book, which still has areas of dust on it, and wipes her finger along it. Ari and Olive do the same with their fingers (for Olive who has no fingers, she uses the end of her 'arm'). They look closely at their fingers, curiously.

81 OLIVE 81
 But I'm touching it now, and it's
 not making me sneeze.

82 ARI 82
 Me neither. Maybe it smells funny.

He sniffs his finger. The dust he wiped onto it flies up into the air around his nose. Instantly, he SNEEZES: <AAA-AAA-CHOO!>

83 ELINOR (REALIZING) 83
 Ari, you figured it out! You sneeze
 when dust gets IN your nose.

84 OLIVE 84
 You're right!

Olive looks at the dust on her finger.

85 ARI 85
 (sniffling, stuffy nosed)
 I always knew I had a nose for
 figuring things out.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

86 OLIVE 86
 Let's go tell Mr. Antelope what we
 learned.

The three friends grab the book and start to run back to the front desk. After a step, they stop, look at each other, and start hopping, <SFX: GIGGLING>.

5. INT. LIBRARY - FRONT DESK - MOMENTS LATER

With Elinor carrying the book, the kids return to the front desk where Mr. Antelope awaits them.

87 MR. ANTELOPE 87
The Sneeze Squad returns. Did you
find the answer you were looking
for?

88 ELINOR 88
Yep. We figured out why we sneeze,
Mr. Antelope. We sneeze when we get
dust in our noses.

Mr. Antelope smiles proudly.

89 MR. ANTELOPE 89
That's good thinking, Elinor. Here,
let me show you.

He gestures for the book, and after Elinor gives it to him, he opens it and flips through the pages, stopping on a specific one. ON THE PAGE - showing a CROSS SECTION DIAGRAM OF A DOG NOSE.

90 MR. ANTELOPE (O.S.) 90
This is a drawing of a dog's nose
and what the inside looks like.

We hear the kids give <INTRIGUED REACTIONS>.

BACK ON THE GROUP - Mr. Antelope looks up from the book to point at all three of the kids' noses, and his own, in turn.

91 MR. ANTELOPE 91
Lots of animals like rabbits, bats,
and elephants have noses like this,
and they all work in pretty much
the same way.

BACK ON THE PAGE - the cross section starts to ANIMATE, with DUST entering through the nostrils. It lodges in the nasal cavity wall, which RIPPLES slightly (to show it's irritated).

92 MR. ANTELOPE (O.S.) 92
When little things like dust get in
your nose, they make it feel all
tickly inside. That's your body's
way of saying: "I don't like this
dust in here".

We hear a <DOG SNEEZE> accompanied by MOVING AIR LINES entering the cross section image from the far side of the drawing, dislodging the dust from the nasal cavity wall, and blasting it out the nostrils.

93 MR. ANTELOPE (O.S.) 93
So to get it out, your body blows
it out with a big gush of air.
That's what a sneeze is.

BACK ON THE GROUP - Ari and Olive turn to Elinor, elated.

94 OLIVE 94
Ohhh, it's something the body does
all by itself.

95 MR. ANTELOPE 95
That's right! To keep us safe and
healthy with clean noses.

96 ARI 96
Whoa, sneezing is pretty cool.

Elinor has a thought.

97 ELINOR 97
But wait, dust made us sneeze here
in the library, but I don't
remember there being dust in the
park when Olive sneezed in the
wagon.

A thought bubble forms that shows Olive in the wagon sneezing.

98 MR. ANTELOPE 98
Well, dust isn't the only thing
that can tickle your nose and make
you sneeze. Other things can as
well.

Olive picks up the book and reads the next page. The page show a cloud of dust, a little virus and a flower with pollen coming off it.

99 OLIVE 99
It says here that dust, getting a
cold, and pollen can all make you
sneeze.

100 ARI 100
Uh, what's pollen?

101 ELINOR 101
Pollen is the little powdery stuff
that's in flowers. (realizing) Wait
a minute... Flowers! C'mon!

Elinor runs outside. Olive and Ari look at each other and at Mr. Antelope, and follow her out of the library.

6. EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

The kids and Mr. Antelope follow Elinor down the library steps to the wagon full of potted flowers.

102 ELINOR 102
There wasn't any dust on the wagon,
but there were flowers. And flowers
have pollen.

Elinor takes the flower pot Olive was holding earlier out of the cart, and hands it to her to hold in her lap.

103 ELINOR 103
You were holding this flower.

CLOSE ON OLIVE - the flower close to her face. We see pollen waft through the air and into Olive's trunk. Suddenly, her trunk twitches. She sneezes again: <Aaaaaa-aaah-aaAAA-CHOO!!!>

Ari and Elinor both grab the wagon handle so when Olive sneezes, the wagon only rolls a tiny bit before Ari and Elinor's anchoring brakes it to a stop.

Curiously, Olive glances down at the flower, sniffs it -- and her trunk twitches again. She's filled with realization.

104 OLIVE 104
It was the flower that made me
sneeze.

Elinor and Ari lean in to get a closer look at Olive.

CLOSE ON OLIVE - she has a bit of YELLOW POWDER (POLLEN) on the end of her trunk. Same color as the flower.

105 ARI 105
I can see the pollen on your nose.

Elinor beams triumphantly.

106 ELINOR 106
We did it! We figured out what made
Olive sneeze!

107 OLIVE 107
And we learned why. When little
things like dust and pollen get in
your nose, your body tries to blow
them out.

108 ARI 108
And that's a sneeze!

Off that, the kids break into SONG! Visually, she gestures to
the noses of herself and her friends in turn, and to the
potted flowers in the wagon.

SONG: "SNEEZE IT OUT"

109 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 109
 (singing)
ELINOR: Your nose is for smelling
And also for breathing
When something gets in your nose

ARI-(sung-spoken) Like dust!
OLIVE-(sung-spoken) Or pollen!

ELINOR: That gets you sneezing!

ALL: A-choo, achoo-hoo-hoo!
Blow it out, hooray, woo-hoo!

ALL: When something gets in your
nose
You have to get it out
Your body goes a-choo
That's what sneezing's all about!

ALL: A-choo, achoo-hoo-hoo!
Blow it out, hooray, woo-hoo! Hoo!

SONG ENDS.

Ari picks up the wagon handle, ready to pull. Olive keeps a
short distance from the flowers.

110 MR. ANTELOPE 110
Well done, little scientists!

111 ELINOR 111
Thank you for helping solve our
sneeze mystery, Mr. Antelope.

112 MR. ANTELOPE 112
You got it. Thank YOU for aahh...a-
choos-ing your local library.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

113 ELINOR 113
 Okay, it's time to take these
 flowers to our Exploring Clubhouse.

114 OLIVE 114
 I'll just stay a little bit away
 from that yellow flower.

As the kids walk off towards the forest, Ari has a suggestion.

115 ARI 115
 Hey, who wants to play a game of
 tag before we go?

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GROAN> together.

116 ELINOR/OLIVE 116
 Ari!

The three all <LAUGH> giddily as we...

IRIS OUT.

SEGMENT 2.

1. EXT PARK -- DAY

Open on Senor Tapir, with his guitar, in the park of Animal Town, sitting on a tree stump at the edge of a pond. A group of kids sit at his feet, including Elinor.

117 SENOR TAPIR 117
 Hola amigos, today let's sing a
 soo...

Senor Tapir suddenly pauses to hold his elbow up to his nose, which twitches.

118 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 118
 A soooooohhhh (pauses)

He puts his elbow down.

119 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 119
 Thought I was going to sneeze. A
 saaaaachoooo!

Senor Tapir sneezes right onto his guitar. He pulls out a bandana and wipes off his guitar.

120 ELINOR 120
 Salud!

121 SENORR TAPIR 121
 (chuckling) Whoops, that sneeze
 snuck up on me. Let's sing about a
 scientist who wondered about
 sneezes.

Senor Tapir starts to sing. After a line or two, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

2. INT. MIT LAB -- DAY

Lydia Bourouiba (a Lynx -- she is from France and likes to rock climb, and the lynx is a mountainous mammal in France) crosses her arms and thinks, when a think bubble appears above her head, showing someone sneeze.

122 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 122
 Have you ever wondered just what
 happens when you sneeze,
 When your sneeze flies from your
 mouth into the breeze?

123 SENOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 123
 Well Lydia Bourouiba is a scientist
 who said,
 "I wonder just how far a sneeze
 will spread."

An elephant sneezes and the spray goes up, down and swirls around.

Oh where, oh where
Do your sneezy sneezes go?
Lydia Bourouiba wanted to know,
Do they go up?
Do they go down?
Do they spray and swirl all around?

Someone's nose is tickled with a little rod, and the person sneezes in profile, in slow motion. Cut to a wide where we see a camera filming the sneeze. Then zoom in to look through the viewfinder at the slow motion sneeze. The sneeze has different trajectories in different colors, and some go up, some go down and some become a cloud (like the reference photo from her studies).

She tickled lots of noses so they'd
sneeze right away,
And she took special pictures of
every spray.
She watched each sneeze in super
slow motion,
So she could have pictures of funny
sneeze explosions!

We see a grid of six elephants, all sneezing at the same
time.

Oh where, oh where
Do your sneezy sneezes go?
Lydia Bourouiba wanted to know.
She found they went up.
She found they went down,

We see an elephant on one side of a room, and when the
elephant sneezes, the sneeze travels all the way to the other
side of the room!

And spray really far and swirl all
around!

An elephant stands next to Lydia in her lab, and the elephant
sneezes while she smiles.

Whenever you sneeze,
Think of the scientist who,
Wondered what happens when you say
Aaaaachoo! When you say aaaaachoo!

3. EXT PARK -- DAY

Senor Tapir finishes singing the song in front of the kids.

124	ELINOR	124
	That was a really fun soo... (she quickly holds her elbow up to her nose) aaachoo! ... song!	
125	SENOR TAPIR	125
	Salud!	

The kids <giggle>.

END.