

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 118A Follow That Roly Poly
By Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: Where can we explore without going very far?
OR Where does a Rollie Pollie live?

Logline: The Exploring Club wants to explore some place really cool, and they end up exploring under a log.

Curriculum Goals: LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs (Elinor and her friends realize the Rollie Pollie and the other animals depend on the ecosystem under the log to survive).

ES3. Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things: (Elinor and her friend learn that they disturbed the ecosystem under the log when they moved it)

ND4. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Flows, Cycles, and Conservation'): Appreciate the way that elements in the natural world change, interact and are re-used, and how we can organize our designed world to better fit and care for the environment. (Elinor and her friends realize they should put the log back into place to protect t animals in Log Town)

SEP5. Using mathematics and computational thinking

a. Using counting and numbers to describe and compare quantitative attributes of objects

b. Sort and categorize observable phenomena based on attributes

c. Use mathematical language and vocabulary to describe attributes (Elinor and her friends count and classify the bug they find).

CROSS-CUTTING CONCEPT: Scale and proportion. (Elinor and her friends observe how things look from a Rollie Pollie's perspective).

Mains: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Tito. Secondary: Sally

Locations: Explorer's Clubhouse, Forest, under the log

Props: magnifying glass, Nature Book, Rollie Pollie, Assorted worms, centipedes, ants and spiders that live under the log.

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EXT./INT. EXPLORERS' CLUBHOUSE - DAY

ELINOR calls from inside the Clubhouse.

1	ELINOR	1
	Welcome Explorers Olive, Ari, Sally, and Tito. It's time for the Explorers' pledge.	

ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, SALLY and TITO start reciting their pledge with hand-gestures.

2	ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE	2
	An Explorer is brave, an Explorer is kind... (We PUSH IN through the window...) An Explorer is CURIOUS, who knows what we'll find!	

The kids all cheer <WHOO-HOO> then...

3	TITO	3
	Ooooh, I can't wait to go on an Explorer adventure - I'll be brave and kind and... (a little hesitantly) Uuhhhm. What does curious mean?	

4	ELINOR	4
	Good question, Tito. Curious means you really want to find out about new things.	

5	OLIVE	5
	Yep, we explorers are verrrrrrry curious, so we ask lots of questions.	

6	TITO	6
	Oooh... (he thinks) What kind of questions?	

7	ARI	7
	Any kind of question - like the one you just asked.	

8	TITO	8
	Oh. (he thinks, then, GIGGLES) Yay me!	

9 ELINOR 9
Okay, Explorers, now that we've
said our pledge it's time for the
best part of the Club - EXPLORING!!
Follow me!

EXT. EXPLORERS CLUBHOUSE - DAY

15

ELINOR

Well, I want to be like the GREAT
explorers, exploring the sea.
(THOUGHT BUBBLE: we see
Elinor at the front of a
ship as she looks out
towards the sea)
Or a jungle
(THOUGHT BUBBLE: We see
her trekking through a
jungle!)
Or even a new city!!

15

THOUGHT BUBBLE: We see the silhouette of tall buildings.

16 ARI (V.O.) 16
 Uhh, Elinor. I don't think we can
 go THAT far.

The THOUGHT BUBBLE BURSTS, we track down to the kids.

17 OLIVE 17
 My Mom said we're supposed to stay
 around the woods near the
 Clubhouse.

18 TITO 18
 Yeah, and I'm supposed to be home
 for lunch.

Elinor's THOUGHT BUBBLE bursts.

19 ELINOR 19
 (a little disappointed)
 <SIGH> You're right...
 (brightening)
 But we can still explore - come on.

The Explorers follow Elinor into the woods.

20 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, 20
 (sing-song)
 Let's go exploring, exploring,
 exploring...

EXT. FOREST GLADE (NEAR THE CLUBHOUSE) - DAY

CLOSE ON: Ari.

21 ARI 21
 (sing-song)
 Let's go exploring - whoops!

At that moment Ari accidentally stomps on the end of a stick,
which has a little Roly Poly crawling on the other end.

ANGLE ON: The force of Ari's stomp sends the Roly Poly flying
through the air.

ECU/SLO MO maybe we can see the little creature roll up into
a ball, but the kids don't notice yet. Now a ball, the Roly
Poly gently bonks Ari on the head before rolling to the
ground.

22 ARI (CONT'D) 22
 Huh? Something hit me!

23 OLIVE 23
I saw it! I think it was that
little rock.

24 ARI 24
 Yep that must be it.

25 ELINOR 25
Where'd everybody go?
 (turning)
What are you all looking at?

27 ELINOR 27
(puzzled)
A rock? But Explorers, we have so
much more to explore - new plants,
new animals, a jungle, the sea, a
new city... and sticks.

Elinor hurries back to see the rock. **SCIENCE ECU** - Ari has the rolled up Roly Poly in the palm of his hand.

At that moment the Roly Poly just begins to uncurl itself.

WIDEN: The kids consider this exciting development.

31 TITO 31
I thought rocks don't move, do
they?

32 ELINOR 32
We need MORE observations.

Olive takes the magnifying glass out of her satchel and holds
it up.

MAGNIFYING POV: The Roly Poly is partly rolled up on its back
and we can see its legs peeking out and wiggling. NOTE:
Although it looks less like a rock now, I think we can keep
the conceit until line 40.

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33
<GASP!> It has LEGS!

Tito seems a bit nervous.

34 TITO 34
(nervously)
A rock with legs? I'm scared.

35 OLIVE 35
You don't have to worry, Tito.
Explorers are brave, remember?

Olive puts her arm around Tito. He perks up.

36 TITO 36
(brightening)
Oh yeah.

The Roly Poly uncurls completely.

37 ELINOR 37
You know what, this isn't a rock at
all. It looks like some kind of
bug.

38 ARI 38
That is so coooool!

Olive leans in close to count the legs.

39 OLIVE 39
It has one, two three four five six
SEVEN pairs of legs.

Elinor is entranced by the Roly Poly which has now flipped
over and is crawling around on Ari's hand.

40 ELINOR 40
Wow. Look, it's crawling.

41 OLIVE 41
Hmmm. Let me check my Nature Book.
(she hands the magnifying
glass to Elinor then
takes out her Nature Book
and leafs through)
OK, so... Hmmm Forest Animals....

ANGLE ON: a drawing of a bunch of different animals that live
under a log (who we will meet later): millipede, slug, worm,
ant, spider, beetle and a Roly Poly. Olive points to it.

42 OLIVE (CONT'D) 42
Oh! I think we found a Roly Poly!

43 TITO 43
(giggle)
Roly Poly, that's a funny word.

44 OLIVE 44
Listen to this. Roly Polys, or Pill
Bugs, actually aren't bugs at all.
They are similar to lobsters and
crabs but they live under logs and
rocks.

45 ELINOR 45
Really? That is sooo interesting.

46 OLIVE 46
And it says here that Roly Polys
roll up into a ball to protect
themselves when they're feeling
nervous.

All the kids <SFX: OOOOH WALLA>. Meanwhile Ari is starting to
squirm.

47 ARI 47
(giggling)
YIKES! I don't think the Roly Poly
is nervous anymore - Now it's
just... TICKLY!

ANGLE ON: The Roly Poly has crawled up Ari's arm and is
walking around on his wing (not near his face). Ari can't
help wiggle and giggle, <SFX: WIGGLE, GIGGLE WALLA> as the
little creature crawls back down his arm. Ari sets it gently
on the ground.

48 ARI (CONT'D) 48
 Whew! There ya go, little Roly
 Poly.

The Roly Poly starts trundling along with determination.

49 TITO 49
 Where's it going now?

50 ELINOR 50
 Let's find out - follow that Roly
 Poly!

EXT. FOREST GLADE - WIDE

As they follow, Elinor has to stop and start a couple of times to match the Roly Poly's slower pace, causing a series of gentle pile-ups with her friends <SF: OOOOF, WHOOPS, GIGGLE>.

51 ARI 51
 The Roly Poly doesn't go very fast.

52 OLIVE 52
 That's because it's so small. And
 it seems to be checking things out.

ANGLE ON: The Roly Poly has stopped and is exploring an interesting rock covered in lichen with it's antennae.

53 ELINOR 53
 Oooh, you're right Olive. I think
 it's exploring.

54 TITO 54
 Just like us!

55 OLIVE 55
 I wonder what things look like to a
 little Roly Poly.

56 ELINOR 56
 Let's find out. Let's be Roly
 Polies, and observe things from the
 ground, just like a Roly Poly does.

Elinor and the others get down low.

LOW DOWN POV OF THE FOREST FLOOR: A little puddle, a patch of grass, a rock etc, look huge. Have fun designers! <SFX: WHOOOA WALLA>

57	SALLY	57
	That puddle looks like an ocean.	
58	TITO	58
	The grass looks like a jungle from down here.	
59	ARI	59
	Wow! This rock looks just like a MOUNTAIN! Climb it, Roly Poly, all the way to the TOP!	
The Roly Poly keeps moving over the rock, stopping and touching things with its antennae.		
60	OLIVE	60
	Yep, it's exploring for sure. You go, Roly Poly.	
61	ELINOR	61
	I know! Let's make this Roly Poly a member of the Exploring Club.	
62	OLIVE	62
	Great idea, Elinor, only... Roly Polys don't talk, so it can't say the Exploring Pledge.	
63	ELINOR	63
	Then let's do the Explorers Pledge for him. Ready?	
The Explorers stand up and start the pledge.		
64	ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE	64
	An Explore is brave, an Explorer is kind! An Explore is curious, who knows what we'll find!	
65	ARI	65
	Welcome to the Club, Roly Pol-uh- oh...	
ANGLE ON: The ground, no Roly Poly.		
66	OLIVE	66
	Where'd the Roly Poly go?	
The kids look around in panic for a beat, then...		
67	ELINOR	67
	There it is!!	

ANGLE ON: the Roly Poly is burrowing in the earth beside a good-sized partially rotten log, suddenly it disappears.

68 TITO 68
<gasp!> It's gone!

69 OLIVE 69
It went under the log. Let's go see
it come out the other side.

The kids gather around the far side of the log waiting for the Roly Poly to emerge.

70 ELINOR 70
Come on Explorer Roly Poly, we're
waiting for you so we can keep
EXPLORING!

A beat, then.

71 ARI 71
Roly Poly....?

72 TITO 72
It's not coming out.

73 OLIVE 73
Maybe it's stuck under there.

Olive rolls the log over and the kids discover...

EXT. LOG TOWN - DAY

ANGLE ON: The kids amazed face, gob-smacked with what they see. <SFX: WOOOW!!!>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/rotting-log/>

74 ELINOR 74
Look at that! There are all kinds
of animals under this log!

75 ARI 75
What ARE all those things?

76 ELINOR 76
We definitely need MORE
observations!

Elinor still has the magnifying glass in her hand and the kids crouch down low to observe:

ECU/MAGNIFYING GLASS POV - The kids take time to watch the bugs and creatures moving around.

77 ARI 77

Whoa! There are worms and slugs and
beetles... and more roly polies.

A millipede crawls by.

78 ELINOR 78
Look at all the legs on this one.

79 OLIVE 79
(checking her book)
That's a millipede.

The kids <SFX: OOH and AWW>.

80 TITO 80
They're all munching on that old
log. It's like their lunch room.

81 SALLY 81
And these ants are walking over a
puddle on a stick.
 (realizing)
I found STICKS, just like I wanted!

Sally gathers up some sticks she's found (NOT the one the ants are using) and makes the ant bridge wider to help the ants. DESIGN NOTE: The puddle the ants are crossing is VERY small - the size of a hand.

82 OLIVE 82

Those little plants that are
growing out of the log must look
just like trees to them.

ANGLE ON: little ferns growing out the log.

83 ARI 83

Maybe this is their town. Just like
we live in Animal Town.

84 ELINOR 84
A tiny town, under the log.

85 ARI 85
We'll call it Log Town!

86 ELINOR 86
Wow, it's so much fun to explore.

As the kids sing we examine Log Town and see the things they mention (sea, cave, forest etc.) which are really just small puddles, nooks and ferns but seen from a Roly Poly perspective.

87

ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE

87

Explore, Explore, just walk out the door!
The whole world is there, what are you waiting for?
Explore, explore, then explore some more,
You don't know what you'll find until you explore.

ELINOR: Who knows where you'll go,
and what you will see,
OLIVE: It could be a forest, a cave or the sea,
ARI: You might climb a mountain, or wade through a bog
ELINOR: Or you might find a town under a rock or a log.

ALL: Explore, Explore, just walk out the door!
The whole world is there, what are you waiting for?
Explore, explore, then explore some more,
You don't know what you'll find until you explore.

END SONG - As the song ends we can see the various animals are seeking shelter under sticks and leaves, or burrowing into the ground.

88

ARI

88

Hey! Where are they going?

89

OLIVE

89

They're all hiding. Look, the Roly Polies are all rolled up.

90

TITO

90

They must be nervous.

91

ARI

91

Of what?

92

OLIVE

92

Of US! We probably look huge to them, Ari.

93 ARI 93
Oh, no! Let's not make them nervous.

They start to roll the log back into place.

Sally uses her stick to gently move the little creatures into safe spots (small holes, under rocks, covered by a piece of wood).

97 ELINOR 97
That was a really nice thing to do,
Sally.

98 ARI 98
Bye, bye Roly Poly, thanks for
showing us around Log Town.

EXT. FOREST GLADE (NEAR THE CLUBHOUSE) - DAY

99 ELINOR 99
Wow, what a great day to go
exploring.

100 OLIVE 100
I got to see plants that grow out
of logs.

101 ARI 101
I got to meet a new animal, the
Roly Poly, and we got to visit a
whole new town under a log.

102 SALLY 102
And I found some sticks!

Sally proudly holds up some sticks. She <SFX: GIGGLES> and
everyone joins her

103 TITO 103
It was a real adventure!

104 OLIVE 104
Everyone got to explore what they
wanted.
(realizing)
Except you, Elinor. I'm sorry we
didn't explore far away places like
REAL explorers.

105 ELINOR 105
That's OK, Olive. We discovered
cool new things near by. And we
WERE real explorers...
(Elinor points to Tito and
to Sally.)
Tito, you were BRAVE when we first
saw the Roly Poly. And Sally, you
were KIND when you made sure our
Log Town friends were safe. But
most important...

106 ARI 106
We were ALL curious!

107 TITO 107
Where are we going to explore
tomorrow?

108 ARI 108
Well, we could explore the mess in
my room. Who KNOWS what we'll find
hiding under there. Just sayin,

Everybody <SFX LAUGHS>. WIDE SHOT of them continue on their
way home through the forest, singing a reprise of the song
chorus (ALT: singing the sing-song from line 21).

109 ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE 109
Explore, Explore, just walk out the
door!
(MORE)

ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE (CONT'D)
The whole world is there, what are
you waiting for?

The others as <SFX: CHEER WALLA> - fade out. THE END

SEGMENT 2.

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Mz. Mole carries a plant pot and walks towards the closet.
The kids look interested and gather around her.

110 ELINOR 110
What are you doing with that pot,
Mz. Mole?

111 MZ. MOLE (FROM IN THE CLOSET) 111
I'm finding a nice spot for it in
the closet.

112 OLIVE 112
A plant in the closet? But don't
plants need SUNLIGHT to help them
grow?

113 MZ. MOLE 113
They sure do, Olive! But this is
not a plant. It's a MUSHROOM!

We see the pot closer up, revealing a mushroom. [Mycenae
Image ref: https://media.mnn.com/assets/images/2015/04/mycena-collage-three-species.jpg.838x0_q80.jpg]. The kids <SFX:
OHHHH WALLA>.

114 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 114
Mushrooms actually like to grow in
the dark.

115 ARI 115
Cool. I didn't know mushrooms
weren't plants!

116 MZ. MOLE 116
That's right! Mushrooms are
something different called *fungi*.

117 ARI 117
Fungi? Hey, I'm a "fun guy" too!

They all <SFX: LAUGH>.

118 MZ. MOLE 118
Yes, you are, Ari. Come on in and
I'll read you a book about the
amazing world of mushrooms.

They all crowd in. Mz. Mole turns on a flashlight (there's no moment of darkness) and closes the door. She grabs a book that was there before and shines the flashlight on it.

2. POPUP BOOK - CONTINUOUS

We see a forest scene featuring a log (Reuse from Roly Poly if possible).

119 MZ. MOLE 119
Plants need sunlight. It's what
they use to live and grow.

Page flip and we see the log roll over, with mushrooms peeking out.

120 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 120
But mushrooms are different. They
don't need sunlight. They like to
grow in dark places, like UNDER
this log!

Zoom in on the mushrooms.

121 ELINOR 121
If there's no sunlight, what do
they use to grow?

122 MZ. MOLE 122
Good question, Elinor! They get
what they need from the ground
using their roots.

We show water and nutrients coming up into the mushrooms from its roots.

123 OLIVE 123
That's pretty smart. Does that mean
they can grow in places that plants
can't?

124 MZ. MOLE 124
Yes! Mushrooms can grow in places
where it's totally dark, like
underground in a cave!

Page flip to a cave scene. We see clusters of mushrooms growing near a pool in a dripping cave. (where possible reuse scenes from Bishop 118 interstitial)

125 ELINOR 125
So these mushrooms NEVER get
sunlight?

126 MZ. MOLE 126
Exactly! And they love it down
there.

127 OLIVE 127

I like how they are so many
different colors.

128	MZ. MOLE	128
	Me too! Mushrooms don't have to be brown. They can be green or red.	

129 ELINOR 129
Look, that one is pink!

We see a pink mushroom.

Image ref: <https://mushroomandcompany.com/product/pink-oyster/>

130 OLIVE 130
I see a blue one!

We see a blue mushroom.

Image ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lactarius_indigo

131	ARI	131
	I spot a spotted mushroom!	

We see a spotted mushroom.

Image ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanita_muscaria

3. INT CLOSET -- DAY

Back in the closet. Mz. Mole shines the light on herself.

132 MZ. MOLE 132

And that's not even the most
amazing color. Some mushrooms can
even GLOW IN THE DARK.

133 ELINOR 133
What, really?

134 MZ. MOLE 134
See for yourselves...

She turns off her flashlight. The closet is dark except for the mushrooms, which are glowing and casting a green glow on everyone's faces. [Mycenae Image ref:
https://media.mnn.com/assets/images/2015/04/mycena-collage-three-species.jpg.838x0_q80.jpg]

135 ARI 135
Wow, that's amazing!

136 OLIVE 136
I wish I could glow in the dark.

137 MZ. MOLE 137
I think you kids are already plenty bright.

They all laugh.